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Policies and Procedures Minutes 07/16/2012

Policies and Procedures Subcommittee, Arlington School Committee

School Committee Room – July 16, 2012 – 12:30 p.m.

APPROVED Minutes

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Judson L. Pierce-Chair
Jeffrey Thielman(arrived at 12:50p.m.)
Cindy Starks

Superintendent: Dr. Kathleen Bodie

School Committee Members: William Hayner, Leba Heigham

Public: Jamie Wallace, Greg Thompson, Frank Fessenden, Sarah Hugenberger, Isabelle Rosenberg, Mark Rosenthal, Alison Carrier

A motion to approve the subcommittee minutes of 6/20/12 made by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Ms. Starks passed 3-0.

The subcommittee, with input from the others at the meeting, discussed Mr. Pierce's revised draft of File JC concerning open enrollment and choice zones as well as guidelines to be called JC-E. The consensus was that the term "buffer zones" be used because "choice" might not be the appropriate word for these zones and a past legal case in Newton was discussed as a warning about this very point. The consensus was the overarching goal should be educational equity. Ranking the factors was discussed. Ms. Hugenberger noted that her list of priorities would be 1) equity, 2) parent preference, 3) walking distance and 4) historic district lines. However, others at the meeting had rankings in different order, for example Mr. Fessenden suggested that length of time as a resident be taken into consideration. Mr. Fessenden also noted that no appeal process is listed and the guidelines are not well defined. It was discussed why no appeals process is in the draft; because of the numerous past appeals to the full School Committee on issues of assignment the policy of open enrollment was discontinued last fall. Ms. Carrier asked the question how this would all be tracked, what software would be used? Mr. Rosenthal also had these questions. Dr. Bodie stated that it is the school district's own software system and that tracking would not be a problem. Ms. Wallace suggested that prioritizing the factors is important. Ms. Starks presented her edits to JC and JC-E to Mr. Pierce. Further work and editing needs to be done on both JC and JC-E.

The subcommittee will meet again before the start of the school year to discuss a revised JC and other policy revisions that come before us.

Mr. Thielman moved to adjourn at 2:00p.m., seconded by Ms. Starks. Motion passed 3-0.