

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, April 8, 2016

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Article Title: Aviation High diversity bid brings enrollment lottery

Section: NW Sunday, B1

Vocabulary:

Look up the definition of **demographic**. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

Each year, they said, many applicants have been children of people who work in the aviation and aerospace industry, so the **demographics** mirrored that industry, which long has been “a white male world.”

Comprehension Questions

1. For most of its nearly 12-year history, Raisbeck Aviation High School, a public school in Tukwila that works to prepare students for careers in aviation and aerospace, has been what population?
2. Last year, just _____ percent of the school's 429 students were female, and _____ percent were racial minorities.
3. How was the application done in the past? What changes have taken place for next year's freshman class?
4. Describe the makeup of next fall's freshman class.
5. Though some students and parents have raised concerns about the new system, what one thing is certain amidst the new change?
6. The decision also followed a complaint from the parent of an Asian student, alleging the interview process was discriminatory. What happened and what did the School Board find?
7. Since its beginnings in 2004, Aviation has been a selective school. Why? What makes this program unique?
8. But under the old application process, the school has long had both a gender and ethnic imbalance. What goal was never reached?
9. What does STEM stand for?

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:

“Being a public school system, you have to have an equitable and defensible system,” Superintendent Susan Enfield said. “Because we have more students each year than we have seats for, the [school] board and I have to be able to look any parent and student in the eye and say, ‘You have an equal chance of getting into this school.’”

- Do you think the lottery system is the best way to go for this school? Why or why not?
- Will it provide equality to all who want to attend? Why or why not?
- What are the pros and cons of the lottery system?

Essay

School and district officials said no explicit or implicit bias affected past admissions decisions, but there was no way to be entirely objective when judging each student's commitment to the school and whether he or she would be a good fit.

Each year, they said, many applicants have been children of people who work in the aviation and aerospace industry, so the demographics mirrored that industry, which long has been "a white male world," said social-studies teacher Troy Hoehne.

"But it's changing, and it's appropriate that the school change with it," he said. "I don't think you would find a staff member who wouldn't say we need more gender equality, we need to have a diversity plan that is more in tune with the population around us."

Enfield said a lottery significantly reduces "the subjectivity to determine who gets in and who doesn't."

- Why has the aviation and aerospace industry, historically, been a white-male dominated field?
- Do you think this shift in diversity and gender equality was necessary? Why or why not?

Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy

How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.

- Using The Seattle Times e-Edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that "view" similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

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