

COMMON LOTTERY BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2019
1050 First Street NE, 6th floor
12:30PM – 2:00PM

MINUTES

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

Called to order at 12:51 PM

Name		Present	July Minutes
Paul Kihn	Deputy Mayor for Education	X	Y
Jubria Lewis	The SEED Foundation	X	Y
Claudia Lujan	DCPS	X	Y
Daniela Anello	DC Bilingual	X	Y
Colin Taylor (Teresa Biagoni)	DCPS	X	Y
Hilary Darilek (Kristin Yochum)	E.L. Haynes	X	Y
Melissa Kim (Corie Colgan)	DCPS	X	Y
Hanseul Kang	State Superintendent of Education	X	N/A
Lenora Robinson Mills	Public Charter School Board	X	N/A
Cat Peretti	My School DC	X	N/A

Board members and designees did introductions.

PAC members Maria Elena, Jasmine, Kimberly, Ashley introduced themselves. Board members Kihn and Kang expressed thanks to the PAC and encouraged attendance at the PAC meetings. Board member Peretti will circulate a sign-up Google Form to the CLB for future PAC meetings.

II. July Minutes

The Board approved the minutes unanimously.

III. What's New This Lottery Cycle

PAC – two new members, and the majority are returning. Board member Peretti will circulate a Google Form to sign up to attend a PAC meeting. Aryan will let you know if we don't have a CLB member attending.

EdFEST – targeting 7000+ attendees again and a 92% satisfaction rate with the event. We are working to be able to provide meals for up to 1000 kids but buying out the concession stand vendor is a sticking point. The PAC will have members volunteering as ambassador guides at the My School DC booth. Booths overall will be smaller to allow for more room in the aisles, which is a challenge each year at the peak hours of the event with all the people plus strollers and coats.

This year, in an effort to provide better information to families of students with special needs, there will be a cluster of tables called “District Special Education Services” bringing together the various NGOs that focus on provision of and connection to services.

School Landscape – there are seven schools that will be completely new to the My School DC cycle in 20-21: LAMB, Capital Village, I Dream, Girls Global Academy, Sojourner Truth, Social Justice School, and Stevens Early Learning Center.

More schools are opening another campus or grade in line with their approved expansions or growth. Cesar Chavez will reopen a middle school and Board member Kihn asked for more details. Board member Robinson Mills explained that they closed Parkside Middle School for performance and other campuses for financial reasons but their enrollment ceiling was not lowered correspondingly nor was their charter updated to remove grades served at the closed campuses, so they were permitted to reopen those grades in their remaining Parkside location. PCSB has changed this practice and is lowering enrollment ceilings and adjusting grades served when a campus closes.

Board member Lewis asked what kind of data are collected and shared about what parents are demanding. Board member Peretti shared that MSDC posts waitlist data by school and by grade each year, and fears that it can be misconstrued as a one to one relationship (one child on the waitlist will result in one enrollment if a new campus opens) since there is much more nuance to predicting enrollment. If one looks at Ward 5 waitlists, there can be one student on many waitlists and even if only unique applicants are counted, a waitlisted student doesn't always translate to a predictable enrolled student. It does seem that the growth of schools is outpacing the growth of our student populations, especially at the middle school level, and some of the newly opening schools may face challenges in filling seats as will the existing middle schools which could undermine our communal goal of raising the quality of middle school offerings.

Board member Kihn said the middle school study is a microcosm of some of the challenges we face with managing the system and determining what families want and what the city can offer. It will be interesting to study it more and track how the new schools do.

Board member Lujan explained that Ida B. Wells is not really a new school option because it took the place of education campuses that were serving middle grades and have now transitioned to elementary only – basically it was a trade of where middle grades are served rather than a net new offering.

Board member Lewis asked about the odd grade offerings of Bard (10th and 12th grade) – this is because they opened last year with 9th and 11th grades and those students will be matriculating up into the next grade so Bard will serve grades 9-12.

