

Cross-Sector Collaboration Task Force: February 14, 2017 Conference Call #2 on Proposed Walkability Preference

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 12:00-12:20pm

Facilitator: Jennifer Comey, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education

DME Staff Members: Aaron Parrott, Cat Peretti

Note-takers: Hannah Holliday

Task Force Members: Kevin Clinton (on behalf of Mayor Anthony Williams), Caryn Ernst, Irene Holtzman, Melissa Kim, Mary Levy, Alejandra Vallejo

Members of the public: 5

Call Notes

Jenn Comey started began the call by calling attention to the first round of analysis, which measured the impact of the walkability preference. She noted that the analysis is not as exact as it could be because the analysis is based on the .5 mile radius “as the crow flies” rather than on a walkable distance of .5 miles. She then asked Task Force members for questions on the plan:

- Q: When will you be doing an analysis of enrollment impact on DCPS schools?
 - A: The current analysis does not look at enrollment. We would need to take additional steps to see what would happen if the students receiving the preference enrolled or see what the impact would have been if they would have enrolled elsewhere.
- Q: On last call, you noted that of those students eligible for the walkability preference, 254 would be matched to a local charter; what is the effect of their not enrolling in DCPS?
 - A: (Cat Peretti) 254 was the number of different matches in the mock lottery; the overall enrollment impact can't be determined until the matches pan out and students enroll in school. A student who receives a match is not guaranteed to enroll in the school they are matched to. There's a distinction between the lottery results and how enrollment shakes out in October.
- Comment: Some analysis should eventually look at the potential impacts on DCPS enrollment.
 - A: On back page of the 2/9/17 analysis, you can see how the matches compare with and without the walkability preference. There is no net decrease in either sector's number of matches (DCPS or PCS) number and in fact 21 students gained matches. This essentially means the impact of the mock lottery was that 254 students received different matches than they did in the original lottery. Those seats that the 254 students vacated were filled by another student in the mock lottery. Again there was no decline in number of matches allotted through the algorithm.
 - As a point of clarification, the DME's analysis used the original SY15-16 lottery results.

Cat Peretti raised the point that all of the applications are interconnected and when a student gains a match at one school, they might be vacating a seat that they would have matched at another school. This means that yet another student might be matched to the seat they vacated. Also what can be seen from the mock lottery is that there are not many differences across the wards.

Jenn Comey remarked that to assess the walkability preference's impact on enrollment, they would have to look at who enrolled in SY16-17 and re-run the lottery with some assumptions to how families would behave when matched to see how enrollment could change. She noted that this is a caveat included in the 2/9/17 analysis and that the analysis is not predictive.

- A Task Force member commented that there must be different variables but that there must be a way to discuss those variables' possible effects on enrollment. Ward 1 has many charters and they would like to know the possible impact on the wards specifically.

Jenn Comey mentioned the upcoming public meeting at 6-7:30pm on March 6th at Woodridge Neighborhood Library (location added as of 2/23) for Task Force members and others to discuss and give feedback on the walkability preference. By the meeting, it will be clearer which charters are interested in the preference and the meeting will try to provide more information on how the preference will impact DCPS schools. Ms. Comey asked that Task Force members use their networks to spread the word about the upcoming meeting.

- Q: What is the timeline for the preference? Last time you said there would be legislation introduced at the end of March?
 - A: Next week there will be a call for charter leaders to learn more and express interest in including their schools in the next round of analysis. The school's interest will apply only to the next round of analysis and schools will get to decide later whether to actually implement the preference if it is passed in legislation.. After that, we will hone our analysis of the potential impact. On March 6, we will gather more feedback from the public and the idea is to submit legislation and ideas by the end of March.
- Q: What form will the public meeting take? Is it going to be informational or will there be the opportunity to give testimony?
 - A: The public meeting will be separate from council hearing process, when the public will be able to testify or submit testimony about the preference. We intend the meeting to be both information and collect feedback from the public.