

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE POWERS AND DUTIES**

The Arlington School Committee, as organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, shall have general charge of all the public schools. The School Committee exercises any and all authority and responsibility for public education in Arlington that has not been expressly reserved by the State. Whatever powers and authority the School Committee has, it has as a unit, acting in formal session. No person or group, including individual Committee members, shares any of that authority, unless expressly so authorized by vote of the Committee.

According to Chapter 71, Sections 37 and 59 of the General Laws of Massachusetts, the School Committee

- shall have the power to select and to terminate the superintendent, and fix his compensation,
- shall establish and appoint positions of assistant or associate superintendents (upon recommendation of the superintendent) and shall fix their compensation,
- shall review and approve budgets for public education in the district, and
- shall establish educational goals and policies for the schools in the district consistent with the requirements of law and statewide goals and standards established by the board of education.

Arlington's Town Manager Act further stipulates that the School Committee shall be responsible for the study, consideration and recommendations as to construction, reconstruction, alterations, improvements and other undertakings pertaining to school buildings or property.

The School Committee takes a broad view of its functions. In addition to the powers and duties described above, the duties of the School Committee shall include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Interpretation of the needs and desires of the community in educational matters.
2. Provision for keeping the public informed of the purposes, needs, and conditions of education in Arlington.
3. Approval of an annual budget, which will attempt to reconcile fiscal responsibility with educational needs for Arlington.
4. Review of school programs and curricula as presented by the Superintendent
5. Appraisal of the effectiveness of the Superintendent.
6. Reviewing and approving annual goals for the district, and tracking performance against those goals.

7. Evaluating the effectiveness of district policies and their implementation.
8. Determination of wages, hours and working conditions of employees of the Arlington Public Schools, including those provided for under collective bargaining laws.
9. Reviewing Principal contracts for compliance with district policy and budgeted compensation, and approving if compliant. (Note the Committee does *not* review and approve the hire, just the terms of the contract.)
10. Approval of new and modified job descriptions for district employees with reference to qualifications for employment, salary schedules, annual budget and other personnel policies.
11. Consideration of specific actions recommended by the Superintendent.
12. Implementation of all actions required by laws.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 41:1 and 71:37 specifically, but powers and duties of School Committees are established throughout the General Laws of Massachusetts Relating to School Committees  
Town Manager Act, Sections 6 and 15

CROSS REFS.: Specifically AA, School District Legal Status,  
BB, School Committee Legal Status,  
BBAA, School Committee Member Authority,  
but powers and duties of the Arlington School Committee are established throughout the policies of the Arlington Public Schools

Revised and Approved by School Committee February 26, 2008