IV. Preferences and Stevens Early Learning Center

The Board discussed the considerations and process for adding a new preference to the lottery in the context of adding a preference for at-risk students on a pilot basis:

- Legal authority (“how would it be allowed?”)
- Feasibility (“how will My School DC identify eligible applicants, validate them, and implement the policy?”)
- Effectiveness (“will the preference meet the policy goal?”)
- Cost and Timeline (“how much will it cost to implement and when can it be done?”)
- Prioritization (“should the program dedicate common lottery resources to this policy goal?”)

Board member Kihn asked about whether stacking sibling preference with another preference is allowed – yes, only DCPS currently does this (for example, in-boundary siblings are grouped before in-boundary).

Board member Lujan talked about the Mayor’s announcement to reopen Stevens as an early learning center. It will serve 0-5, with a provider running the infant and toddler program and DCPS running the PK3 and PK4. This is the first standalone early learning center and DCPS expects to open more. Stevens is an opportunity to do something different with early learning within their portfolio of schools and do a pilot of the at-risk preference to create a school that is diverse by design.

My School DC did some analysis to look at the potential impact of an at-risk impact in an area that is not largely residential. Board member Lujan explained that there are a lot of logistics to work out, more than expected, and DCPS and MSDC have been meeting weekly for 90 minutes to prepare for implementation. Board member Robinson Mills clarified that DCPS can do this in regulation, but charters would need legislation. Board member Anello asked how MSDC would know for the youngest applicants that they were at-risk since typically they are identified when they enroll in school.

Board member Lewis commends DCPS for doing this work and asks how families will be made aware. Board member Lujan explained that DCPS knows outreach will be key and is already doing phone banking to Francis-Stevens applicants to learn about their reasons for applying there. DCPS will use their engagement to market and do outreach appropriately to attract and retain at-risk families. DCPS is still engaging on pathways out of Stevens, and what the relationship will be between the infant and toddler provider and the PK and those will be decided later internally, as will the percentage of the seats to be set aside for at-risk students.

The Board discussed what the CLB would like to see as outcomes reported back to them from this pilot, in terms of the My School DC process.

- How many students applied and how many gained seats via the preference?

- Board member Robinson Mills asked for the demographic makeup of the applicants to the demographic makeup of the actual enrolled first class.
- How many students were “missed” in SLED data identification process and why? Did the submission of paper documents as backup work well?
 - Kristin Yochum noted that tracking timeline and reason for data discrepancies will be key.
- What lessons did we learn about timeline for implementation and successful planning with the LEA?

Maria Elena from the PAC also highlighted that schools set up to serve at-risk students should be well-prepared to serve at-risk students.

V. Selective High School Changes

Board member Lujan explained that DCPS central office has been working in partnership with school leaders and instructional superintendents to make improvements over the course of two years with the following four aims:

1. Increase student access to selective programs;
2. Greater transparency in admissions process;
3. Simplify the processes for families; and
4. Better align posted criteria with actual practice.

Summary of the changes, which have some variability within each selective school, is as follows:

- Elimination of PARCC / Standardized Test Score minimums (note that School Without Walls will continue to administer their admission test)
- Reduction of schools with GPA minimums
- Elimination of attendance minimums at all schools
- School Without Walls will add a second testing site east of the river. There were no-shows for the test that were invited, and further analysis revealed that many lived in Ward 7 and Ward 8 so there will be a site closer to where they live in the upcoming cycle.
- Decrease in required recommendation letters – some schools were collecting four. By the end of the two-year process none will require more than two.
- All schools will develop and post eligibility rubrics that students and families can access.

Board member Kihn said DCPS ran into problems with communication of the eligibility requirements, is DCPS on top of that for this year? Board member Lujan said yes and they are paying particular attention to the public postings. My School DC has emailed the new requirements to all 8th grade counselors on their distribution list. Board member Mills asked about how non-participant schools can get onto that list. Amy Lerman administers it and there are some non-participant schools on the distribution list and it is not a closed list if PCSB wants to connect MSDC to more schools that would be interested.

Adjourned at 1:59PM.