

SCHOOL ATTORNEY/LEGAL SERVICES

The School Committee recognizes that the increasing complexity of school unit operations frequently requires procurement of professional legal services. Consequently, it shall designate an attorney or law firm for purposes of systematically securing such services. The school attorney shall be an individual who has been admitted to practice law in Maine.

A decision to seek legal advice or assistance on behalf of the school unit shall normally be made by the Superintendent or by the School Committee Chair. Such action shall be consistent with approved School Committee policy or standard practice and meet an obvious need of the unit. It may also take place as a consequence of formal School Committee direction.

The school attorney shall render legal advice to administrators and/or the School Committee, conduct or assist with the conduct of school district litigation, and provide specialized legal services. The school attorney may be requested to attend School Committee meetings or other activities when his/her services are needed.

In unusual circumstances or when the potential exists for significant expenditure on legal services, the Superintendent shall report to the School Committee, as appropriate.

At its discretion and for specific purposes, the School Committee may secure the services of attorneys other than its designated counsel.

Adopted: 2/27/89

Revised: 7/22/98

Reviewed by the Policy Committee: December 1, 2005