

FRIENDS OF LOWELL FOUNDATION THANKS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS WHO REJECTED LOTTERY

The Friends of Lowell Foundation applauds the San Francisco Board of Education's decision not to impose yet another year of the disastrous lottery experiment on Lowell High School. The Superintendent's Resolution to extend the lottery failed by a 3-4 vote on June 22, thereby requiring the San Francisco Unified School District to follow its existing policy of merit-based Lowell admissions. The FOLF would like to thank Commissioners Jenny Lam, Ann Hsu, Lainie Motamedi, and Lisa Weissman-Ward for having voted against the lottery.

With this vote, a majority of the Board recognized the clear will of San Franciscans, who in February recalled three previous Board members largely due to their 2021 vote to permanently replace Lowell's academic admissions policy with a lottery. The FOLF initiated and led the lawsuit that successfully vacated this vote for violating California's Brown Act. The FOLF and the Chinese Parent Advisory Council demonstrated the community's desire for merit-based admissions with four rallies at SFUSD headquarters, thousands of letters and petition signatures, and dozens of public comments at Board meetings. San Franciscans of all backgrounds stood up for Lowell: alumni, current students, their families, and public-education supporters from every neighborhood.

The first class of students admitted under lottery at Lowell have earned failing D and F grades at triple the rate of previous classes, showing that the decision to enroll these students by lottery is poorly serving their educational needs.

The FOLF now calls on SFUSD staff to urgently speed its work to implement academic admissions, including citywide outreach to the rising 8th graders who will be applying for the Fall 2023 incoming freshman class.