



Pacifica School District

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Preparing Students for an Evolving World

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MEMORANDUM

Integrated Services and Human Resources

Meeting of: 3/11/15

TO: Wendy S. Tukloff, Ed.D., Superintendent
For Board of Trustees

FROM: Ray Avila, Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: 2015-2016 Kindergarten Lottery Review

Background

Kindergarten Lottery

Each February, the District holds a Kindergarten Lottery to place students when there are more requests for a particular school than the school has openings. As of February 13, 2015, the date of the 2015/16 Kindergarten Lottery, 328 kindergarten and 66 transitional kindergarten enrollment cards were received. This time last year, 276 kindergarten and 56 transitional kindergarten enrollment cards were received.

Two sites were involved in a lottery for first choices. Cabrillo School, with 60 kindergarten openings, had 78 first choice requests that included priority placements (siblings plus continuing kindergartners) and new families. Ocean Shore, with 48 kindergarten openings, had 58 first choice requests that included priority placements and new families. Ortega, Sunset Ridge and Vallemar had openings for all priority placements and new families who had requested that site before the lottery.

In order to protect student privacy, the District used ping-pong balls with numbers matching the numbers on student's enrollment cards. Following district procedure, after drawing for the available Cabrillo and Ocean Shore openings, the remaining numbered balls continued to be drawn to create the wait lists. The cards that corresponded to the numbered ping-pong balls were then sorted by second choice and students were placed at their second then third choice school where space was available.

The district has a current capacity for 336 kindergartners. 7 kindergarten spaces district-wide have been reserved for possible retentions.

Of the 328 kindergarten applicants, 300 students received their first choice school, of which 66 participated in the lottery. 18 students are on the wait list for Cabrillo, 10 are on the wait list for Ocean Shore.

The following chart shows the distribution of the 2015/16 Kindergarten enrollments:

School	Capacity	Priority Placements (Siblings + Continuing Kdgs)	# openings available for new families (Capacity - Priority)	1st Choice Cards Submitted	Openings Available after placing 1 st choice	Openings Available after placing wait listed students
Cabrillo	60	47	13	31	0 (wait list of 18)	0 (wait list of 18)
Ocean Shore	48	23	25	35	0 (wait list of 10)	0 (wait list of 10)
Ortega	96	33	63	45	18	1
Sunset Ridge	72	27	45	35	10	0
Vallemar	60	30	30	29	1	0

Transitional Kindergarten Lottery

Sunset Ridge School is staffed for two transitional kindergarten (TK) classes with a total of 48 openings. Ortega can house one TK class of 24 openings. Ortega had six students placed with priority, leaving 18 openings available and 27 enrollment requests. Immediately following the Kindergarten Lottery was a lottery for Ortega's TK class. The same procedure as in the Kindergarten Lottery was followed to draw for the 18 openings; the remaining nine were drawn to create the wait list. The nine wait listed families were assigned to Sunset Ridge School.

The following chart shows the results of the 2015/16 Transitional Kindergarten Lottery:

School	Capacity	Priority Placements	# openings available for new families	1st Choice Cards Submitted	Openings available	Openings Available after placing wait listed students
Ortega	24	6	18	27	0 (wait list of 9)	0 (wait list of 9)
Sunset Ridge	48	4	44	29	15	6

Currently, transitional kindergarten is available only to those four-year-olds whose fifth birthdays fall September 2nd through December 2nd. The implementation of the transitional kindergarten program has been a developmental process. District staff will continue to monitor and evaluate TK enrollment and be thoughtful of program location, facilities, and community need. TK enrollment guidelines will also be reviewed and revisions made as necessary.