

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMON LOTTERY BOARD

August 3, 2017

2:30 - 4:00 PM

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW #G9

MINUTES

Board Member (Designee)	Organization	Voting Status	Roll Call	5/4 Min	Policy Guide
Jennifer C. Niles	DME	Voting Member	✓	X	X
Susan Schaeffler	KIPP DC	Voting Member	✓	X	X
Claudia Lujan	DCPS	Voting Member	✓	X	X
Colin Taylor	DCPS	Voting Member	✓	X	X
Will Stoetzer	Ingenuity Prep	Voting Member	✓	X	X
Eugene Pinkard	DCPS	Voting Member	✓	X	X
Richard Pohlman	TMA PCHS	Voting Member	✓	X	X
Darren Woodruff	DC PCSB	Non-Voting Member	✓	N/A	N/A
Shana Young (Neela Rathinasamy)	OSSE	Non-Voting Member	✓	N/A	N/A
Catherine Peretti	MSDC	Non-Voting Member	✓	N/A	N/A

I. Review May 2017 meeting minutes

Board approved unanimously.

II. 2017 Lottery Performance

The Board reviewed the goals they helped set for the program to be completed by September 2017, and the status of each.

Goals:

- 1) Support parent questions at 40 or more open houses. The team exceeded this goal, supporting 53 open houses mostly at charter schools and selective high schools.
- 2) Set 30 or more 1:1 meetings with parents. This was a new website feature where families could request a free consultation with a staff member for application help or general guidance at three locations around the city (Columbia Heights, Penn Quarter, and Congress Heights). 68 meetings were set, and 42 were completed – the others were no-shows.
- 3) Attract 96% or more school participation – My School DC remains an opt-in program that serves 97% of our PK3-12 schools.
- 4) Achieve 4.2 or above (out of 5.0) on survey ratings related to “satisfaction” or “ease of use” of My School DC services. The overall satisfaction rate with My School DC was rated 4.2 out of 5.0.
- 5) Maintain a Ward’s applicant share within 2% of the Ward’s enrollment share. That is, the proportion of public school enrollment in a particular Ward is close to the proportion of the My School DC applications from that Ward. All but Ward 8 were within 2%. Ward 8 has 24% of public school enrollment and represented 21% of lottery applications.
- 6) Facilitate an offer rate (applicants that were matched or made a subsequent waitlist offer) of 88% or more. The rate for 16-17 was 84% by the October 5, 2016 count.
- 7) Encourage 80% of applications to be submitted by the relevant deadline. The rate was 78% as measured on June 30, 2017.
- 8) 100% of research requests fulfilled were cited and shared.
- 9) Decrease enrollments outside of the My School DC process by 20% or more (44%).
- 10) Increase rate of “multiple contacts” by 20% or more. This goal describes one of our outreach objectives of reaching potential applicants in multiple ways. We succeeded in boosting the number of people reached at least twice from about 2,200 to 11,000 people (~500% increase).
- 11) Write one comparative research paper. We have started a research paper based on the mock lottery analysis of what could happen if an at-risk preference was granted in the lottery.

III. 2018 Lottery Goals

The proposed goals for the coming lottery year are:

- 1) Create a webpage on myschooldc.org specifically for PK3 and PK4 applicants
- 2) Decrease enrollments outside the process by 20% or more.
- 3) Achieve 4.2 or above (out of 5.0) on survey ratings related to “satisfaction” or “ease of use” of My School DC services.
- 4) Add five or more school characteristics with common definitions to the School Finder.
- 5) Conduct outreach workshops at 15 child care centers.
- 6) Take 2,400 mid-year applications over the hotline.
- 7) Attract 96% or more school participation.
- 8) Encourage 80% of applications submitted by the deadline.
- 9) Enhance application to reduce “technical” calls to the hotline by 40%.
- 10) Attract 5,000 attendees to EdFEST.
- 11) Set 40 or more 1x1 consultations with families.

Cat Peretti asks if we should put more of an emphasis on the post-lottery period since so many seats are accessed after the lottery deadline (over 10,000 new applicants). Will Stoetzer suggests keeping an eye on the equilibrium since there were so many seats unfilled after the lottery – does the post-lottery period rectify that? We looked at last year’s numbers, and many seats were still unfilled as of Oct 5th, but we can look again this year. Rich Pohlman suggests a longitudinal study of students that are applying in the lottery year after year. High schoolers make up a large part of this group and we see some students that attend one school in 9th grade, repeat 9th grade elsewhere, and go to 10th in a third school. Gene Pinkard says getting an application in on time doesn’t speak to match rate, and it seems like the underlying issues wouldn’t be corrected if more families got the application in on time.

Claudia Lujan suggests tailoring one or two of the goals to focus specifically on Ward 8 families (for example: target Ward 8 child care centers or consultations with Ward 8 families).

IV. 2017-2018 Lottery Updates and Policy Guide

Digital Pioneers and North Star College Prep are the two newly approved schools that will participate for the 2018 Lottery. The board discussed why a few of the charter schools still do not participate and came to no conclusion. The Public Charter School Board watches over the lotteries of non-participating schools to ensure fairness and integrity.

The team will enhance the School Finder with programmatic definitions that DCPS central office and the Public Charter School Board have agreed upon. Families will be able to look for schools that have these characteristics in the same way they do for “Montessori” or “Interscholastic Sports” right now.

Will Stoetzer and Susan Schaeffler both cautioned against meaningless inclusions on school profiles. For example, should a school tout a study abroad program if only nine students can attend? Cat Peretti affirmed that they would look carefully at the definitions and what the schools report back. If every school claims they are a blended learning school because they have iPads, then it becomes meaningless to families as a means to distinguish one school from another. Colin Taylor says that DCPS already has something akin to a “points of pride” section on profiles, so it doesn’t seem like it would be too much of a burden to collect.

The largest change for next year is the mid-year transfer process.

The key elements of the process are:

- My School DC will extend the period during which applications for the school year already underway will be accepted over the My School DC Hotline from mid-December until March 26, 2018.
- My School DC will accept applications for in-boundary schools after October 5, 2017 for students seeking a seat during the school year already underway, until March 26, 2018. Offers will be automatic to in-boundary schools.
- My School DC will input basic information on why the mid-year transfer is occurring.
- My School DC will automate offers with an expiration date 48 hours from the application time to a school that has advertised an open seat in the grade of the applicant.
- Advertising spaces with MSDC is the means to exercise the option of accepting students mid-year (October 5, 2017 through March 26, 2018), including the automatic offer mechanism to applicants. **Schools that do not wish to extend automatic offers cannot advertise spaces available through the CWMS and My School DC.**

Claudia Lujan notes that this will be a huge culture change and staff lift for DCPS and she is wary of other changes taking place at the beginning of the year. It would be better to message it closer to October 5th. DCPS also wants the first year to be a “hold harmless” year for this change if it takes schools awhile to get used to it. Jennie Niles and Cat Peretti agree to that.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the policy guide with the relevant updates for the coming school year and 2018 lottery. The next step is to send that guide and opt-in participating agreements to all LEAs.

Adjourned.