

SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS WITH STAFF

A clear understanding of responsibilities and relationships between and among the School Committee and school personnel is essential for a smoothly running and efficient school system. It should be remembered that the School Committee, school administrators, teachers and all others responsible for any phase of the work of the school system have a common and basic responsibility—the welfare of the children in the schools. This responsibility must guide all of our considerations and decisions.

School Committee and Superintendent

The relationship of the School Committee and the Superintendent can best be described as one of teamwork. They must pull together as some of their functions are not readily separable. However, the primary functions are separable and should be clearly understood by each. The School Committee is the legislative body of the school unit. It exercises its mandated management of the schools through the formation of policies.

The Superintendent is the executive officer of the School Committee and the chief administrative officer. The School Committee recognizes this and wishes to make this clear to all staff members and to all citizens.

All communications or reports to the School Committee, or to any committee of the School Committee, from Principals, supervisors, teachers, or other employees shall be submitted through the Superintendent.

School Committee and Principal

The School Principal has no direct administrative relations with the School Committee. His/her relations to the School Committee are through the Superintendent, for the School Committee recognizes that the Superintendent is the person to whom it must look for professional leadership within the schools. A spirit of cooperation must prevail between the Superintendent and the Principal if the best results are to be realized. The Principal must make recommendations to the Superintendent and not to the School Committee. All matters which require School Committee action must be presented to the School Committee by the Superintendent.

School Committee and Non-Administrative Staff

The relationship of the non-administrative staff to the School Committee is indirect. The teacher is directly responsible to the Principal and through him/her to the Superintendent, and then to the School Committee. However, this does not mean that the teacher does not have access to the Superintendent or to the School Committee. Conditions may arise when direct access may be obtained through channels established for grievances.

Adopted: September 28, 1981

Revised: 10/25/82; 10/8/86; 7/22/98

Reviewed by the Policy Committee: October 31, 2005