

Belmont -1002/ 8003
MASC - BBAA
School Committee Member Responsibilities

Authority

Because all powers of the School Committee derived from state laws are granted in terms of action as a group, members of the School Committee have authority only when acting as a Committee legally in session.

The School Committee will not be bound in any way by any statement or action on the part of an individual member except when such statement or action is a result of specific instructions of the Committee.

No member of the Committee, by virtue of their office, will exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the schools or command the services of any school employee.

The School Committee will function as a body and all policy decisions and other matters, as required by law, will be settled by an official vote of the Committee sitting in formal session.

Duties Responsibilities

The responsibilities and obligations of the individual Committee member may be enumerated as follows:

1. To become familiar with the General Laws of the Commonwealth relating to education and School Committee operations, regulations of the Massachusetts Board of Education, policies and procedures of this School Committee and School Department.
2. To keep abreast of new laws and the latest trends in education.
3. To understand the mission and vision of the Belmont Public Schools and (8003, #1) have a general working knowledge of the goals, objectives, policies and programs of the district.
4. To take collective responsibility for building unity and creating a positive organizational culture;
5. To work effectively with other Committees, recognizing and respecting differences of perspective and style on the School Committee and among staff, students, parents, and the community.
6. To respect the privileged communication that exists in executive sessions by maintaining strict confidentiality on matters discussed in these sessions, except that which becomes part of the public record, once it has been approved for release.

7. To vote and act in Committee impartially for the good of all students.
8. To accept the will of the majority vote in all cases, and to remember that they are one of a team and must abide by, and carry out, all Committee decisions once they are made.
9. To communicate a common vision.
10. To operate openly, with trust and integrity.
11. To act in a dignified and professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect.
12. To refer questions and complaints to the proper school authorities.
13. To comply with the accepted code of ethics for School Committee members and 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.

Ref: MGL 71:37 Powers and Duties of School Committees

Cross Reference:

KEB (1018) Complaint Procedure

BDB Officers, Chairperson