

Policies and Procedures Subcommittee, Arlington School Committee

Guidance Office of AHS– September 28, 2015 –8:00 a.m.

Draft Minutes

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members:	Judson L. Pierce-Chair Kirsi Alison Ampe
Not Present:	Jennifer Susse
School Committee Member:	William Hayner
Administration:	Kathleen Bodie-Superintendent, Cindy Bouvier- Health and Wellness, Robert Spiegel-Director of Human Resources

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am. A motion to approve the Draft minutes from the May 14, 2015 and June 2, 2015 Policies and Procedures meetings were made by Dr. Alison-Ampe, seconded by Mr. Pierce. The motion passed unanimously 2-0.

Ms. Bouvier discussed File JICFB concerning Bullying. It was noted that this subcommittee revised our Policy on September 12, 2013 in anticipation of state law changing in 2014. The biggest change to the law was that it is now student to student and adult to student which is in our already revised policy. Therefore our current policy seems to be up to date. Additionally these changes are incorporated into the student handbook and on the district's website along with the forms. Dr. Alison-Ampe raised the concern that certain items of interest, such as bullying prevention, are difficult to locate on the school district website and asked that the Community Relations subcommittee deal with this problem. We will make sure of this by contacting counsel at Stoneman, Chandler and Miller("SCM").

Regarding File JKAA, dealing with physical restraint, this subcommittee recently revised this policy as well and Dr. Bodie will be asking SCM if it remains up to date and Mr. Spiegel will be consulting with Alison Elmer, Special Education Director, on this.

Dr. Alison-Ampe reviewed her research with the subcommittee on what other towns do for admission age for kindergarten and first grade. Most have the same cut offs that Arlington has. Mr. Hayner will do some historical research as to why this is the way it is. Likely due to maturity

and ability to learn. Perhaps there is a way to make an exception in our current policy for a student that has completed kindergarten somewhere else but happens to be younger than our current first grade entrance age. For example in Newton the incoming parents may discuss with the principal and assistant superintendent but the district usually rests on their age criteria. Mr. Hayner suggested that we not create new policy but rather leave this with our educational staff. Mr. Pierce will research what other communities do and will forward to Karen Fitzgerald so that she can keep this research together with the already scanned materials from Dr. Alison-Ampe in Novus.

Regarding File CBI, Superintendent Evaluation, and creating a new timeline based on what the Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee worked on. Mr. Hayner indicated that the survey of the administration has not been completed so there is nothing for this subcommittee to do quite yet. Dr. Alison-Ampe added that perhaps we could create some language that deals with the opportunity for the SC to ask questions of the Superintendent between the time we are handed evidence and the date of the actual evaluation in November.

Regarding File JICG, concerning cigarettes, Mr. Pierce made a motion to add “e-cigarettes” to the policy. Seconded by Dr. Alison-Ampe. Motion carried 2-0. In addition this is already included in the student handbook.

Regarding revisions to our Safe Walk to School Policy, Mr. Pierce indicated that he’d like to discuss this with staff member Mark Edry and get back to the committee at a later date.

Regarding school councils, it was noted that these are created by statute and are advisory only. Dr. Bodie indicated it would be helpful if member terms were from October to October so that they can vote on school improvement plans in the fall that they had worked to develop in the spring and early summer. Dr. Bodie will ask our Counsel if this can be done.

Mr. Hayner asked the subcommittee to take up proper use, display, and disposal of the Flag of the United States of America. Some of our Flags are torn and some are up with no lights on them. Mr. Pierce made a motion to adopt a policy on this, seconded by Dr. Alison-Ampe. Unanimous vote. Dr. Bodie will discuss this with the parties who would have to make sure that this gets accomplished and get back to us with what they need.

Mr. Pierce will send out a Doodle to schedule the next meeting. Motion to adjourn by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Dr. Alison-Ampe, passed unanimously at 9:25am.