

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMON LOTTERY BOARD
JANUARY 26, 2017
2:30 -4:00 PM
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, G-9

MINUTES (DRAFT)

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Board Member (Designee)	Organization	Voting Status	Roll Call	11/16 Min	OSSE Move	Research
Jennifer C. Niles	DME	Voting Member	✓	Y	Y	Y
Susan Schaeffler	KIPP DC	Voting Member	✓	Y	Y	Y
Emerald Becker	DCPS	Voting Member	✓	Y	Y	Y
Colin Taylor	DCPS	Voting Member	✓	Y	Y	Y
Will Stoetzer	Ingenuity Prep	Voting Member	✓	Y	Y	Y
Eugene Pinkard	DCPS	Voting Member	X	N/A	N/A	N/A
Richard Pohlman	TMA PCHS	Voting Member	✓	Y	Y	Y
Darren Woodruff	DC PCSB	Non-Voting Member	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shana Young	OSSE	Non-Voting Member	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A
Catherine Peretti	MSDC	Non-Voting Member	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A

II. Review November 18, 2016 meeting minutes

Board approved unanimously.

III. Move to OSSE

The Board discussed the pros and cons of My School DC moving from the DME to OSSE. The DME is an incubator for innovative policies and programs, and My School DC has evolved into an established program. DM Niles recommends that now is a good time to start the transition over to OSSE in the interest of better collaboration across programs. The operations and governance would remain the same. Board member Peretti said the goal would be for the transition to be imperceptible to families and schools.

Board Member Schaeffler questioned whether that collaboration could happen without an actual move. Board Member Peretti answered that collaboration was already happening, but can be improved by the communication that naturally and intentionally happens with closer proximity. Superintendent Kang added that there are offices within OSSE that may not be aware of the lottery, and physical presence could help with awareness of work flows and potential overlaps. She also noted that this isn't a transition that OSSE was seeking out, but there are opportunities to better serve schools and families by working closely with My School DC on enrollment and

the start of school. OSSE has other independent boards within the agency, such as the Higher Education Licensing Commission, so it would not be unprecedented.

Board members Pohlman and Stoetzer both asked about data governance and noted that charter schools may be most nervous about that aspect of a transition. Board member Young explained that nothing structural would change about how data is housed or managed by My School DC. Board member Peretti added that the research request process would remain in place for lottery data, and My School DC would remain subject to FOIA and FERPA as it is now. OSSE and DME will work on a project plan for thoughtful transition considering concerns like this, and that project plan will be in writing.

Board member Schaeffler asked Board member Woodruff where the Public Charter School Board stood on the proposal and he responded that there was no opposition from PCSB.

The Board voted unanimously to support a transition to OSSE as described in the attached Board resolution. Board Member Peretti notes that Board Member Pinkard could not attend in person, but reviewed materials before the meeting and would like to make his support for the move to OSSE known.

IV. EdFEST Updates

The event in December was another success, and attendance crept upwards by just under 100 people to 4,820. 98% of the 330 surveyed upon exit said they found the event helpful. 92% found a school they will research further. My School DC gathered suggestions from the Parent Advisory Council on getting to the target of 5,000 attendees, such as providing free food, child care, and utilizing DPR rec centers for advertising and transportation. Board member Pohlman would like My School DC to explore having a separate high school fair.

V. 2016 Lottery Audit Follow-Up Research

My School DC sent this one-question survey to a target list of recipients: “We see that you were matched to a school in the SY16-17 Lottery, but did not enroll there. What was your reason for not enrolling at that school?” The response rate was about 10% and the responses are as follows:

Responses	English (339)	Spanish (16)
I decided to re-enroll at the same school that my student attended in school year 15-16	46% (157)	36% (4)
Not all of my children were matched at the same school	22% (74)	36% (4)
I moved	12% (39)	9% (1)
I didn't have my enrollment paper work in time	9% (33)	9% (1)

The school discouraged me from enrolling or made me feel unwelcome	9% (32)	9% (1)
The school did not respond to me	6% (20)	0% (0)
I didn't know there were more steps to enroll	4% (13)	0% (0)
I didn't know about the match/offer	3% (11)	0% (0)

The key takeaways from the responses are that many are “playing” the lottery, even if they do not truly prefer their lottery selections to their current school. Submitting enrollment paperwork is a challenge for a small percentage of families – but not a significant barrier for the majority of our applicants. Residency documentation and health forms are the most challenging for lottery families to submit. Board members Becker and Taylor wonder if the survey was completed by a representative cross section of applicants. Board member Peretti noted that nearly 95% of applicants had e-mail addresses last year, and the hotline made outgoing calls to gather responses from anyone that didn't accept a match and did not have an e-mail address. That said, there could still be some bias toward digital savvy in the respondents.

