Committee Members Present: Ms. Debbie Rose, Ms. Brenda Sheridan, Ms. Joy Maloney

Staff: Virginia C. Patterson, Ph.D., Ms. Suzanne Fitzgerald

Audience Attendees: Mr. Jeff Adam, Shena Brown, Dr. Ashley Ellis, Ms. Nereida Gonzalez-Sales, Mr. John Lody, Mr. Dave Spage, Dr. Ryan Tyler

Public Present: Dana Carmichael

I. Public Comment. Dana Carmichael, parent of a Harmony Middle School student, expressed her views regarding student walk outs.

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

1. Dr. Virginia Patterson highlighted new staff language to Policy 8205, Extent of School Authority (formerly Policy 8-1). Dr. Patterson explained the intent of the changes to the policy’s language and what is currently being presented to the committee for consideration. Each section of the policy was reviewed and discussed with committee input for modification noted below.

- The introduction to Policy 8205 has been revised to clarify Loudoun County Public Schools’ philosophy regarding student rights, specifying that each student has a right to a quality education in an environment conducive to teaching and learning, while also having the responsibility not to deny that right to others. Accordingly, the School Board has adopted policies and regulations designed to assist students in achieving self-discipline and responsible citizenship while learning in an environment that is safe and free from disruption.

- Section A: School Board Responsibility authorizes schools to develop rules and expectations and to form practices protecting the health, welfare and safety of students. A committee member requested that “authority” be added so that the section title reads: School Board Authority and Responsibility.

- For Section C: Disciplinary Jurisdiction, specific examples were requested at the last DC committee meeting regarding location of a prohibited behavior and have been added to the section. The committee discussed off-campus activity and the need to establish a
nexus. Social media as well as an off-campus activity (conversation, or fight) can substantially affect the orderly operation of the school.

- A committee member noted that the discipline policies and consequences for athletes need to link back to school board review and be developed in alignment with policy. The School Board needs to have oversight as in any other process involving the safety and welfare of students. This discussion will continue and the Supervisor for Athletics is scheduled to attend the Discipline Committee’s April Open/Public meeting.

- Related to the discussion of athletics, LCPS needs to be clear about the scope of the School Board with regard to all extracurricular activities.

- A committee member requested that the previously stricken 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.

- Committee members reiterated that the overall message of Policy 8205 is the intent to provide an environment based upon student safety with a proactive, positive philosophy for all students.

**ACTION:** The Committee recommended that Policy 8205, Extent of School Authority, return to staff for recommended changes from this meeting. The policy will be brought back to the committee during the March 21, 2018 meeting for further dialogue.

**III. Road Map of Student Discipline Policy Revisions for SY 2018 and SY 2019:**

1. The committee engaged in a discussion of the road map for policy revision, including the timing for discussion of topics through the 2018 school year and into the 2018-2019 school year.

   - Depending on length or content of a specific policy, or the timeframe of the last revision, polices may be reworked or re-numbered; policies that are very brief may be incorporated into other existing discipline policies.

   - A policy such as bullying may be in Student Services but to the extent that it touches on disciplinary measures it may be part of DC discussion as it may impact that policy’s Regulation (consequences).

**IV. Approval of Minutes.** Minutes for the January 24, 2018 meeting were approved 3-0-0-0.

**V. Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m. The next Open/Public meeting of the Discipline Committee is Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in School Board Room 100A.