

BROOKLIN SCHOOL BOARD

POLICY NUMBER: 2.01A NEPN/NSBA Code: BB

Adopted: 8/26/91

Previous Revisions: 8/11/98, 11/13/02, 6/9/09

Revised: 10/08/13, 3/12/24

SCHOOL COMMITTEE LEGAL STATUS

In recognition that “a general diffusion of the advantages of education [is] essential to the preservation of rights and liberties of the people,” the Constitution of the State of Maine declares that the Legislature has the duty to require communities to provide for the support and maintenance of public schools in order to further this objective. Maine law establishes a State Department of Education to supervise a coordinated system of public education, a Commissioner to enforce regulatory requirements and to provide technical assistance and educational leadership, and a State Board of Education to act as a body with certain policymaking, administrative and advisory functions, but places the responsibility for control and management of public schools with locally elected School Committees, or Boards of Directors. Thus, the Brooklin School Committee derives its legal authority from the State’s Constitution, state statutes and regulations of the State Board of Education, as well as Federal laws and regulations.

By custom and tradition, local school committees have responsibilities to the local citizens they serve and that elect them to office. Recognizing this parallel concept of authority and responsibility, the school committee becomes a policy-making body for the school district serving within the framework provided by law and responding to the will of the local citizenry.

There shall be five members on the Brooklin School Committee.

Each member serves for three years and these terms overlap so that in each year at least one membership is vacant and must be resupplied by election.

Each member of the School Committee has one vote.

Each year as a part of the School Committee reorganization procedure, one member is elected to serve as Chair and is the presiding officer at all School Committee meetings.

One member is elected to serve as Vice-chair. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-chair will assume the role of Acting Chair with all rights and responsibilities of the Chair contained therein.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §§ 1001, 1251 et seq.

Cross Reference: 2.01E - School Committee Officers

NEPN/NSBA Code: BBAA

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Members of the School Committee have authority only when acting as a School Committee legally in session. The School Committee shall not be bound in any way by any action or statement on the part of any individual School Committee member except when such statement or action is in pursuance of specific instructions from the School Committee.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §§ 1001-1003

NEPN/NSBA Code: BBA

SCHOOL COMMITTEE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The School Committee shall have general charge of all the public schools of this unit and shall exercise such other responsibilities as specifically provided by law.

The School Committee shall concern itself primarily with broad questions of policy rather than with administrative details. The application of policies is an administrative task to be performed by the Superintendent and his/her staff, who shall be held responsible for the effective administration and supervision of the entire school system.

The School Committee, functioning within the framework of laws, court decisions, attorney generals' opinions, and similar mandates from the state and national levels of government, and recognizing the authority of the state, fulfills its mission as the governing body of a political subdivision by acting as follows in the execution of its duties:

- A. Enacts policy;
- B. Selects, employs and evaluates the Superintendent;
- C. Provides for the planning, expansion, improvement, financing, construction and maintenance of the physical plant of the school system;
- D. Prescribes the minimum standards needed for the efficient operation and improvement of the school system;
- E. Requires the establishment and maintenance of records, accounts, archives, management methods and procedures incidental to the conduct of school business;
- F. Approves the budget, financial reports, audits, major expenditures, payment of obligations, and policies whereby the administration may formulate procedures, regulations, and other guides for the orderly accomplishment of business;

G. Estimates the funds necessary from taxes for the operation, support, maintenance and improvement of the school system;

H. Adopts courses of study;

I. Provides staff and instructional aids;

J. Evaluates the educational program to determine the effectiveness with which the schools are achieving the educational purposes of the school system;

K. Provides for the dissemination of information relating to the schools necessary for creating a well-informed public; and

L. Approves/disapproves personnel nominations from the Superintendent and determines (where appropriate via collective bargaining) compensation and working conditions of all staff.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 1001