

**COMMON LOTTERY BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 25, 2018
1050 First Street NE, 6th floor
2:30PM – 4:00PM**

MINUTES

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

Called to order at 2:34 PM

Name	Organization	Roll Call	July Minutes
Paul Kihn	Deputy Mayor for Education	x (dep. 3:41pm)	Abstained
Susan Schaeffler	KIPP DC	x (arr. 2:42pm)	Not Present
Claudia Lujan	DC Public Schools	x	Y
Daniela Anello	DC Bilingual	x	Y
Colin Taylor	DC Public Schools	x	Y
Hilary Darilek	E.L. Haynes	x	Y
Juliana Herman	DC Public Schools	x	Y
Hanseul Kang	State Superintendent	x	N/A
Lenora Robinson Mills	DC Public Charter School Board	x	N/A
Cat Peretti	My School DC	x	N/A

II. July Minutes

The Board approved the July minutes.

III. What's New This Lottery Cycle

School Availability Post-Lottery and Mid-Year

My School DC will change the Spaces Remaining page to the Short Waitlists page to be more accurate and remove the need for schools to provide seat counts each week. Because schools have reported seats with varying fidelity, the page is not meeting the goal of providing families with good information on schools that could have a seat for them after the lottery. This should be a better metric and My School DC can pull it right from the system on the same weekly interval. Board Members asked clarifying questions and generally agreed with the approach.

EdFEST 2018

EdFEST will take place at the DC Armory on December 8, 2018. Board Member Anello confirmed that schools still want to participate, and even the schools not participating would be invited. Participation from schools remains strong and the desire to exhibit outpaces the space in the venue, such that My School DC has to make decisions each year regarding invitations. Board member Anello asked if EdFEST would have interpretation services available, and there will be Spanish, Amharic, Mandarin, French, Vietnamese and American Sign Language interpreters to ensure an accessible event.

STAR Rating and My School DC

My School DC will display the STAR Rating on myschooldc.org and School Finder starting in December. Board member Taylor confirmed that My School DC is removing the equity reports because that data is folded into the report cards starting in December. Board member Kihn asked if the STAR public launch be timed with launch on myschooldc.org? Yes, My School DC will display the STAR as soon as the ratings are public in early December. We will work with vendors to minimize lag time.

Board member Schaeffler asked if there was anything like this on last year's school profiles, and is concerned parents won't understand what goes into the STAR rating. Board member Peretti answered that raw PARCC scores have always been on the profiles (or DC CAS scores prior to PARCC). Board members Schaeffler and Darilek expressed anxiety that school leaders don't know their own STAR ratings yet, and haven't yet determined how to talk to families about it. Board member Kang said schools are still in the process of validating the underlying data and schools will get embargoed results in November before the public launch.

Board member Schaeffler and Taylor wonder if this is not the year to roll this out on My School DC. Board member Peretti explained that it was intended to be displayed before the lottery application opens so families can make informed choices. Board member Kihn said it would be problematic to have the rating released by OSSE on the federally required timeline, but not have it on My School DC where we know parents are looking. That may create some informational inequities because we know some parents would find and use it the OSSE site. Board member Robinson Mills agreed that parents would be upset if there was a rating and it wasn't displayed on the My School DC site.

Board member Lujan said the prominent placement of the stars was not something the Board voted on, and Board member Darilek notes that was a big decision and not a small one since many school leaders are feeling anxious about the release and helping families understand the STAR. Board member Peretti explained that My School DC took feedback on the STAR placement on the profiles from the Parent Advisory Council. Board member Kang said that OSSE had also developed a suite of informational tools for parents and schools. Board member Herman agreed that there was good context on the planned OSSE report card site but expressed concern about pulling the rating out of that context and onto the My School DC site without it.

Board member Lujan asked about how the My School DC hotline would respond to questions and would love to see what the standard language is that they'll use to answer those questions. Board member Peretti committed to collecting and reporting back the typical questions we get

and any scripted answers we use. Board member Anello said school leaders would like to work with our parents and staff so that they know how to communicate about this with each other and families.

Board member Kihn’s takeaways from the STAR discussion were to incorporate “how should I use this STAR rating?” into My School DC outreach channels, and to revisit the topic with the Parent Advisory Council.

New My School DC Participants

Public Charters	DCPS
Monument Academy PCS	Early College @Coolidge
Mary McLeod Bethune PCS	Coolidge Middle School
	Bard High School Early College

My School DC now serves 222 of 225 public schools. The only schools/LEAs serving PK3-12 that do not participate are LAMB, Maya Angelou and St. Coletta. Board member Schaeffler asked if all the new DCPS schools were magnet/selective? Board member Lujan replied that Coolidge Middle is not; it is the New North Middle School from the 2014 boundary plan.

IV. Preferences

The Board discussed the considerations and process for adding a new preference to the lottery:

- Legal authority (“how would it be allowed?”)
- Feasibility (“how to identify eligible applicants, validate, 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?”)

