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Mrs. Cobb: There we go. And I think that we are ready to begin.

Mrs. Cobb: Mrs. Stern did you want to say a few opening words and welcome to our attendees?

Mrs. Stern: Yes, absolutely. Thank you, Mrs. Cobb. I want to welcome everybody to our ... This is our 10th lottery, in a very different location, but basically the same idea. I want to thank our staff members who worked to put this together, [inaudible 00:00:51], Ms. Popoter, and Mrs. Cobb. And you'll get to know Mrs. Cobb and Ms. Popoter more as you go along.

Mrs. Stern: And then also, I just want to thank our friend [inaudible 00:01:01], Mrs. Robin Meyers, who is helping us with this, and thank you very much for helping in the virtual world. And we are looking forward to welcoming your child to Amani Public Charter School in the fall. We're going to be up and running and providing the program that's mission driven to ensure that your child will receive the education they need to be successful in high school, college, and the career of their choice, whether it's online, or in person, that won't change. Let's get started.

Mrs. Cobb: Okay. We are glad to welcome you guys all to the 10th annual lottery of Amani Public Charter School. My name is [inaudible 00:01:41] Cobb and I'm the registrar at Amani. Of course, joining us are Debra Stern, our executive director and founder. Mr. Phil [inaudible 00:00:01:50], director of finance. [inaudible 00:01:53] Popoter, our recruitment coordinator and assistant registrar. And Mrs. [inaudible 00:01:58], who will be acting as our independent observer and is a longtime resident of Mount Vernon, owner of [inaudible 00:02:05] Designs, Furniture and interiors, and chair of the Mount Vernon merchants association. Thank you very much, Ms. Meyers.

Mrs. Cobb: We will be running the lottery electronically this year. (Silence). The students are grouped by district of residence and listed on our spreadsheet in alphabetical order. We'll just go here. Using the publicly available site, random.org, we will generate a randomized list of numbers. The random list of numbers will be cut and pasted in the same order as generated on the website as the lottery numbers for each student group. Our school respects a set of preferences, absolute admission preference will be granted in the following manner.

Mrs. Cobb: First preference will be given to returning students who are automatically assigned a space at Amani. Second preference will be given to siblings of students already enrolled in Amani. Third preference will be given to applicants whose guardians are full time Amani public charter school employees. Fourth preference will be given to students who reside in Mount Vernon New York. Amani will apply additional lottery wait for students who are English language learners or students with disabilities. If an applicant belongs to both the English

language learner group and a student with disabilities group, the applicant will be given the weight of the higher of the two categories. Weights are given through additional entries in the lottery.

Mrs. Cobb: The number of additional entries was determined via a weighting formula approved by New York state. To protect family privacy, applicants will be identified during the lottery with their first and last initial and month and date of birth. Please keep in mind that translating lottery numbers into wait list numbers may be affected by our preferences. Official notice of the list numbers will be sent out later this month.

Mrs. Cobb: And we will begin with the fifth grade out of district lottery. Because we have enough seats for all Mount Vernon resident applicants who applied by the April 1st deadline we will only be holding a lottery for those who live outside of Mount Vernon. We had one student with disabilities, and potential students with disabilities are given a weight of three. And we had two potential English language learners, English language learners are given a weight of two.

Mrs. Cobb: This is random.org and we will be using the sequence generator. And cutting and pasting the numbers exactly as you see them, which will become the lottery numbers for the fifth grade out of district lottery.

Mrs. Cobb: Our next lottery will be for sixth grade. We will first be doing the sixth grade in district lottery. Potential students with disabilities are given a weight of eight and potential English language learners are given a weight of 17 in this lottery. For the sixth grade we had a total of 35 applicants in district, with two potential students with disabilities and two potential English language learners.

Mrs. Cobb: And again, we will be taking these numbers exactly as they were generated. We will be making the recording available to those who request it, but I will briefly scroll through so that we can see all of the results of the sixth grade in district lottery.

Mrs. Cobb: We'll now be conducting the sixth grade out of district lottery. There were 16 applicants in the sixth grade out of district lottery, with five students with potential disabilities and one potential English language learner. And again, we'll briefly scroll through these so that we can record the full list of results in the recording of this lottery.

Mrs. Cobb: We will now move on to the seventh grade lottery. In the seventh grade, potential students with disabilities are given a weight of 12 and English language learners are given a weight of 12 also. For the seventh grade in district applicants, we had 21 with one potential student with disabilities and one potential English language learner student. And again, taking the numbers as they are generated here. And briefly scrolling through.

Mrs. Cobb: And then moving on to the seventh grade out of district applicants, we had three with no potential students with disabilities or English language learners.

