Committee Members Present:
Teresa Cambetes, Sherri Robinson, Cliff Hanger, Sharon Tropf, Jennifer Hvozdovic, Sam Shipp, John Lody, Sylvia Ross, Dave Spage, Neri Gonzalez-Sales, Ryan Tyler, Mark Crowley, Kim Jackson, Yvette Castro-Green, Tom Marshall, Edwin Lucas, Jennifer Lovelace, Lindsey Wilson

Mrs. Teresa Cambetes distributed information regarding “Closing the School Discipline Gap: Research to Practice” seminar. If you are interested in attending the seminar, contact Mrs. Cambetes.

In order to establish an understanding of disciplinary infractions and the type of discipline imposed, Mrs. Cambetes submitted a request for LCPS data.

Mrs. Debbie Rose extended thanks to the committee and looks forward to working with them.

Mr. Steve DeVita gave a PowerPoint overview of federal and state statutes, the Virginia Department of Education policies and what the role of the school is regarding discipline procedures.

Mr. Ned Waterhouse gave an update on accessing GroupWise email accounts and procedures for public email to the committee. The public e-mail address is Taskforce@lcps.org.

Mr. Waterhouse began his presentation outlining discipline procedures from the start of a suspension to the appeal process. The presentation will be continued at the next meeting.

The committee heard public input and answered questions from three speakers.

New agenda items for the next meeting:
- Discuss public email and comments that have been received. This will be a permanent agenda item at each meeting.
- Discuss the possibility of a new time for the meeting.

Next meeting date: January 10, 2013, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Attachments: Committee Follow-Up Questions; Data Request
Attachment

Committee Follow-Up Questions

Suspensions/Expulsions:

1. What is the basis for the 2 day time frame that parents have to appeal a short term suspension?

2. For minor infractions that occur over an extended period of time, is it determined suspension would typically be short or long term in nature?

3. Is there anywhere in our discipline policies that principals are encouraged to use discretion when recommending expulsion or are our principals expected to recommend expulsion when "weapons" and when "distribution of "drugs" are thought to have occurred. Is it not true that over-the-counter medication (Tylenol) or camping equipment (a knife, fork and spoon combination) have been deemed a serious infraction requiring expulsion?

Due Process:

1. What "rights" are not provided under "due process" for students in school, but which adults do have?

2. What is the effect of "minimal" due process on searches (lockers, cars, person)

3. Has the US Supreme Court opinion on student Miranda rights (JBD v. NC) been reviewed and have LCPS policies been modified as a result?

4. When a student is suspended with a recommendation for expulsion and the student has asked for an appeal to the School Board, how long does it usually take for the Discipline Committee of the School Board (three members) to schedule a hearing on the appeal?

5. Why is there no consideration of "intent" when contraband is found in a car or in the parking lot, especially when other family members have access to the same car? Or is it?

6. Mr. Waterhouse said that for Long Term Suspensions and Expulsions, students are typically suspended under the short term suspension policy (for 10 days) and given notice that more time is being recommended. Then, the superintendent imposes additional suspension time under another policy/VA Code (LTS or Expulsion). Question: how is this justified given that STS and LTS/Expulsions have mutually exclusive legal requirements (including appeal processes)?

Legal Authority:

1. According to the presentation, the VA Constitution and Code gives broad power and authority over student discipline to local school boards, and requires that school boards establish policies. Mr. Devita also said that school boards are not bound by their policies. If this is the case, who or what is the governing document/body over school discipline?
Attachment

Data Request:

In order to establish an understanding of the scope of disciplinary infractions, the type of discipline imposed and the composition of offenders, the following data request has been made of LCPS.

I. Student Population
   a. Total number of students enrolled in LCPS
   b. Enrollment by school type (HS, MS, Elem)
   c. Demographic makeup of student population (Racial, SpEd)

II. Offense Data
   a. Total number of offenses that resulted in school exclusions
   b. Offense by category
      i. Weapons (by level)
      ii. Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco
      iii. Disorderly conduct (disrespect, defiance, disruption, insubordination, dress code, etc)
      iv. Technology (misuse of computers, cell phones violations, etc)
      v. Offense against another student: nonviolent (harassment, bullying, altercations)
      vi. Offense against student: violent (causes bodily harm)

III. School Exclusions (suspensions/expulsions) issued
   a. Total number of exclusions issued
      i. Exclusions by level (HS, MS, Elem)
      ii. Exclusion by type (STS, LTS, Expulsion, Transfer)
   b. Exclusion by Demographic
      i. Racial (White, African American, Hispanic, Other)
      ii. SpEd

IV. Percent of high school seniors who have been suspended at least once during their school years

V. Percent of offenders who have suspended more than one time during their school years (recidivism rates)