

Bridgeport Public Schools

Ad Hoc Lottery Committee

Proposal to strengthen transparency, equity,
and public confidence in lottery-based
admissions

August 24, 2026

Proposal for Board Consideration



Purpose of the Ad Hoc Lottery Committee

A committee focused on the lottery process to allow greater understanding, consistency, and auditable.

Transparency

Make lottery procedures, guidelines, policies, eligibility rules, waiting lists, and appeals, more accessible and easier for families and community members to understand.

Equity

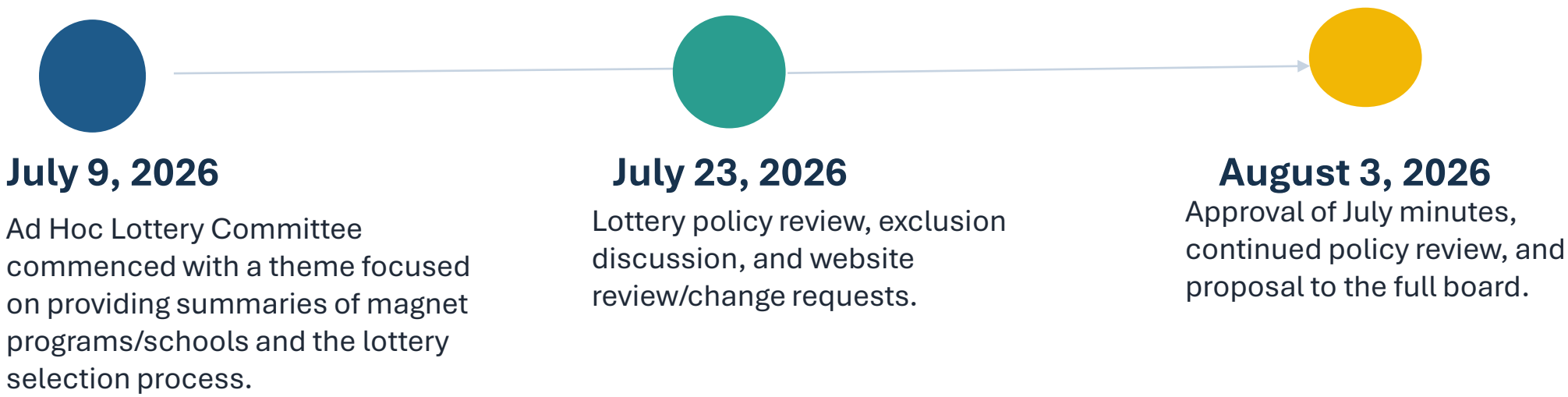
Apply consistent criteria, minimize barriers to access, and ensure families receive clear information about opportunities, waitlists, and appeals.

Accountability

Establish clear roles, system controls, audit trails, and annual reporting to increase transparency and accountability.

Committee Discussions and Themes

The meetings centered on policy clarity, website transparency, exclusions, and Board proposal development.



Proposal intent: convert committee consensus into Board policy, administrative procedures, and website updates that families can rely on before, during, and after the lottery draw.

Proposed Operating Principles

Decision rules should be simple enough for families to understand and strong enough to audit.

Clarity

Clearly define eligibility requirements, timelines, waitlists, and appeals.

Consistency

Apply the same published rules to every applicant.

Limited Access

Centralize permission to modify lottery records and provide read-only access where school teams need visibility.

Auditability

Maintain date/time-stamped change logs, draw files, waitlist reports, and annual Board reporting.

