

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Duties of the Chairperson

The chairperson of the School Committee has the same powers as any other member of the Committee to vote upon all measures coming before it, to offer resolutions and to discuss questions. He/she will perform those duties that are consistent with his/her office and those required by law, state regulations, and this Committee. In carrying out these responsibilities, the chairperson will:

1. Sign the instruments, acts, and orders necessary to carry out state requirements and the will of the Committee.
2. Consult with the Superintendent in the planning of the Committee's agendas.
3. Confer with the Superintendent on crucial matters that may occur between Committee meetings **and relay all such information to the entire board withing forty eight (48) hours.**
4. Appoint subcommittees, subject to Committee approval.
5. Call special meetings of the Committee as found necessary **or at the request of a majority of the Board.**
6. Be public spokesperson for the Committee at all times except as this responsibility is specifically delegated to others.
7. Be responsible for the orderly conduct of all Committee meetings.

As presiding officer at all meetings of the Committee, the chairperson will:

1. Call the meeting to order at the appointed time.
2. Announce the business to come before the Committee in its proper order.
3. Enforce the Committee's policies relating to the order of business and the conduct of meetings.
4. Recognize persons who desire to speak, and protect the speaker who has the floor from disturbance or interference.
5. Explain what the effect of a motion would be if this is not clear to members.
6. Restrict discussion to the question when a motion is before the Committee.
7. Answer all parliamentary inquiries.
8. Put motions to a vote, stating definitely and clearly the vote and result thereof.

Duties of the Vice-Chairperson

The vice-chairperson of the Committee will act in the absence of the chairperson as presiding officer of the Committee and will perform such other duties as may be delegated or assigned to him/her.

Secretary (paid position not a member of the Board)

The secretary will keep or cause to be kept an accurate journal of all Committee meetings; will comply with state law and Committee policy regarding notification of meetings; and will render such reports as may be required by the state or the town.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 71:36

Note: The treasurer of the town serves as treasurer of the School Committee.

Note: This category is for statements about officers the School Committee elects from its own membership. Policies relating to officials that the Committee appoints from outside its membership are properly filed under code BDC. (Codes BDB and BDC can be combined as BDB/BDC, covering the double term School Committee Officers/Appointed Officials.)

If your School Committee elects a treasurer from its membership, the duties of that officer should be included here. If a treasurer is elected and is not a member of the Committee, refer to the paragraph directly above for coding suggestions. When the town treasurer serves as the Committee's treasurer, an editorial note could be added to the policy, as was done in the sample above. Regional school districts are required to appoint a treasurer; the duties of that office should be included and M.G.L. 71:16A should be cited.

City or towns charters often address this topic. References to pertinent sections of a charter should be added as legal references.