

SECTION C
GENERAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

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SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

The Committee shall employ a Superintendent of Schools and fix the Superintendent's compensation. The Superintendent shall act in accordance with Mass. General Laws and shall perform such other duties consistent with this section as the Committee may determine. The Superintendent shall also prepare such reports as may be required by the State Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education and shall submit materials for the Committee's annual report to the Select Board in sufficient time for printing in the annual report.

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. [71:59](#), [72:3](#)

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Policy: CBD

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT

The Committee, upon the appointment of a candidate to be Superintendent, will enter into a written contract with the Superintendent which will meet the requirements of law and will protect the rights of both the Committee and the Superintendent. In accordance with said contract or, in the absence of specific contract language, by vote of the members, the Committee may choose to negotiate a successor contract with an incumbent Superintendent.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. [71:41](#); [71:42](#)

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EVALUATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Evaluation can serve the purpose of helping educators and educational leaders continually improve their practice.

Through evaluation of the Superintendent, the School Committee will strive to accomplish the following:

1. Ensure that the efforts of the Superintendent are focused on district goals and that the standards of professional practice established by state regulation are met by the Superintendent.
2. Ensure all Committee members and the Superintendent are in agreement and clear on the role of the Superintendent and the immediate priorities among the Superintendent's responsibilities.
3. Provide excellence in administrative leadership of the school district.
4. Develop a respectful and productive working relationship between the School Committee and Superintendent.

The School Committee and Superintendent will periodically develop a set of performance objectives based on the needs of the school district and in keeping with state regulations for evaluation of the Superintendent. The Superintendent's performance will be reviewed in accordance with specified goals and standards. Additional objectives will be established according to the evaluation cycle agreed upon with the Superintendent.

All School Committee discussion and deliberation related to the Superintendent's performance evaluation shall be conducted in open session in accordance with the open meeting law.

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. 30A:18-25
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STAFF RELATIONS

The School Committee expects the Superintendent to establish clear understandings on the part of all personnel of the working relationships in the school district.

Personnel will be expected to refer matters requiring administrative action to the administrator to whom they are responsible. The administrator will refer such matters to the next higher administrative authority when necessary.

It is expected that the established lines of authority will serve most purposes. But all personnel will have the right to appeal any decision made by an administrative officer through established grievance procedures.

Additionally, lines of authority do not restrict in any way the cooperative, sensible working together of all staff members at all levels in order to develop the best possible school programs and services. The established lines of authority represent direction of authority and responsibility; when the staff is working together, the lines represent avenues for a two-way flow of ideas to improve the program and operations of the school district.

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ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCILS, AND COMMITTEES

The Superintendent may establish such permanent or temporary councils, and committees as the Superintendent deems necessary for assuring staff participation in decision making, for implementing policies and procedures and for the improvement of the educational program.

Functioning in an advisory capacity, all councils, and committees created by the Superintendent may make recommendations for submission to the School Committee through the Superintendent. Such groups will exercise no inherent authority. Authority for establishing policy remains with the Committee and authority for implementing policy remains with the Superintendent.

The membership, composition and responsibilities of administrative councils, and committees will be defined by the Superintendent and may be changed at the Superintendent's discretion; however, the School Committee wishes to be kept informed of the establishment and dissolution of these groups as well as their membership and their purpose.

Expenses incurred by such groups for consultative services, materials, and any investigative travel will be paid by the school district, but only within budgetary allotments and when approved in advance by the Superintendent.

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POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The Superintendent has responsibility for carrying out, through procedures, the policies established by the School Committee.

The policies developed by the Committee and the procedures developed to implement policy are designed to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the school district. Consequently, it is expected that all district employees and students will carry them out.

Administrators and supervisors are responsible for informing staff members in their schools, departments, or divisions of existing policies and procedures and for seeing that they are implemented in the spirit intended.

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DEVELOPMENT OF PROCEDURES

The Superintendent will be responsible for specifying required actions and designing the detailed arrangements under which the school district will be operated in accordance with School Committee policy. These detailed arrangements will be designed to implement policies, goals, and objectives of the Committee and will be one of the means by which the school district will be governed.

In the development of procedures, the Superintendent may involve at the planning stage those who would be affected by the procedures, including staff members, students, parents/guardians, and the public. The Superintendent must weigh with care the counsel given by representatives of staff, student and community organizations. The Superintendent will inform the Committee of such counsel in presenting pertinent reports of procedures and in presenting procedures for Committee approval.

As long as the Superintendent operates within the guidelines of policy adopted by the Committee, the Superintendent may issue procedures without prior Committee approval unless Committee action is required by law, or the Committee has specifically asked that certain types of procedures be given Committee approval, or the Superintendent recommends Committee approval in light of strong community attitudes or probable staff reactions.

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APPROVAL OF HANDBOOKS AND DIRECTIVES

The law directs that in each school building containing the grades nine to twelve, inclusive, the Principal, in consultation with the school council, shall prepare and distribute to each student a handbook setting forth the rules pertaining to conduct of students. The school council shall review the handbook each spring to consider changes in the disciplinary policy to take effect at the start of the new school year.

It is essential that the contents of all handbooks conform to School Committee policies. It is also important that all handbooks bearing the name of the school district or one of its schools be of a quality that reflects credit on the school department. Therefore, the Committee expects handbooks requiring approval to be approved prior to publication by the Committee and/or the Superintendent.

Committee approval will be necessary for any handbooks that pertain to required standards of conduct for employees or students so that their contents may be accorded the status of Committee-approved policy or regulation. The Superintendent will use their judgment as to whether other specific handbooks need Committee approval; however, all handbooks published will be made available to the Committee for informational purposes.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:37H

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ADMINISTRATION IN POLICY ABSENCE

When action must be taken within the school district where the Committee has provided no guides for administrative action, the Superintendent will have the power to act. The Superintendent's decisions, however, will be subject to review by the Committee.

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SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

An annual report covering the diversified activities of the school district and the administration's recommendations for their improvement will be prepared by the Superintendent and presented to the School Committee. Upon Committee approval, the report will be made available to the public and used as one means for informing the parents/guardians, citizens, Commissioner of Education and others of the programs and conditions of the town's public schools.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 72:4