

NEW SCHOOL COMMITTEE ORIENTATION

In accordance with the requirements of law, each new School Committee member elected to the School Committee is required to complete within one year of their election or appointment, at least eight hours of orientation training. -This orientation shall include, but is not limited to, a review of School Finance, the Open Meeting Law, Public Records Law, Conflict of Interest Law, Special Education Law, Collective Bargaining, School Leadership Standards, and Evaluations, and the Roles and Responsibilities of School Committee Members.

The School Committee and Superintendent shall assist each new member to understand the Committee's functions, policies, and procedures of the School Committee as soon after election as possible. Each member shall be given or provided direct online access to the following materials:

- A. A copy of the School Committee policy manual
- B. A copy of the Open Meeting Law
- C. A copy of the Ethics/Conflict of Interest Regulations
- D. A copy of the district's budget
- E. Collective bargaining agreements and contracts
- F. Student and staff handbooks

Each new member shall also receive any other materials the Chair and/or the Superintendent determines to be necessary.

The Chair and/or the Superintendent shall also clarify policy:

- A. arranging visits to schools or administrative offices
- B. requesting information regarding school district operations
- C. responding to community requests/complaints concerning staff or programs
- D. handling confidential information

Whether appointed elected, new members should be advised that they are also members of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Inc. and should be encouraged to utilize the services and resources MASC provides by attending meetings or workshops especially designed for new Committee members. Their expenses at these meetings or workshops will be reimbursed in accordance with established School Committee policy.

Source MASC July 2016

Cross references: BBBA/BBB School Committee Member Qualifications/Oath of Office

Legal References: MGL c71 Section 36A

First Reading, 2nd reading & adopted: October 5, 2009

First reading: January 4, 2021

2nd/final reading & amended: February 11, 2021