Criteria Compliance

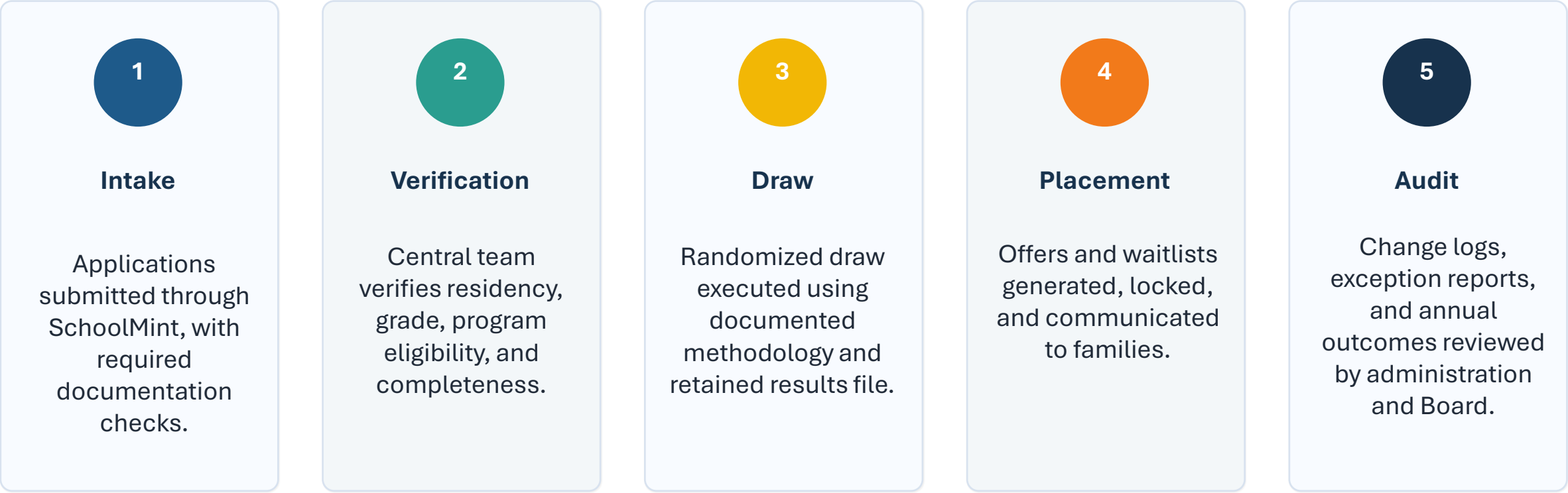
Monitor outcomes by school, grade, program, and available demographic indicators to identify access barriers.

Public Confidence

Publish the lottery process, policies, guidelines, and selection process in a more accessible manner.

Data Governance and System Controls

Protect the integrity of the lottery record from application through waitlist management.



Recommended control: only the designated ombudsperson may edit locked lottery records after the draw; schools will receive read-only visibility and shall submit change requests to the ombudsperson.

Summary of Proposed Changes

Institute an Ombudsperson	Implement 100% Lottery Margin	Update Lottery Policies	Modifications to SchoolMint's Website	Institute Annual Reporting
• Single point of contact who will be the sole person to modify a lottery's selection. • This person will be selected by the superintendent. • Remove lottery selection modification access from the current 40-50 people.	• Lottery selection process to be conducted at 100% margin. Meaning seats will not be left open for margins of error.	• Standardize the elementary and high school policies. • Standardize the sibling policy. • Added language to allow an extended waitlist for Fairchild Wheeler. • Added language to clearly specify that lottery seats are relinquished upon exit of the school.	• Contain lottery background, best practices on completing the lottery application, highlight common errors, and video guiding parents through the selection process. • Provide links to the Lottery policies and guidelines. • Highlight lottery school themes. • Website to be accessible in different languages.	• Upon elementary and high school lottery selection completion a report shall be provided to the superintendent and the board outlining the results of the lottery certification and reiterating who has access to the lottery selection process.

* Exclusions to the lottery were discussed but the Ad hoc Lottery Committee decided against those practices.

Motions to Codify Committee Changes

Motion 1: Institute a Lottery Ombudsperson and remove access to the lottery selection process from all others.

Motion 2: Implement 100% Lottery Margin.

Motion 3: Refer the elementary and high school and sibling policies as discussed during the Ad hoc Lottery Committee to the Policy Committee.

Motion 4: Modify SchoolMint's Website as discussed.

Motion 5: Institute Annual Reporting as discussed.