SHAB Meeting Minutes – July 31st, 2023

Attendees:

Alison Babb, Vice Chair

Angelo Cocchiaro

Tina Grande

Maria Jacoby

Desiree Jaworski, Chair

Keirsten Kelly

Deborah DeFranco, Supervisor, Health, Physical and Driver Education and Athletics

Meeting was called to order at 1:08 PM.

Chair thanked everyone for attending the added meeting to the 2022-2023 school year calendar.

We discussed the purpose of the meeting, which was to vote on an official recommendation for the proposed changes to [Policy I-7.1.8 Family Life Education](https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/CTAJW34F1AEF/%24file/I-7.1.8%20Combined.pdf). Feedback from the committee was collected in the weeks prior to the meeting via email to the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Babb made a motion to vote at 1:13 PM and Jaworski seconded.

The vote was 6-0 in favor of the recommendation:

The APS School Health Advisory Board supports the feedback from our school nurses regarding proposed changes to the FLE Policy. APS School nurses do not support eliminating the option for gender-separated classes while teaching FLE. To respect student privacy and dignity, students should be with same-gender peers for discussions of sensitive topics. Some students will hear of these concepts for the first time in FLE.

Gender-separated classes are recommended by APS School Nurses and SHAB for the more sensitive topics within Family Life Education in order to support our students’ ability and comfort level to ask questions.

After the vote, the committee discussed their reasoning for the recommendation with the staff liaison. The recommendation along with specific feedback from SHAB members and prospective members was shared with the School Board via email.

At 1:42 PM Chair Jaworski closed the meeting. Grande seconded.