

SCHOOL COMMITTEE LEGAL STATUS

Section B: School Committee Governance and Operations	File: BB
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The School Committee is the governing board of the city's public school system. Although it functions as a duly elected Committee of city government, the School Committee has, unlike other city boards, autonomous and absolute authority within limitations established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to carry out the educational policies of the state and guide the educational process.

Excerpted from Newburyport Charter:

SECTION 4-1: SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(a) Composition, Term of Office - There shall be a school committee which shall consist of 7 members. Six of these members shall be nominated and elected by and from the voters at large. The seventh member shall be the mayor who shall serve as the chair.

(b) Term of Office - The term of office for elected school committee members shall be for 4 years each beginning on the first Monday in the January succeeding their election, except when said first Monday falls on a legal holiday, in which event the term shall begin on the following day and until his successor has been qualified. The terms of office of elected school committee members shall be so arranged that at least 3 such seats shall be filled at each regular municipal election.

(c) Eligibility - Any voter shall be eligible to hold the office of school committee. If a school committee member removes from the city during the term for which elected, such office shall immediately be deemed vacant and filled in the manner provided in section 4-6.

SECTION 4-2: SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR

Powers and Duties - If present, the mayor shall preside at all meetings of the school committee, regulate its proceedings and decide all questions of order. In the absence of the mayor, the member to serve as the chair shall be prescribed within the rules of the school committee. The mayor shall appoint all members of all sub-committees of the school committee, whether special or standing. The mayor shall have the same powers to vote upon all measures coming before the school committee as any other member of the school committee. The mayor shall perform such other duties consistent with the office as may be provided by this charter or by vote of the school committee.

References:

Source: MASC; Newburyport Charter

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 41:1 and 71:37 specifically, but powers and duties of School Committees are established throughout the General Laws of Massachusetts Relating to School Committees

CROSS REFS.: AA, School District Legal Status; BBA, School Committee Powers and Duties

Version Control

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