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Policies and Procedures Minutes 10/23/2012

Policies and Procedures Subcommittee, Arlington School Committee

School Committee Room – October 23, 2012 –4:30 p.m.

APPROVED Minutes

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Judson L. Pierce-Chair
Jeffrey Thielman
Cindy Starks

Superintendent: Dr. Kathleen Bodie

Public: Marc Rosenthal, Dr. Bob Hewes

A motion to approve the subcommittee minutes of 9/25/12 made by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Ms. Starks passed 3-0.

A discussion was held on the revised JC and JC-E concerning buffer zones, attendance lines and open enrollment. Mr. Pierce thanked Ms. Starks, Dr. Hewes, Mr. Rosenthal and all the other members of the public involved in helping revise these documents. The subcommittee was pleased with the language added that when the Superintendent determines that there is a material enrollment issue it should be addressed through voluntary measures first. Also, using proximity to the 2012 lines (historic lines) is consistent with the spirit and intent of the redistricting committee. Mr. Thielman suggested taking the "Reporting" section and separating it out and by prioritizing the examination and reporting back on data of if this policy is helping to achieve the desired goal of class size equity across the town.

With this amendment Mr. Thielman moved to refer this revised policy to the full School Committee for first reading at the October 25, 2012 meeting. Ms. Starks seconded. Discussion: Dr. Bodie informed the Subcommittee that this is good policy and time will dictate whether future School Committees will need to revise this further. Passed 3-0.

Regarding the revised JC-E (Guidelines to Buffer Zones and Open Enrollment) Mr. Thielman moved to refer this revised policy to the full School Committee for first reading at the October 25, 2012 meeting. Ms. Starks seconded. Passed 3-0.

The Subcommittee discussed currently suspended Policy JFABA (Kindergarten fee). In light of the recent School Committee vote to eliminate kindergarten fees and upon reviewing the first sentence of this Policy which reads "*The Arlington School Committee is committed to offering Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) without an associated fee. Until it is eliminated, the fee will be administered in accordance with the following policy.*" the subcommittee determined that this policy speaks to the goal of providing FDK without a fee which we now do. We may continue to keep this policy on our books for when and if a fee ever should become necessary. Mr. Pierce will be making a Motion to the full School Committee at the meeting on October 25, 2012 to remove the policy from suspension.

The Subcommittee discussed the new wellness/nutrition guidelines handed down by the Commonwealth. Ms. Starks and Mr. Pierce raised concerns voiced by members of the community that Arlington's new guidelines may be more strict than what the Commonwealth is mandating specifically in the area of bake sales or fundraisers. Mr. Pierce will contact Cindy Bouvier and Lucille Nicholson about their availability for a policies and procedures meeting to take place before the November 15th meeting of the School Committee and will schedule this with the rest of the subcommittee.

Ms. Starks moved to adjourn at 5:30 pm. Seconded by Mr. Thielman. Voted 3-0.

