

Belmont - 1007
MASC- BDFA
Formation and Operation of School Councils

The principal of each school shall establish and serve as co-chair of a school council. All duties and activities of the school councils shall conform to the statutory provisions and limitations of the General Laws of Massachusetts. School Council meetings are governed by the Open Meeting Law.

Under this policy, the Principal shall have primary responsibility for the management of the school. Decisions which are made at the school level must be aligned with the budget, policies, curriculum, and long-range and short-range goals adopted by the School Committee. In addition, decisions must comply with any state and federal laws and regulations and with any negotiated agreements of the school.

As enacted by the state legislature in the Education Reform Act of 1993, a school council shall be established in each school to advise the Principal in specific areas of school operation. The Principal, except as specifically defined in the law, shall have the responsibility for defining the composition of and forming the group pursuant to a representative process approved by the Superintendent and the School Committee.

The Principal shall, by law, serve as co-chair of the council. The second co-chair will be elected annually by the council members at its first meeting of the school year subsequent to the elections of new council members. The co-chairs will be responsible for the preparation of the agenda for the council meetings.

The school council shall meet regularly during the school year. School councils shall use consensus as the primary method to resolve issues and to formulate recommendations. Votes by majority may be taken at the discretion of the Principal. The Principal may choose to adopt Robert's Rules of Order.

The scope of the school council does not require, and therefore does not qualify for, executive session.

The Superintendent shall receive agendas and minutes of all school council meetings. The Superintendent shall provide copies of these materials to members of the School Committee upon request.

The following guidelines define the role of the school council: The School Council shall meet regularly with the Principal of the school and shall assist in:

1. Adoption of educational goals for the school that are consistent with state and local policies and standards.
2. Identification of the educational needs of the students attending the school.
3. Review of the school building budget.

4. Formulation of a school improvement plan that may be implemented only after review and approval by the Superintendent.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

MGL71:38Q Professional Development Plans: Statewide Assistance

MGL 71: 59C, School Councils

MGL 30A 18-25: Open Meeting Law

C30A:18-15 Executive Sessions