

# Black students least likely to win in lottery

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CMS's construction priorities and report back with concrete plans in May.

Lottery results also revealed these first option results:

- 73 percent of students receiving free and reduced price lunch were successful.

- 81 percent of ESL students received their top choice.

- 90 percent of Exceptional Children students landed their No. 1 pick.

CMS received more than 25,000 applications for the 2004-2005 year, its third with a lottery system. Families with students entering kindergarten, sixth grade and ninth grade were required to apply as well as families whose home school boundaries changed. Also, families new to the district and those in the district interested in selecting a different school could submit applications. CMS received 18,960 applications from the 23,197 required to apply, an 82 percent return rate.

"The process was successful again this year with 82 percent of families returning their applications and 76 percent receiving their first selection in the process," Pughsley said. "I want to thank the families who participated in the process and took time to find out more about their school options. I also want to thank the Charlotte community for their support in sharing information about the process. Parent and community involvement is critical to student success."

Letters will be mailed to families by Friday regarding their school assignments. Families new to the district who participated in new

student enrollment need to complete and return a form indicating their intention to accept their school assignment by March 19. The Student Assignment Information Line at (980) 343-6192 will be open from March 15-26 to answer any parent questions regarding their assignment.

Citing a stagnant economy and budget squeezing at the state and local level, Pughsley asked the school board to consider a \$290 million local budget for 2004-2005.

Mecklenburg County commissioners, which has final say in local funding for schools, is projecting a \$32 million shortfall for the 2004-05 fiscal year due to reduced property and sales tax revenues.

Pughsley's request includes \$9.1 million in redirections and cuts, \$18.9 million for operations, \$7.6 million to address growth and \$7.6 million in program expansions and new initiatives.

"In today's tough economic times, we know that it is critical for CMS to develop a budget that addresses both the hardships as well as continuing our commitment to our children," Pughsley said. "This budget is both responsive to the economic forecast and responsible to the more than 117,000 students we will serve next year."

Last year, Pughsley developed the "Sunset Clause," an initiative that evaluates all programs and services within CMS on a three-year rotating basis. The clause, along with a 6 percent cut in central office departments, allowed the district to identify \$9.1 million in redirections and cuts for next year.

# Regional network the latest addition for Bobcats founder

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look many areas, such as scholastic sports and many collegiate sports events. Our network will delve deeper, be more expansive in our coverage and commit more time and resources to the stories and topics of interest to fans in the Carolinas."

This is not the first business venture between Johnson and TWC. Time Warner was an original partner in Bob Johnson's first business enterprise, Black Entertainment Television. C-SET is due to debut in October, when the Bobcats tip off their inaugural season. The sports network will be local to the Carolinas in content and will present "opportunities for parents to see their children" on television, said Johnson.

The Bobcats and Sting are to be the centerpiece of the network, but programming will be diverse, Johnson said. C-SET is in negotiations with the CIAA and other Carolinas

HBCUs for the rights to cover basketball tournaments and other sporting events. Johnson said C-SET will also look to HBCUs for employment and input on shows and content.

"Our relationship with Time Warner Cable provides C-SET immediate distribution to a wide fan base in a targeted region and will utilize state-of-the-art technology," said Johnson. "By providing our programming digitally, we can offer a superior product and place our viewers ahead of the technological curve as it relates to high definition, video on demand and the newest television innovations."

Although the target audience for C-SET are professional males between the ages of 18-24, according to Naomi Traverse of Media Rights and Entertainment, C-SET is due to attract a large scale audience throughout North and South Carolina.



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

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