

POLICY RELATING TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE OPERATION

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER ETHICS

The acceptance of a code of ethics implies an understanding of a school committee under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The oath of office binds an individual member to adhere to state laws as they apply to school committees.

The Wachusett Regional School District code of ethics delineates an additional three areas of responsibility to individual members; (1) community responsibility, (2) school administration responsibility, and (3) relationships with committee members.

1. Community Responsibility

- Primary responsibility is to the students of the District while representing the entire regional community at all times.
- Policy making is the basic function.
- Carry out all Committee decisions.
- Be well informed of all duties.
- Render unselfish service with no intention to benefit personally from Committee activities.
- Attend meetings of the Wachusett Regional School Committee faithfully and vote according to their best understanding of the issues and refrain from abstaining from the vote unless good reasons require that they do so.

2. School Administration Responsibility

- School Committee policies will direct and support the administration.
- Recognize the administrative chain of command.
- Give the Superintendent full responsibility for professional duties.
- All discussions kept at School Committee level in public sessions.

POLICY RELATING TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE OPERATION

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER ETHICS (continued)

3. Relationships with Committee Members

- All actions of a School Committee meeting are binding and a Member cannot bind the Committee outside the public forum of the Committee.
- Solicitation of votes on matters that will come before the School Committee shall be done in public session with the exception of executive session matters.
- Pertinent information on school problems shall be shared with the Superintendent.
- Decision shall be made only after the facts have been presented and discussed.
- Matters of executive session shall be maintained in confidence until such time as minutes are released to the public.

First Reading: 12/09/96
Second Reading: 01/21/97

Amendment First Reading: 12/10/07
Amendment Second Reading: 01/16/08

WRSDC Policy 1160