SPED 756 M5 Discussion

1. I would reschedule the meeting. Parents have the right to be involved in discussions about educational placement (McLaughlin & Ruedel, 2012). Since this meeting involves discussion about the student returning to public school, the parents have the right to participate in the discussion.

2. Collaborating with parents is important because they are in charge of their child's care and well-being. Parents know their child the best and will be with them their entire school career and beyond, while a single teacher may only interact with that student for a single year. I think involving parents is important for planning the trajectory of a child's education and future. Parents will be with their kids after their school time ends and should be involved with the process that plans for helping the student be successful in the classroom and in life. Much of IDEA's language seems to fit this perspective of allowing a child to be able to participate in "American life".

3. I have never been involved with a due process hearing. My understanding is that it is the process by which a parent can file a complaint about a violation of a student's rights protected by IDEA. I know that there is a 30-day resolution period followed by a 45-day die process hearing timeline if a resolution is not reached within those first 30 days. Then a due process hearing must be held and a final resolution had within those 45 days. Parents and schools have the right to appeal decisions made by the due process to state or federal district courts within 90 days of that decision.

I thought that the video of the mom discussing her daughter with Down Syndrome was incredibly moving and insightful into the fear and anxiety that a parent of an individual with disabilities may experience. It was helpful to hear her perspective on the challenges she faced and how many emotions she felt. I think it was a great reminder of how difficult that news can be and how we need to be inclusive and compassionate to those in those circumstances.

McLaughlin, M. J., & Ruedel, K. (2012). The school leader's guide to special education. Bloomington, IN: Solution Tree Press.