Mrs. Cobb: And that concludes our lottery. We will be having a question and answer session, but before we move on to that, we would just invite all parents to know that we will be reaching out to you. The results of the lottery and registration materials will begin to be sent out, or will be sent out, by Monday, May 18th. If you are offered a space at Amani Public Charter School, we ask that you complete the intent to enroll form online by May 22nd, or the spot may be offered to the next student on our waiting list. Parents may contact the school via email to update or confirm their contact information, but lottery results will not be available via phone or email until after May 18th, to allow us to process and communicate with you guys directly.

Mrs. Cobb: We do want to make sure that you guys have our contact information. My email is there. Ms. Popoter's email is here as well. As well as Mr. [inaudible 00:00:10:58], our finance director. Mrs. [inaudible 00:11:03] Meyers, thank you so much for participating and observing our lottery. And we will be moving on to the question and answer session.

Speaker 3: Thank you.

Mrs. Cobb: Ms. Popoter, did you want to act as the moderator or did you want me to take that on? Hold on. Let's unmute you, I'm not sure everybody can hear me. There you go.

Ms. Popoter: Can you hear me now?

Mrs. Cobb: Yes, ma'am.

Ms. Popoter: Okay, great. Again, thank you everyone for joining us today. I know we got one question while Mrs. Cobb was speaking, and now we'll have a good five minutes to answer any pressing questions that you might have. I'll be working as the moderator during this portion of the presentation.

Ms. Popoter: Below in the screen you will see a Q and A box at the bottom. That is where we will be taking our questions. Can everyone please raise their hands to confirm that they see the Q and A box. I see a hand raised, great. That is where you will be entering your questions. If a question has been submitted that you would also like answered, just hit the like button. And that way, that question will be uploaded to the top of our list and will be addressed first. We can go ahead and start entering your questions.

Mrs. Cobb: Okay. I do have one question that's right here at the top so I'm going to just answer that one here aloud. We did send acceptance notices to all fifth grade

students who applied and live in the district as long as they applied by the deadline of April 1st. If you did not receive an acceptance and you applied on or before April 1st, and your student is entering fifth grade next year, please, please, please do reach out to me and we will track down why you did not receive that acceptance notification.

Ms. Popoter: Mrs. Cobb, can we start here? They just want to confirm all fifth grade students [inaudible 00:13:36] ... accepted.

Mrs. Cobb: Not all fifth grade students, all fifth grade students who applied before the deadline and live in Mount Vernon. I don't want to confuse the issue by saying that all fifth grade students were accepted, because there are some qualifiers there.

Ms. Popoter: Yes. Everyone that applied before April 1st, correct?

Mrs. Cobb: And lives in Mount Vernon.

Ms. Popoter: And lives in Mount Vernon. Thank you. We have a question here from Cranston, Is this recording and can it be viewed later?

Mrs. Cobb: We do intend to make the recording available along with a transcript. We'll most likely be sending out the recording via email, or if we post it on the website, we'll post the web address to where it is posted. We will send that out.

Ms. Popoter: Another question from Cranston ... Oh, we answered that already, I'm sorry. Linda would like to know, what do the numbers generated mean?

Mrs. Cobb: Okay. These are the lottery numbers. If we had no other preferences, then number one would be the first on the waiting list and if we had a space we would offer that's number one. There are some preferences to be taken into account, for example, siblings and things like that. That's why there may be a slight difference between, say, a lottery number and a wait list number. Generally, though, the wait list number that you receive is actually going to be better than the lottery number, because it will take into account any students who are accepted and that moves the wait list along before you even see it.

Ms. Popoter: Thank you for answering that. [inaudible 00:15:26] would like to know, how many patients are currently available for fifth grade out of district?

Mrs. Cobb: Currently we accepted 87 students in district for fifth grade. We do have an absolute preference for in district applicants. Our current class is usually 90 students for fifth grade, that would open up three spaces. And it may be more or less depending on things like whether all of the people who are offered spaces choose to take them. But we do also have to make those spaces available first to students who apply and live in Mount Vernon, because as part of our

charter the school was founded to help students that are Mount Vernon residents.

Ms. Popoter: Okay. I see they have a question also about sixth grade, just for clarity, can we say how many spaces are available for each grade?

Mrs. Cobb: Sure. I want to make sure I'm giving you correct information so I'm just going to take a look at one of my spreadsheets. Give me just a second.

Mrs. Cobb: The number of open seats in sixth grade, for the coming year, is one currently. That doesn't mean that it won't change as people give us more notice over the summer and firm up plans. We generally see a lot of acceptances in sixth and seventh grade happening over the summer months as our families inform us that, hey, I got a new job and I'm moving, or whatever the case may be.

