



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Policies and Procedures Minutes 07/20/2010**

**Policies and Procedures Subcommittee, Arlington School Committee**

Community Safety Room – July 20, 2010 – 5:25p.m.

### **APPROVED Minutes**

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Judson L. Pierce-Chair

Cindy Starks

Leba Heigham

Joseph Curro, Jr. Ex-officio

Professional Staff: Superintendent Dr. Bodie, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Wallis Raemer, David Good

Public in attendance (See attached sign in sheet)

Motion to adopt minutes of 6/14/10 passed 3-0

There was a presentation by David Good and Dr. Wallis Raemer on Acceptable Use of Technology sign off.

Mr. Good informed the subcommittee that the administration is requesting legal opinion on whether or not the AUP needs to be signed or not. Dr. Raemer informed the subcommittee that the signature page at the end is the policy and that the administration is trying to translate it to make it more student/staff user-friendly, more specific, and to update it. Also for there to be a cyberbullying code of conduct. There are 3 specific ones that have been developed tailored to grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-12. Mr. Good and Dr. Raemer noted that they had reviewed about 4-5 districts and picked something that was positive.

Mr Good said that in a number of the districts we have seen them move away from calling it agreements as they change as the technology and rules change.

Ms. Heigham asked if there is a procedure for reporting transgressions? Is there an obligation to notify the district when you become aware of unacceptable use? Dr. Raemer said the proper procedure would be to inform a staff person when problems are noted. Mr. Good suggested that 3 or 4 steps be added about what one should do when they have a question about specific behavior. Mr. Curro asked if the signing of an AUP be annual?

Mr. Good informed the subcommittee that the staff will be switching into new email accounts and an effort is being made to get the AUP up online where the user can check a box. It was noted that the school system will not issue accounts until the staff completes their AUP's and that everyone will have to sign off on the AUP this Fall.

Staff member Ellen Digby asked about liability and damages to a computer system. Mr. Good indicated that the intent is if you did something malicious it would be on you.

There was a discussion concerning the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Pierce stated that it had been a trying four weeks for Arlington and its school district. Mr. Pierce stated that he and the Subcommittee had done extensive research on the issue of the Pledge of Allegiance reviewing case law, speaking with legislators, lawyers, judges, other districts, advocacy groups and the public.

Arthur "Butch" Edgecomb spoke. Mr. Edgecomb is the grandfather of a Bishop student and has been a math teacher for over 3 decades. Mr. Edgecomb stated that the Pledge of Allegiance is a statement that this is the best country in the world and I'm happy and proud to live here. He noted that it should be voluntary in the classroom and that Mr. Skidmore's plan to keep it in the lobby of AHS is not a good solution.

Ms. Heigham stated that as a district the focus should be on education for participation as a citizen.

Mr. Pierce made a Motion to recommend to the full School Committee the following:

File JS

*Voluntary Pledge of Allegiance- An American flag shall be appropriately displayed in each classroom in the Arlington Public Schools. The principal of each Arlington Public School shall ensure that every student has the opportunity to say the Pledge of Allegiance each school day if the student so desires. A student, teacher, or administrator may not be compelled to say or lead the Pledge of Allegiance or punished for not saying or leading it. Legal references: MGL Ch 71, Sec. 69; Opinions of the Justices to the Governor, 372 Mass 874, 879-880 (1977), USC Title 36 Chapter 10.*

Motion passed unanimously

Ms. Heigham made a Motion for legal review of voluntary pledge of allegiance file JS and pending their approval recommend for first reading to full the full School Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion concerning adopting a new bullying policy to comply with the recent state law. It was noted that we should look to what our student handbooks say and to contact the school administrators.

It was noted that there hasn't been consistency in reviewing the handbooks though this has been done with AHS and that the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee has been used to do preliminary review of handbooks. Handbooks have force of policy, there hasn't been substantial changes to student handbooks and it's typically a year long endeavor. It was suggested that contacting OMS Principal Tim Ruggere would be a good start because there are lots of issues for example gum chewing and fighting might currently be at the same level. We should determine if the question lies with policy or with the student handbook

The plan for the subcommittee is to meet before the start of the school year to look at a draft of policy on bullying. Dr. Bodie will give to the subcommittee examples of policies that are being created right now. It was noted that we do not have to have the plan in to the state until the end of December but we should have some protocols in place.

The date and time of the next Policies and Procedures meeting will be 8/3/10 at 5:30 p.m. in the School Committee room.

Ms. Heigham moved to adjourn, Ms. Starks seconded. The Motion to adjourn at 6:35pm passed unanimously.