I. Approval of Minutes. Minutes for the November 30, 2017 meeting were approved 2-0-1-0. (Ms. Maloney abstaining as she has just joined the Discipline Committee and was not present for the November 30, 2017 meeting.)

II. Public Comment. None given.

III. Proposed Policy 8205, Extent of School Authority (formerly 8-1)

1. Dr. Virginia Patterson introduced proposed Policy 8205, Extent of School Authority (formerly Policy 8-1). The proposed policy is a joint effort of school-based administrators, level directors and division counsel. The intent of this policy is to clarify when students come under school authority.

   • The opening paragraph was discussed in terms of flow and clarity regarding line three (3) and the striking of the words “government of the schools.” The committee considered but did not recommend alternative language at this time.

   • Next, committee discussion and observations given by school principals in attendance highlighted the complexities of defining the beginning and end of school jurisdiction. Additionally, whether discussing door-to-door responsibility of the division, walking paths, student vehicles, or parent vehicles a vital question is how to identify a true educational disruption in each school.

   • One component to add to the policy is a definition of unacceptable behavior. The committee requested clarification and the use of examples (a list) that would follow other
School Board policies that have been restructured. The committee also requested use of the phrase, “including but not limited to” when noting the prohibited behaviors.

- A committee member requested that Section A. School Board Responsibility, (4.) be added back to policy language as the section gave school administration the authority in situations impacting health or safety or interfering with other students.

- A question was asked by a committee member about Section B., Notification of Policies and Rules. Currently, printed copies are provided at schools as a matter of practice. It was requested that language be added within Policy 8205 to specifically state this practice.

- Ultimately, the committee wants the message of the policy to convey that LCPS is providing an environment based upon student safety and the division has a proactive, positive philosophy for all students.

**ACTION:** The Committee recommended that Policy 8205, Extent of School Authority, return to staff and legal counsel for additions, clarification, and a look at current case law. Policy 8205 will be brought back to the committee with revisions and discussed at the next Discipline Committee meeting.

**IV. Staff Climate Discussion**

1. Mr. John Lody, Director of Diagnostic and Prevention Services, presented information about student and staff perceptions of LCPS school discipline processes, structures, and programs.

- The purpose of our programming is to improve student behavior, increase student engagement and create a positive student environment. Collaterally, there has been a reduction in office referrals and suspensions.

- Responses to the Virginia School Climate Survey, conducted every other year for High School and Middle School students and staff across the commonwealth demonstrate that students and teachers perceive LCPS discipline practices as favorable. Our division favorably reported with respect to the state and with our region (Region 4).

- Principals in attendance expressed agreement regarding the need to keep students in the classroom and the use of suspension is a last resort. Principals told the committee that administrators are able to give consequences that fit student actions. The lack of alternative pathways for education was also brought forth as an area of need and an area for future study.

**V. Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m. The Discipline Committee meeting date and time for February 2018 is to be determined.