Committee Members Present: Ms. Debbie Rose, Ms. Brenda Sheridan, Mr. Tom Marshall (absent)

Other Board Members, Staff: Ms. Joy Maloney, Virginia C. Patterson, Ph.D., Ms. Suzanne Fitzgerald

Audience Attendees: Dr. Ashley Ellis, Ms. Heidi Hayes, Ms. Stefanie LaPolla, Ms. Suzanne Peterson, Mr. Adrian Powell, Mr. John Lody, Dr. Ryan Tyler, Mr. Kevin Tyson, Mr. William Waldman, Ms. Jennifer Wall

Public Present: Ms. Tanya Kerr

I. Approval of Minutes. Ms. Sheridan made a motion to amend the minutes for August 23, 2017 to specify the votes for approval at the April and May 2017 Discipline Committee meetings: April 26, 2017 the vote was 2-0-0-1 (Ms. Rose absent). May 24, 2017 the vote was 2-0-0-1 (Ms. Sheridan absent). Minutes for the August 23, 2017 meeting were approved as amended 2-0-0-1 (Mr. Marshall absent).

II. Public Comment. Ms. Kerr shared her concern about student discipline and disclosure.

III. Policy Restructure/Review. The Chair gave opening remarks regarding policy restructure and the proposed policy:

1. Proposed Policy 8240 – Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco and E-Cigarettes. Dr. Virginia Patterson highlighted the background, intent and key elements of the new policy: Three current policies (§8-35, §8-36, and §8-37) have been combined to provide alignment with Loudoun County Public Schools’ restructured policies. Proposed Policy 8240 represents input from principals, assistant principals, deans, level directors, cabinet, and Division Counsel.

   - The Introduction to proposed Policy 8240 articulates the purpose and commitment of Loudoun County Public Schools to all students. Staff who provided input felt it was important to specify this school division’s intent.

   - Special circumstances are included in the Regulation in order to address the potential of a student in crisis to self-harm. The regulation allows for student disclosure while still enabling the policy to be fully enforced.

   - Principals in attendance at this Discipline Committee meeting related that language in the regulation to this policy provides latitude for administrators to engage in a conversation other than suspension and supports an open door
practice whereby students turn in substances. Administrators have the opportunity to meet with the parents of a student in crisis. The ability to enforce the policy remains intact. The principals noted that this is a written reflection of current practice.

- Dr. Patterson advised that professional development for all principals, APs, and Middle School Deans makes sure that the welfare of our students is handled appropriately. Professional development provided this school year re-emphasized special circumstances and the regulation for Policy 8240 reflects current practice.
- Board member asked for suggested revisions to the proposed Policy 8240. Technical and conforming edits will be made before policy goes to the full School Board.
- The committee noted that while the Regulation is not actionable by the School Board, it does contain pertinent, supplementary information. Therefore, the regulation will be provided to the School Board along with the proposed policy.

**ACTION:** The Committee voted 2-0-0-1 (Mr. Marshall absent) to recommend proposed staff language, as amended by the Committee, to the full School Board for consideration at the next regular meeting.

**IV. Time Change for Discipline Committee Open Meetings.** The start time for the Discipline Committee meetings will change from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for October 25, 2017 and November 29, 2017 (open/public meetings), space available.

**V. Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.