

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMON LOTTERY BOARD
APRIL 25, 2016
1:30 -3:30 PM
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Room G9

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Board Member (Designee)	Organization	Voting Status	Roll Call	2/4/16 Min	3/4/16 Min	PCSB Data
Jennifer C. Niles	DME	Voting Member	x	x	x	x
Susan Schaeffler	KIPP DC	Voting Member	x	x	x	x
Anjali Kulkarni	DCPS	Voting Member	x	x	x	x
Colin Taylor	DCPS	Voting Member	x	x	x	x
Shantelle Wright	Achievement Prep	Voting Member	x	x	x	x
Eugene Pinkard	DCPS	Voting Member	x	x	x	x
Keisha Hutchinson (Richard Pohlman)	Thurgood Marshall Academy	Voting Member	x	x	X	x
Darren Woodruff	DC PCSB	Non-Voting Member	x	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shana Young	OSSE	Non-Voting Member	x	N/A	N/A	N/A
Catherine Peretti	MSDC	Non-Voting Member	x	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Chancellor Henderson also present with her three voting designees.

II. Review February 4, 2016 and March 4, 2016 meeting minutes

2/4 minutes unanimously approved.

3/4 minutes unanimously approved.

III. Public Charter School Board Data Request Renewal

Board Member Woodruff presented the request and confirmed that PCSB understands the limitations of the correlations between demand, need and quality. The data would not be used for accountability purposes, or be a part of the rubric used to approve charter requests.

Board Member Schaeffler asked if the data would be used for approval. Board Member Woodruff responded that it would only be used to articulate the needs of the District to potential applicants. It would not be used to approve or not approve charters. It would be for guidance only.

Board Member Wright asked how the research questions around demand and ranking in relation to the performance of the charter is relevant if they are not using the data for performance metrics. Board Member Woodruff responded they are trying to understand what parents prioritize when making their school choices. It will not be used to critique schools. Chelsea Coffin added that they want to communicate the correlation between school performance and demand from parents.

Board Member Wright wants to modify the request so that it's not a three year request.

Board Member Schaeffler moves to approve the proposal modifying it from a three-year to a one-year request. Mr. Pohlman seconds the motion. The Board unanimously approved the request as a one-year proposal.

IV. Parent Advisory Council Meeting Briefing

Board Member Woodruff attended the Parent Advisory Council meeting, which takes place before each Common Lottery Board meeting in an effort to have a two-way communication channel. The PAC went over the lottery data, audit data from the 2016 lottery and 2015 lottery. PAC members provided input on the applicant survey for the 2016 lottery. PAC members wanted to know how we use the parent survey data to update our tools and processes. The next PAC meeting is July 11th.

V. 2016 Lottery Results and Trends

The Board reviewed the data slides to be published on the My School DC website under the Resources tab.

Board Member Taylor noted that n sizes would be helpful in future analyses, and match rate to 1st choice is also interesting. Chancellor Henderson suggested revisiting the number of school selections. Board Members Pohlman and Pinkard replied there could be potential for schools to vary the number of choices by grade. Families are more likely to select 12 schools at the PK level than the high school level. The My School DC parent advisory council decided how many selections to initially offer on the application.

VI. 2015 Lottery Audit Results from A.I.R.

The audit pursued several research questions on enrollment trends and examined anomalies suggesting students enrolling in schools outside of the My School DC process. The Board reviewed the audit results. Common reasons included: siblings being enrolled without an application, registrars accidentally using the old boundary of a school, or mid-year transfers.

In response to the question of how midyear transfers of students occur, the My School DC staff explained that the 2015 application closed when the 2016 application opened at which point the control of 15-16 enrollments was turned over to schools.

There is also some difficulty in urging schools with no waitlist have students put in an application after the lottery before enrolling the student. Chancellor Henderson asked how do we incentivize school staff to use the waitlist system after the lottery ends when they know they have seats available? She commented that registrars have many responsibilities which may make their monitoring of the post-lottery period problematic. My School DC encourages applications for tracking and cross-school communication purposes to prevent duplicate enrollments that the registrar would have to resolve later. Board Member Schaeffler said she was more concerned with bad actors than people simply making mistakes and expressed a desire for better monitoring of mid-year enrollments and transfers.

Board Member Pinkard said he thought the district was making progress with regards to rectifying bad actors and the audit shows that. He said that DCPS is probably not going to make the same boundary and sibling mistakes as in years past. Board Member Shaeffler replied that she wanted to make sure schools were using their waitlists year round. Board Member Pinkard said it may be a good idea to capture the students who did not enroll in any DC school – and determine what their status was originally.

Board Member Taylor asked why would the conversion rate of at-risk waitlisted students be lower? It could be that those families are harder to contact and get enrolled on tight timelines. He then spoke about the general problem of the quick turnaround of waitlist offers for parents.

Board Member Shaeffler advised that My School DC share this data with the LEA working group and ask them for next steps. My School DC plans to create a quick guide for common mistakes of front office staff in hopes of avoiding them next year. Board Member Schaeffler suggested a letter with future audit results be written to the executive directors of charter schools instead of the Board Chair. They are likely to pay more attention to correcting the issues.

VII. 2017 Lottery Budget

The Board reviewed the anticipated expenses for the 2017 lottery and compared it to 2016 and 2015.

Board Member Shaeffler said she was glad the operating budget is decreasing year over year. She indicated that questions about whether there were contributions from both sectors would increase. Board Member Niles said that she wasn't sure what would happen in the future and what would need to be done to close the gap.

VIII. Adjourn