

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE POWERS AND DUTIES

The School Committee has all the powers conferred upon it by state law and must perform those duties mandated by the state.

**The school committee has oversight of and responsibility for the school system, sets the direction in which the system must go, and establishes criteria to determine if its goals and policies are being met.\***

These duties include the responsibility and right to determine policies and practices and to employ a staff to implement its directions for the proper education of the children of the community.

The Committee takes a broad view of its functions. It sees them as:

1. Legislative or Policymaking. The Committee is responsible for the development of policy as guides for administrative action and specific policy requirements imposed by state and federal law. It is responsible for employing a Superintendent who will implement its policies.
2. Appraisal and Training. The Committee is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of its functioning and policies and their implementation. It is responsible for assuring new members have orientation (Ch. 71, 36A, 2002). **The Committee adopts the professional development plan for all principals, teachers and other professional staff employed by the district, updates the plan annually, and sets forth a budget for professional development (MGL 71; 38Q).**
3. Provision of Financial Resources. The Committee is responsible for **review and approval of budgets for public education in the district (MGL 71:37) and to determine expenditures within the total appropriation voted by the city.** **The School committee is responsible for** adoption of a budget that will enable the school system to carry out the Committee's policies. **The school committee is the body responsible for approving and transmitting school department expenditures by signing bill warrants to the municipal accountant for the drawing of warrants, with all bills and other documents approved by the committee** for the releasing of public funds.
4. Public Relations. The Committee as a whole and through its agents is responsible for keeping the local citizens and other stakeholders informed about the schools and for keeping itself and the school staff informed about the needs and wishes of the public.
5. Educational Planning and Evaluation. The Committee is responsible for establishing educational goals and policies, consistent with the requirements of law and statewide standards established by the Board of Education that will guide the Committee and staff

for the administration and continuous improvement of the educational programs provided by the School District. (MGL 71:37)

6. **District Schools and Programs**. The committee is responsible for reviewing and approving district schools or demonstration programs, including district, magnet, charter, virtual, innovation, regional and educational collaborative schools.

7. **Buildings, Grounds, and Temporary Accommodations**. The committee is responsible for general management and conduct of the public schools of the city and property pertaining thereto, and for providing temporary accommodations, as needed (MGL 43:33 and 71:16 through 71:16I).

8. **Collective Bargaining**. The school committee's status as the "employer" for collective bargaining purposes remains unaltered by Education Reform (MGL Chapter 150E:1).

9. **Hiring/Staffing**. The school committee has hiring authority for the particular positions of superintendent, assistant/associate superintendents, school business administrator, administrator of special education, school physicians, registered nurses, legal counsel, and supervisors of attendance including interim appointments. (MGL 71:37, 37E; 37F, 41, 53, 59; 71B; 76:19). The school committee under the certification statute has authority to "prescribe additional qualifications" for educator positions, beyond basic certification (MGL 71:59B).

10. **Determining Levels of Compensation**. The school committee establishes policies on levels of compensation, including benefits, for school principals and for other administrators and personnel not assigned to particular schools (MGL 71:59B).

11. **Business/Finance**. The school committee has the responsibility to accept grants and gifts for educational purposes (71:37A), create annuity accounts for employees (71:37B), and authorize prepayment of tuition for a period not to exceed three (3) months to any private school or approved program (71:71D).

SOURCE: MASC LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 71:37 specifically, but powers and duties of School Committees are established throughout the Massachusetts General Laws amended by St. 1993, Ch. 71, § 37, and M.G.L. 43, § 33.

Greenfield Charter, Article 4, pg.17-18

**\*Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Advisory on School Governance**  
CROSS REF.: BB, School Committee Legal Status Draft: 4-5-05 Adopted 4-27-05 Reviewed by Policy Subcommittee March 9, 2010 April 8, 2010, First Reading for revision March 24, 2011, Second Reading and Adoption.

**2016 policy subcommittee review 2.3.2016 and 3.2.2016.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading for school committee 3.9.2016;**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Adoption 4.13.2016**