

Policies and Procedures Subcommittee, Arlington School Committee

Guidance Office of AHS– December 7, 2015 –8:00 a.m.

Draft Minutes

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members:	Judson L. Pierce-Chair
	Kirsi Allison-Ampe
	Jennifer Susse
School Committee Member:	William Hayner
Administration:	Kathleen Bodie-Superintendent, Robert Spiegel-Director of Human Resources, Karen Fitzgerald-Administrative Assistant to the ASC and Superintendent of Schools

The meeting was called to order at 8:05am. A motion to approve the Draft minutes from the November 16, 2015 Policies and Procedures meeting was made by Dr. Allison-Ampe, seconded by Mr. Pierce. The motion passed unanimously 3-0.

There was no public participation.

There was a discussion of FILE BEDB Agenda Format/Preparation and Dissemination. The subcommittee would like materials earlier than two days before our SC meetings. A question was raised whether supplemental materials can be made available to the public and the answer was yes unless they are for executive session. The subcommittee would like to have the SC try an earlier delivery schedule whereby anything of substance must be produced for our review by noon the Friday before the meeting. We'll see how that goes and if necessary revise the policy accordingly.

There was a discussion concerning Kindergarten and First Grade age for admission. Mr. Pierce found that some other Massachusetts school districts employ an exception to the hard cut off date, however the subcommittee and Dr. Bodie agreed, that this was not a wise plan for Arlington. Dr. Allison-Ampe suggested writing in a preamble to explain why we feel a specific cut-off date is necessary for our district. Mr. Pierce agreed to take a first pass at this. It was noted that children need time to develop for purposes of their emotional and social growth. That although some children demonstrate the ability to move smoothly through the academic rigors of an early elementary school education that their maturity levels are bound by their

ages in most cases and something that may not seem to be an apparent barrier to learning and growth may show itself in middle school.

New Business: The subcommittee discussed any policy needed if the district were to adopt the PAARC exam. Dr. Bodie seemed to prefer PAARC for what it would show us regarding ELA. She noted that the MCAS test is not reflective, does not ask for evidence or for students to analyze text but that the PAARC test does do this. Dr. Allison-Ampe would like for our district to have a robust trial of our technology to see if we can accommodate wide spread online testing. Dr. Bodie reaffirmed that DESE indicated we'd have a paper option until 2019 and that the PAARC allows for a larger window of time to get the testing done, unlike the MCAS smaller window. Regarding getting the results back in less time Dr. Bodie agreed that this would be helpful given that it is difficult in terms of setting up interventions for students if the results come in later.

Electric signing for vendor warrants will be researched and discussed more at a next meeting. Dr. Bodie will ask the new comptroller about this.

Next meeting will be on January 11, 2016 at 8:15am to further conduct the business of the 2015-2016 SC year. Motion to adjourn by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe, passed unanimously at 9:20 am.