Board member Schaeffler wonders if the timeline for residency verification and standardized forms can be moved earlier and separated from the enrollment at the school itself – this could ease the burden on schools to verify residency and be more consistent for families. Also, a family “going downtown” to verify residency could lend some weight to that process. All agreed that we would want to avoid having families go to two separate places to register for school, and that the additional school specific requirements and forms make this process challenging to standardize.

Board member Stoetzer says that we could come to some agreement on common forms and relinquish some autonomy if there is an opportunity to ease staff burden. Ingenuity Prep encourages families matched to start early on their enrollment paperwork, but that isn't enough sometimes. Board member Pohlman agrees that My School DC should build on their success and consider unifying enrollment. There is a lot of redundancy in having school staff trained in every school to do the residency verification and form collection work. The form for free and reduced priced lunch (from the U.S.D.A.) is always the latest to be released in the summer. That is the form that most often causes another round of collection from families or duplicate trips to the school.

Board member Becker asks if My School DC trains schools on enrollment and issues such as availability of staff trained to enroll families. The focus in the past has been waitlist management rather than enrollment, but this year will include more recommendations on enrollment processes. My School DC has also been exploring residency verification through tax records

with OSSE. My School DC will convene LEAs in early February and will discuss enrollment possibilities.

VI. Data Updates

My School DC convened a small group of Board members Pohlman and Taylor to review My School DC's annual disclosures and compare them to other cities with unified lotteries.

The team did a short qualitative analysis on the release of data in Denver, New York City, and New Orleans and shared with the small group and full Board. There were enough surprises in each city that, when considered in our local D.C. context, the small group decided not to make a proposal to the full Board to change disclosure practices at this time.

VII. Urban Institute Research Request

My School DC received a request from the Urban Institute to perform a three-year study on pre-kindergarten in the District using lottery data for aspects of the research. Urban Institute representatives, Erica Greenberg and Matt Chingos, answered questions from the Board members. Board member Schaeffler noted negative findings could put future support and funding for PK programs at risk, though it seems clear that outcomes have been good for students. Board member Becker asked how Urban would define quality PK programs – using CLASS scores seems most obvious. Board member Peretti noted that approval from the Common Lottery Board is not the same as approval from OSSE for student characteristics, CLASS scores, and other items requested in the study, which will remain the case even when My School DC resides at OSSE. Board member Young said she could not comment formally on the corresponding request to OSSE, other than that OSSE is generally supportive of research like this and has been in discussions with the Urban Institute. Board member Taylor asked if we could add into the Memorandum of Agreement that the study should exclude any LEA to LEA comparisons. All agreed.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the research request. Board Member Peretti notes that Board Member Pinkard could not attend in person, but reviewed materials before the meeting and would like to record his support for the research request.

VIII. Adjourn

BOARD RESOLUTION

SUPPORT OF COMMON LOTTERY PROGRAM TRANSFER TO OSSE

The Common Lottery Board's quarterly meeting on January 26, 2017 included discussion and support to transfer the administration of the common lottery program from the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education ("DME") to the Office of the State Superintendent for Education ("OSSE").

Be it resolved...

WHEREAS the Common Lottery Board, pursuant to D.C. Code § 38-194 shall adopt the policies and procedures to govern the common lottery system, known currently as My School DC.

WHEREAS the Common Lottery Board retains all duties and responsibilities of an independent board enumerated in D.C. Code § 38-194.

WHEREAS the transfer of the common lottery program to OSSE is budget neutral, and the Common Lottery Fund created in D.C. Code § 38-195 will be administered for the improvement of the common lottery.

WHEREAS the common lottery program implementation and operations shall continue to be directed by the staff.

WHEREAS records resulting from common lottery program shall remain subject to the applicable federal and local laws related to freedom of information and student privacy.

The Board is in support of moving the employees and operation of the common lottery program to OSSE to improve collaboration among agency divisions, and to improve the experience of enrollment for families and schools.