Military	Closure	At-Risk	Geographic PCS
For students of active duty military	For students attending closed schools	For students at-risk of academic failure	For students within a certain proximity to a charter school
Considered by Council in 2015 Hearing record	Not currently in place for PCS	2015 Research on legislative need for weighted lotteries	Considered but not pursued in 2016 as “walkability”
Chancellor’s Directive from 2017	DCPS used to have this preference in DCMR	2017 Research on preference impact	Boundary plan from 2014 might be implicated

One example of a preference that has gone through the process is the special education preference:

- Special education preference allowed by [legislation](#) in 2014.
- Charter LEAs [apply to PCSB](#) to offer the preference stating their goals. PCSB evaluates based on their criteria. In 2015, Bridges was approved.
- Bridges worked out business rules with MSDC and PCSB.
- Eligible students are identified using SEDS data and noted in the lottery input files.

Board member Robinson Mills asked if the Chancellor's directive ever expires for military preference? Board member Lujan answered no. Board member Anello asked the Common Lottery Board's role with respect to lottery preferences as she feels very strongly about seeking the at-risk preference for her school as they are losing at-risk students each year. Board member Peretti said the Board's role can differ depending on the type of preference and which LEAs are seeking it, since there are differences in how DCPS and public charters can enact them. The Board would evaluate using common lottery resources to enact a new preference in the common lottery.

Board member Kihn said that in the very short-term there will be a working group to continue this discussion out of his office. Board member Lujan says she would support more exploration of an at-risk preference and there's a lot of interest on the DCPS side, especially with the new program at the Stevens School. It could be great cross-sector collaboration. Board member Schaeffler asked if DCPS can already do preferences at magnet school. Board member Lujan answered yes, with DCPS selective and citywide schools that don't have boundaries. Board member Kang agrees fully in principle with giving advantage to at-risk youth as did the working group on the cross-sector task force, but she flags that the big takeaway from the MSDC paper is that unless we put at-risk above siblings and other preference groups, it won't have a big impact.

Board member Peretti says the next step would be to study new approaches to the at-risk preference if there is little appetite for displacing siblings, and now is a good time to announce that Aaron Parrott is leaving MSDC to lead the enrollment and residency team at OSSE. He will still be close by and it is a great thing for the city, but My School DC will be down some capacity to work on research in the interim.

Board member Robinson Mills noted that staff on Bolling Air Force Base (JBAB) is constantly trying to figure out how to incorporate a military preference for families that come in throughout the year; Board member Peretti said the legal authority question for a broader preference to charters should be first since Council did not pass it in 2015, and it may be worth asking to see if the charters desired by military families would implement this preference if it were available.

Board member Kihn departed at 3:41pm.

V. Applying to High School

Board Member Peretti presented the takeaways from the project that American University master's program students did this summer on the process of applying to high school:

- **What we know:** Students are using the My School DC application. 31% of rising 9th grade applicants for SY2018-19 identified themselves as students
- **What we currently have:** Multiple online tools, such as the School Finder and EdFEST, to support applicants exploring 40 public high school options. Engagement strategies around the deadline and process.
- **Goal:** High school applicants submit *informed* applications in a two-sector system with a common lottery.

Findings from MSDC survey data for the 2018 lottery:

- “School reputation” is the most important factor in application decisions for students applying themselves;
- School websites are the most common points of entry, followed by open houses & school visits;
- 8th grade counselors are a critical support for rising 9th graders (school guidance, admissions prep, etc.)

Separately from that research project, the MSDC team is also aware of and working to help with the fact that transcript reviews can impact grade eligibility. We are putting more information on a new “Applying to High School” subpage and working with schools to ensure they know that a student can be a 9th grader at one school and a 10th grader at another, and to support families that need application adjustments over the summer. Board member Darilek shares the effort of helping kids understand the lottery process and the transcript review that can impact it – it was a big deal at E.L. Haynes this year. My School DC welcomes feedback on how we can help families and students navigate the transcript review process better.

VI. Three Year Update on Five Year Strategic Plan

Progress on our five-year plan has been strong. My School DC has identified areas for more progress as we finish out this plan over the next two years:

- More personalized application help for vulnerable populations
- Opportunities with streamlining enrollment and residency verification
- Ease burden on staff responsible for updating systems in two places
- Allocating more time to research and assisting LEAs in enrollment strategy and growth planning

Board Member Anello asked if we are hiring for Aaron’s role. The team is small as is and she wants to be cognizant of what MSDC is looking to dive into as it seems like a lot of work. Board member Peretti said we are hiring to backfill ASAP and have some solid interest already. She thanked the Board for recognizing the lean nature of the team. November will be hard with short staffing during an especially busy time, but we can do it.

VII. Mathematica Research

Mathematica's research request approved last year by this Board is producing an enrollment demand simulator. All Board members were invited to provide feedback on the tool. It is expected to be available for LEA use in the first half of 2019.

Adjourned at 3:55pm.

DRAFT