<center>Pacifica Kindergarten Lottery Reform</center>

In the past, there has been controversy over the lottery system employed by the Pacifica School District. Historically, Pacifica elementary schools were not considered to be equal from an academic and enrichment perspective, and some of the schools were considered to be better than others, so there was competition to be placed in certain schools. The lottery system was developed in an attempt to make the kindergarten enrollment process more equitable for all of the residents of Pacifica.

5 years ago, there was an organized effort to investigate a return to neighborhood schools, which was entitled the Equidistant Model. The school district and concerned citizens underwent an extensive work study to determine whether it was time for a return to neighborhood schools. They had many meetings and did extensive research to examine the feasibility of this model. Ultimately, this plan never came to fruition because there was an overwhelming response from the community that they wanted to be able to attend their school of choice. So things remained the same.

This approach leaves a subsection of the community devastated because they live in close proximity to a school they requested and were not assigned to. In the year 2014, the playing field has been leveled and Pacifica Elementary schools are all great and scoring comparably. Since equity is no longer the issue, we must revisit the lottery system in respect to driving time and traffic within Pacifica, as well as the desire of some residents to attend their neighborhood school.

Our current proposal contends that school of choice and attending your neighborhood school are not mutually exclusive, there is a way to allow Pacifica residents to choose schools based on their preference as well as geographical proximity.

We propose that beginning in the 2014-15 school year, the enrollment process of the kindergarten lottery be randomly computer generated rather than selecting cards out of a bag. With a computer randomization, it is possible to write a program that would enable residents to have a higher probability of obtaining their first choice school if they are within a certain distance (eg: within 1 mile) of their first choice school, called a weighted geographical algorithm. If residents do not want to go to their neighborhood school, all they would have to do is not put this school as their first choice, and they would not be included within the weighted algorithm. The residents included in this algorithm would be entered into the pool more than once so they have a higher probability of being selected (eg: If you select Cabrillo as your first choice and you are within 1 mile (distance to be determined) of this school, you have a 40% (percentage also to be determined) higher probability of being selected for this school. This means that rather being entered once, your child's name would be entered 1.4 times to increase their odds of being selected). This can be accomplished quite simply with a computer program.

To achieve this, we could divide the city into zones that each incoming kindergarten student would be assigned based on their address, and their zone would determine the weight in which they were entered into the lottery. These zones could be developed once

and used for years to come. A work study will be created to determine 1) the zone distances and borders, 2) the percentage advantage this would entitle people within the zone corresponding to their neighborhood school who want that school.

With this system, as the student's information is entered into a database, another column would be added for the student's zone, and this information would be included in the randomized lottery. Once the zones are determined, something as simple as an Excel macro could accomplish this task.