Mrs. Cobb: We also, to make sure that I'm answering the question as fully as possible, we have two spaces available in seventh grade, but again, we expect that we'll see a few more openings and that over the summer months as we are notified of our current families plans.

Ms. Popoter: Thank you Mrs. Cobb. And that means general openings, not just for students in [inaudible 00:17:41].

Mrs. Cobb: It's the same opening, but we of course have a preference for Mount Vernon students.

Ms. Popoter: Okay. I see [inaudible 00:17:58] ... For instance, numbers one through four won the lottery. That's a problem.

Mrs. Cobb: If you got a lottery number ... Let's say you were lottery number five, correct? Some students have multiple entries because of the wait for English language learners or students with disabilities. Let's say that person was entered into the lottery twice, if you were number five and they had number two and four, I'm going to make that wait list number for number five into probably number four, because that student with disabilities, for example, doesn't need both two and four. Two is good enough for that student. That's part of going through the difference between the lottery number and the wait list number, is making sure that if a student has more than one number that they get the best of those numbers and all the students below them move up, and things like that. That's why there may be a slight difference between lottery numbers and wait list numbers. But overall, the wait list number will be most likely much better than the lottery number.

Ms. Popoter: Okay. And [inaudible 00:19:13] say, if you have a specific question about your son or [inaudible 00:19:20] we can address it.

- Mrs. Cobb: I'm sorry, could you repeat that Ms. Popoter? You broke up just a little bit.
- Ms. Popoter: Oh, okay. This is for the parents and guardians watching, [inaudible 00:19:31] ... to you.
- Mrs. Cobb: Okay. I'm going to try to just summarize that because I think, Ms. Popoter, the microphone was breaking up there. If you have a specific question about your son or daughter and their personal results, we'll be available to answer those questions. You can send them to us via email, but we're going to be spending a lot of time tomorrow and Friday making up the communications for everybody. You may not receive an answer until after May 18th, which that's when we'll be sending the communication to everybody about the results. If you don't get an answer, it's not that we didn't see it, it's that we're trying to make sure that we're answering questions for everybody by communicating what the results are in terms of the wait list numbers to everybody as quickly as possible.
- Ms. Popoter: Okay. We have a question here in regards to acceptances, will you be notified if you were not accepted?
- Mrs. Cobb: Yes. You'll be notified of the lottery and the wait list results. You'd be notified if you were accepted and you'll get a link to the intent to enroll. If we do not have a space for your child because they did not come out quite as high on the wait list number, you will be informed of what their initial wait list number is and then we'll keep in contact with you to make sure that you're kept abreast of what's going on as we continue.
- Mrs. Cobb: Just historically, for fifth grade, we do a lot of acceptances and communicating with parents in the very early months because we have a lot of spaces there. For sixth and seventh grade, we actually see a lot of communication towards the mid to late summer when more of our families have firmed up their next year plans and they inform us, hey, we're not going to be returning. In which case, all of a sudden, I now have a space to offer. You may, if you are a parent of a sixth or seventh grade student, hear about an offer in June, July, August, even into September, October, as parents and their families make different decisions and choose, for example, to move to another state or any number of other reasons that we may have a space available.
- Ms. Popoter: [inaudible 00:22:21] that is on the wait list will be offered [inaudible 00:22:26].
- Mrs. Cobb: Sorry, I'm having a lot of trouble hearing you.
- Ms. Popoter: [inaudible 00:22:32].
- Mrs. Cobb: A little bit better now. Okay. Let's see.

- Ms. Popoter: Can you hear me?
- Mrs. Cobb: Yes.
- Ms. Popoter: I just took the headset off. It wasn't working for me.
- Mrs. Cobb: Okay.
- Ms. Popoter: I believe we answered Linda's question, like you said, they [inaudible 00:22:59] ... available anytime during the summer, even in September or October.
- Mrs. Cobb: Yes. We do our best to keep our classes as full as possible, but parents, and life, and people's plans change. For example, last year, I had a parent who notified me in October that they decided to move out of state. And at that point, in October, I reached out to families on our waiting list to see if any of them were willing to take that seat. It sometimes does take awhile for a seat to open up, but we keep the wait list open from now until usually mid October and sometimes even later if we need to. We start always from scratch again in January, when we're looking for ... That's part of our application cycle.
- Mrs. Cobb: If you did apply last year and you had to reapply, that's why we do start from scratch in January.
- Ms. Popoter: Okay. I have a few parents that would like to see the lottery numbers again. Can we show that again on the screen?
- Mrs. Cobb: We can, but I don't ... We sometimes have issues where parents are kind of looking, and then I scroll and then one person sees their number and the next person didn't see there so we spend a lot of time scrolling. We will be making the recording available. I'll go through all of the lottery results one more time, but then after that, we'll just make sure that you guys have access to the recording so you can look at your leisure at a different time.
- Ms. Popoter: Okay.
- Mrs. Cobb: Starting again from fifth grade, that all fits on one screen, that's very nice and convenient just for parents who are looking. The applicants are in order from last name and then first name, in alphabetical order.
- Mrs. Cobb: Moving on to sixth grade, this is a much longer list so please bear with me while I go back up to the top. This is the beginning of the sixth grade in district lottery results starting from last name A, comma, first name Z. Then from last name B, comma, J first initial through the start of last name G, comma, B first initial. Continuing last name G, first name B, to last name P first initial K. Then again, last initial P, first initial K, to last initial T, first initial S. And then concluding the

