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

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

Audience Attendees: Ms. Shena Brown, Mr. Derek Farrey, Ms. Janet Lewis, Mr. Michael Pierson, Mr. Jeff Rounsley, Ms. Melissa Sargeant

Public Present: None

I. Public Comment: None

II. Approval of minutes. Minutes for the Discipline Committee meeting of September 26, 2018 were approved 2-0-0-1 without additions or revisions. Ms. Maloney was absent for the vote.

III. Continued Discussion and Refinement of Policy §8-48, Student Activities (Proposed Policy 8350) to include proposed deletion of §8-29, Exclusion from Extracurricular Activities, §8-46, Middle and High School Dances, §8-47, Student Council Association, and §8-60 Noncurriculum Related Student Groups, with incorporation into Proposed Policy 8350.

The Discipline Committee examined the revisions and additions to Proposed Policy 8350 made by staff and Ms. Rose. Dr. Patterson discussed revisions that strive to incorporate the input of the full School Board meeting of September 11, 2018 regarding formatting and clarifying the desired outcome of this policy.

The version of Proposed Policy 8350, discussed this evening, is now structured to provide an introduction followed by a definition of three categories of activities: interscholastic sports, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, while delineating eligibility and rules of conduct and how a student may be excluded from participation in each of the three areas of activities.

1. In the introduction, Line item 11, staff changed the terminology to denote Interscholastic Sports, to cover all sports that are school sponsored as well as competitive; language in this proposed policy is now inclusive of VHSL sports as well as any other competitive sports in LCPS. Co-curricular activities are defined as an extension of programs offered during the school day and extra-curricular activities are
defined as student special interest groups.

- The committee also discussed including language from Policy 8-29, Exclusion from Extracurricular Activities to enforce possible student dismissal from groups. The committee also determined that the terminology “interscholastic activities” would be best used throughout the policy (specifically, line item 8, line 11, and in definitions) for consistency.

2. Section A. Definition - Ms. Rose indicated that additional language may be added within the Interscholastic definition noting that these activities are school-sponsored and competitive in nature and eligibility is determined by VHSL.

3. Section B. Eligibility – Staff added this section to explain how students are active participants within each category.

   - Interscholastic: the proposed policy clarified the details for interscholastic athletics and student eligibility related to the number of credits a student shall be enrolled in. A distinction is made between middle or elementary students and age requirements for sub-varsity athletics.

   - Co-curricular activities: eligibility shall be determined at the local school level in compliance with requirements established by the regional, state or national branches of such activities if such exist. These activities are open to all qualified students and have LCPS staff sponsors in attendance who provide guidance; activities conform to and are aligned with LCPS School Board Policies.

   - Extra-curricular activities: must be approved by the principal of the school and relate to the school’s curriculum; however, these activities do not have a staff sponsor. A staff member will attend all meetings to monitor and ensure that the activities comply with School Board policies, regulations and school rules.

   - Under B. (3) Line item 61 – Staff highlighted that Membership is included as a sub-category to provide consistency and parallelism. Specifically, that no activity, club or student group can unlawfully restrict membership or operate as a secret society.

4. Section C. Rules of Conduct and Exclusion: Participation in interscholastic athletics or extra-curricular activities in LCPS is regarded as a privilege. Students selected for participation are subject to reasonable rules of conduct and training. No activity, club, or other student group may interfere with teaching and learning, disrupt the operations of school or promote unlawful activities.

   - Line item 85 - the principal is the individual who authorizes co-curricular and extracurricular activities and events. Again, participation is a privilege and violations have varying levels of consequences; conferences to dismissal.

   - Line item 96 - Notification regarding a student’s dismissal from participation is
given by staff to the principal. The principal then contacts the student and his/her parents with the final determination.

5. Committee members examined Line 87 and recommended that “selection” be replaced by “participating” to better describe students who engage in these activities and thereby are subject to rules. “Participating” may be more open in nature and more accurate.

6. Finally, student handbooks and any agreements contained within, including a right to appeal, have already been signed by students for the 2018-2019 school year. If the current version of Proposed Policy 8350 is adopted, the school principal’s decision is final and not appealable. Consequently, a committee member put forth that a student’s right to appeal granted in the 2018-2019 school year prior to adoption of the current version of Proposed Policy 8350 be grandfathered and is included as a proviso when the current version of the proposed policy is brought before the full School Board.

**ACTION**: The Discipline Committee will bring Proposed Policy 8350 back to the Discipline Committee for discussion at the next meeting on 11-28-18 to incorporate recommended changes and additional refinement by staff.

IV. **Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m. The next Open/Public meeting of the Discipline Committee is Wednesday, November 28, 2018 in Room 100A beginning at 5:30 p.m.