

**COMMON LOTTERY BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 25, 2018  
1050 First Street NE, 6<sup>th</sup> 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 with one typographical correction.

**III. What's New This Lottery Cycle**

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 our own system each week. Board

Members asked clarifying questions. Board member Taylor confirmed that schools with waitlists of zero would not show separately – the list will be the school and the grades with waitlists of ten or fewer, and all grades with waitlists of zero to ten would show in the same way. Board member Lujan wanted to know when it would go live. Answer: November. Board Member Robinson Mills was concerned about the end date of showing this information for 18-19 which is March when My School DC stops taking applications for the school year.

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. Board member Schaeffler asked if any law firms were participating. Board member Peretti replied that AJE is the federally designated DC entity for assisting families of students with special needs and will receive an invite. Board member Robinson Mills asked if PAVE would be invited. They have not historically been invited separately but have had a presence by sharing a table with another exhibitor. 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.

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 Anello noted it is interesting that the STAR Rating is in the actual form of stars, not just an acronym. Board member Lujan asked when The STAR ratings will go up in November or December? It will be in early December before the application launches. Board member Kihn asked if the STAR public launch be timed with launch on MSDC.org? Yes, My School DC will display the STAR as soon as the ratings are public. We will work with vendors to minimize lag time.

Board member Schaeffler asked if anything like this on last year's report card, and is concerned parents won't understand 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 our own STAR ratings yet, and haven't yet determined how they can 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 as required, 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 on 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 MSDC site.

Board member Lujan said the placement of the stars was not something we voted on. Board member Peretti explained that My School DC took feedback on the STAR placement directly

from the Parent Advisory Council. Board member Kang said that OSSE had 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 just the rating out of that context. It may be hard to process on its own. Board member Peretti said the PARCC scores would also be on the My School DC profiles as context, but the concern is valid.

Board member Darilek disagrees that putting the stars so visibly was a small decision that didn't rise to the level of a Board vote, and that her feeling reflects the anxiety that many are leaders are feeling about the launch and how to help our families understand this information. Board member Anello asked if there are going to be live parent engagement sessions where parents can ask questions. Board member Kang said there would be many communication opportunities coming including a press release. Board member Robinson Mills confirmed that My School DC would have appropriate FAQs on their site.

Board member Lujan asked about how the MSDC hotline would respond to questions and would love to see what the standard language is and scripts that they'll use to answer those questions. Board member Peretti committed to collecting and reporting back the typical questions we get and the 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 were to incorporate in MSDC's outreach the answers to "how should I use this STAR rating?" and to revisit the topic with the Parent Advisory Council after the STAR rating launches.

**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

Board member Schaeffler asked if all the new DCPS schools were magnet/selective? Board member Lujan replied that Coolidge Middle is not selective, it is the New North Middle School from the 2014 boundary plan.

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.

**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 will My School DC identify eligible applicants, validate them, 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 goal?”)

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 <a href="#">Hearing record</a>	Not currently in place for PCS	<a href="#">2015 Research</a> on legislative need for weighted lotteries	Considered but not pursued in 2016 as “walkability”
Chancellor’s <a href="#">Directive</a> from 2017	DCPS used to have this preference in DCMR	<a href="#">2017 Research</a> on preference impact	<a href="#">Boundary plan</a> from 2014 might be implicated

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

- Special education preference allowed by [legislation](#) in 2014.
- Charter LEAs [apply to PCSB](#) to offer the preference stating 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. They’re losing at-risk students and she is interested in talking more about this type of preference. 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 enact them. The Board would evaluate using common lottery resources to enact a new preference in the common lottery. Right now there is no legal authority for charters to have this preference, and such authority would help kick off additional research. Board member Kihn said that in the very short-term that 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 in the DCPS side, especially with the new program at the Stevens School. It could be a great cross-sector collaboration. Board member Schaeffler noted that DCPS can already do preferences with magnet schools, right? 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 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 was available. That could help to gauge whether a preference would have the desired effect for military families.

Board member Kihn departed at 3:41pm.

## V. Applying to High School

Board Member Peretti presented the takeaways from the project that AU 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> grader at one school and a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at another, and to support families that need application adjustment 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. Board member Anello asked how many students go to EdFEST to research schools themselves? We aren't sure of the breakdown of students versus parents, but the high school side was certainly packed last year.

## **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:

- More personalized application help for vulnerable populations
- Opportunities with streamlining enrollment and residency verification
- Ease burden on staff responsible for updating 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. Thank you 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.