



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Delegation

Name: John Deslauriers-Snelgrove

Brief summary of issue or topic of discussion:

I am a grade 7 student at OCV. I have been attending OCV since it opened in 2020. I would like to speak to the Board about the importance of funding for the Ottawa-Carleton Virtual school.

I have many reasons why I need to avoid catching covid. The in-person schools no longer have covid precautions in place. I wanted to attend the gifted program, but when I asked for covid precautions to make that possible for me, I was told that I could only find those at OCV. So, for safety reasons I, and many of my peers, need OCV in order to continue within the school board. Without OCV, I would probably have to be homeschooled, and I want to remain an OCV student.

Being online as a student surprised me with how well it fits my learning profile. I have numerous disabilities. At a traditional in-person school, my teachers did their best to help accommodate me, but physical constraints made things harder. Online, I have captioning, my computer stays in one place, I have a workstation set up to all of my needs. All of this means that I can perform with my strengths, whereas school used to be a place where I lived in my weaknesses.

I am not alone. Many of my peers also have medical needs and/or educational needs that mean that OCV is a better place for them than an in-person school. We do not want our school to close. It is important that it be properly funded and made into a permanent school.