

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMON LOTTERY BOARD
FEBRUARY 4, 2016 (Rescheduled from January 25, 2016)
12:30 -2:00 PM
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Room 527

I. Roll Call and Vote Ledger

Member Name (Designee)	Board Membership Status	Organization	Roll Call	Sept minutes	Data Sharing (Modified)	DCLIP Data Request
Jennifer Niles	Chair and voting member	DME	X	Yes	Yes	Table
Kaya Henderson	Voting member	DCPS	X	Yes	Yes	Table
Anjali Kulkarni (Zaneta Graves)	Voting member	DCPS	X	Yes	Yes	Table
VACANT	Voting member	DCPS				
Shantelle Wright	Voting member	Achievement Prep	X	Yes	Yes	Table
Keisha Hutchinson (Rich Pohlman)	Voting member	TMA	X	Yes	Yes	
Susan Schaeffler	Voting member	KIPP DC	X	Yes	Yes	Table
Darren Woodruff	Non-voting member	PCSB				
Hanseul Kang (Shana Young)	Non-voting member	OSSE	X	N/A	N/A	N/A
Catherine Peretti	Non-voting member	My School DC	X	N/A	N/A	N/A

II. Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the September 14, 2015 meeting minutes.

III. Outreach Strategies

The Board reviewed the outreach strategies employed by schools that opened within the last two school years or will open in 16-17, such as canvassing the neighborhood surrounding the school, holding open office hours, swag and uniform giveaways, and making announcements at community meetings. The schools confirmed what My School DC learned about outreach – the more contact you have with a family, the more likely they are to act by applying or enrolling. Board member Wright asked

what happens when families miss the high school deadline this year since there is no round two of the lottery? The My School DC website has clear instructions and an FAQ. Any high school applicant can still apply, but they will not be placed by the lottery. They will be entered into the post-lottery round which is first-come, first-served to be placed on a school's waitlist after all those that applied before the lottery deadline. Preferences will still be applied for post-lottery applicants unless an LEA chooses not to extend them to post-lottery applicants.

IV. EdFEST Review

The Board reviewed EdFEST attendee data and survey responses presented by My School DC staff. 4,800 attended EdFEST and that was an increase of 300 attendees. Zaneta Graves (DCPS designee of Board Member Kulkarni) asked how we could improve upon our survey response rate of 170 respondents. Board Member Peretti explained that My School DC will plan to recruit more volunteers for the event next year. These volunteers can help collect exit surveys from posts at each exit, rather than just the main exit. Rich Pohlman (designee of Board Member Hutchinson) suggested that My School DC reach students, especially in the upper grades, that are learning about schools for themselves to ensure they know about EdFEST and attend. He said the event was incredibly well organized and that the My School DC team did a great job.

V. Data Sharing Proposal

Board Member Peretti introduced a data sharing proposal in response to demand from parents to transparently present lottery results in a consistent way across participating schools and sectors. The proposal would display by school and by grade:

- (1) number of seats made available in the lottery by school and grade
- (2) number of applicants and matches by school and grade
- (3) waitlist length by school and grade
- (4) waitlist movement by school and grade

The Board reviewed what is currently publicly displayed through the Public Charter School Board website and the D.C. Public Schools website:

- (1) number of seats made available in the lottery by school and grade (displayed by DCPS only)
- (2) number of applicants and matches by school and grade (displayed by DCPS only)
- (3) waitlist length by school and grade (displayed by PCS and DCPS)
- (4) waitlist movement by school and grade (not displayed by DCPS or PCS)

Board Member Schaeffler asked the group whether reporting waitlist length and seats available after the lottery was a PCSB compliance requirement for charters - it is, and most charters authorize My School DC to share with PCSB on their behalf.

Some Board members expressed concern about the misinterpretation of waitlist data as indicative of school quality. Board Member Wright thought that some parents would be dissuaded from applying to schools without waitlists, and several members agreed. Even though some data are already public through the DCPS and PCSB websites, some Board members felt that consolidating it would highlight schools with low waitlists which parents could misinterpret as low performing. Mr. Pohlman wondered if putting out more data would confuse parents about the My School DC message that you cannot game the system and you should rank schools in true preference order without overthinking your “chances” of getting in.

Board Chair Niles suggested that My School DC can put up the historical data with this year’s results and then update the waitlist results as they happen.

Board Member Henderson proposed a modification to the proposal. She asked if My School DC can show the likelihood of getting in off a waitlist because she posited that is the real question that parents want answered. She said that having the waitlist length shared attaches a value to a school that may not be logical or accurate. She also said that DCPS will reevaluate the data it shares on its website and whether to reduce the elements or continue to include waitlist length. Charter members of the Board were interested in that DCPS decision to inform whether they ask the PCSB to make similar changes.

Board Member Schaeffler was concerned that the number of applicants and number of matches caused the same problems noted by Board Member Henderson and wants to make sure “there are no losers” in the school-by-school data display. If extra data negatively impacted specific schools- schools may decide to not participate in the common lottery undoing a lot of the work we have been able to accomplish as a group. We want to keep all the schools at the table.

Board Member Young asked if My School DC can just show people that were made offers from the waitlist – and how many of them had preferences.

Board Chair Niles suggested the modified proposal to display waitlist offers made from the original waitlist and the number of seats made available in the lottery. Each figure will be by school and by grade for all participating My School DC schools. The stricken text below represents the modifications put forward for the vote.

My School DC proposes to share for all participating schools, by grade, as a resource to parents on MySchoolDC.org:

- (1) number of seats made available in the lottery by school and grade
- ~~(2) number of applicants and matches by school and grade~~
- ~~(3) waitlist length by school and grade~~
- (4) waitlist movement by school and grade

Board Member Peretti said that My School DC will do a mock up display of the approved data and circulate it to the Board. She also indicated that Board Member Woodruff the PCSB had submitted a written assurance for this discussion: The Public Charter School Board supports the public release of lottery data by My School DC for the purpose of informing parents and acknowledges that it is not a useful or accurate metric for school performance. The PCSB will not use these data in accountability considerations for the purposes of the Performance Management Framework (PMF), charter renewal reviews or reports, notices of concern, Charter Audit Resource Management (CHARM) reports or Financial Audit Reviews (FAR).

Board Chair Niles put forth the motion. Board Member Henderson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. D.C. Language Immersion Project Research Request

DCLIP is a group of parent volunteers for language immersion programs, represented at the Board meeting by Executive Director Vanessa Bertelli. DCLIP understands that there is a demand – but don't know much about the specifics of that demand. The Board asks if dual language schools were supportive of this data analysis of their applicants. Ms. Bertelli said dual language schools were excited about having a more systemic view of what the demand looks like, and who is interested in these schools. The Board was hesitant about the data request and sharing so much information on applicants to certain schools without asking them.

Board Member Schaeffler asks if DCLIP can get letters of support from schools.

Board Member Henderson wants to know what other districts have done in terms of information sharing, and using demand data for planning. Board Member Peretti said My School DC would get examples of data use from other cities like Denver and New Orleans, noting that each city has a different educational landscape.

Board Member Peretti moved to table the data request to allow DCLIP to get letters of support from schools. Board Member Henderson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Adjourn