in district sixth grade lottery, that's last initial T through first initial S, to last initial W to first initial J.

Mrs. Cobb: Below that we have the sixth grade out of district results, starting with last initial A through first S. Then last initial J through first initial T. Then last initial J through first initial T to last initial M first initial J. Continuing last initial M through first initial J. Through last initial P, first initial V. And ending the list with last initial P, first initial V, through last initial T, first initial D.

Mrs. Cobb: Moving on to seventh grade, we start with seventh grade in district with last initial A, first initial C. Oops, sorry. I went through all the way to the bottom of the page. This is going to take a whole lot while so let's just grab the scroll bar. And going through last initial I through first initial A. Then last initial I through first initial A, to last initial M through first initial J. Ending the seventh grade out of district list with last initial M through first initial J, through last initial W through first initial D. And the last three there at the bottom are the seventh grade out of district lottery participants, starting with last initial D through first initial A and ending with last initial O through first initial C.

Mrs. Cobb: Okay. I see a couple of questions, so let's see. No, I can't really hear you. The date of notification, emails will be sent out on or before May 18th. Let's see, somebody asked if this was the list of kids who are accepted. This is the lottery results so this is what will guide the list of kids who are accepted depending on the number of spaces we have and the number that they receive in the lottery once other preferences are taken into account. It's not the list of kids who are accepted because we don't have quite that many spaces, as much as we would love to have room for every child who is interested.

Mrs. Cobb: And the wait list number comes from the lottery users results once we take into account both the other preferences and we'll take out if, for example, we had three people in the lottery and we accepted one, well, the first person ... Person who was number two in the lottery would become number one on the wait list. That's where there is a translation from lottery number to wait-lists number.

Mrs. Cobb: Yes, as of right now, there's only space for one current sixth grader. Very few of our current fifth grade class has indicated that they will not be returning for next year, which we're always glad to see that our students like us and want to stay, but unfortunately that does not make for a lot of available spaces for new interested families.

Ms. Popoter: [inaudible 00:31:03].

Mrs. Cobb: Are there any additional questions? Okay. If there are any questions that are specifically about your scholar, or your situation, please do email us. I'll put the email addresses back up on the screen. We just want to make sure that we're not speaking to people's personal situations or their information that might be

privileged or private. If want to talk about something that's regarding your scholar or your situation specifically, please reach out to me. My email is right there, [acobb@amanicharter.org](mailto:acobb@amanicharter.org).

Mrs. Cobb: Are there any other questions in regards to the lottery or generally in regards to admissions?

Mrs. Cobb: All right. Well, if that is it, I want to thank you guys all for coming.

Ms. Popoter: [inaudible 00:00:32:20].

Mrs. Cobb: It's just really difficult to hear you, you're breaking up. Ms. Popoter, would you want to maybe type to me in the chat and that way I can see it that way.

Mrs. Stern: If you could just clarify to close, Mrs. Cobb, that again, when we're going to send everybody the information and what the lottery number needs. That's what Mrs. Popoter wanted to say to you. There's one more question about what exactly does a lottery number mean?

Mrs. Cobb: The lottery number is where we start. If we have a lottery number and we have 10 people, let's say we had 10 people in the lottery and we have three spaces, the easy answer to that is number four in the lottery becomes number one on the wait list because we accepted those three people and move them up. That's the basic difference between the lottery number and the wait list number.

Mrs. Stern: Okay. I think that's good. I think the bottom line is ... I think we're closing out now Mrs. Cobb?

Mrs. Cobb: I think that we are, if anybody has any further questions or comments, or anything like that, please, we'll leave the contact information up here. Please get in touch with us and we'll be happy to help you one on one, in regards to your situation. Again, in terms of the wait list numbers, those will be released on or before Monday, May 18th, just to let us make sure that we're working through and doing a good job and releasing correct and accurate information for all of our families.

Mrs. Stern: All right, fantastic. Again, thank you everybody. We're looking forward to seeing you in Amani Public Charter school in September and take care.

Mrs. Cobb: Thank you.

Mrs. Stern: Okay.