

Individual School Committee Member Authority and Responsibilities

Authority

Individual School Committee members have authority only when acting as the Belmont School Committee when legally in session. Any statement or action by an individual member does not bind the School Committee except when such statement or action is a result of specific instructions of the School Committee. All policy decisions and other matters, as required by law, will be settled by an official vote of the School Committee. Individual School Committee members have no authority to exercise any administrative control over the schools or school personnel.

Responsibilities

School Committee members should:

1. Understand the mission and vision of the Belmont Public Schools;
2. Have a working knowledge of the goals, objectives, and programs of the Belmont Public Schools and the policies and procedures of the Belmont Public Schools;
3. Act impartially for the good of the students by holding the education of students above any partisan principal, group interest, or personal interest;
4. Accept the will of the majority vote in all cases, and abide by and carry out all School Committee decisions once they are made;
5. Refer questions and complaints to the proper school authorities;
6. Become familiar with the General Laws and Regulations of the Commonwealth relating to education;
7. Take collective responsibility for building unity and creating a positive organizational culture;
8. Comply with the orientation requirements of MGL 71:36A; and participate in professional development and commit the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader;
9. Recognize and respect differences of perspective and style on the School Committee and among staff, students, parents, and the community;

10. Communicate a common vision;
11. Operate openly, with trust and integrity;
12. Act in a dignified and professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect;
13. Govern within School Committee-adopted policies and procedures;

Internal Reference: Community Relations: Complaint Procedure (1018)