

Representation on the Minuteman School Committee

Each Minuteman member town appoints one representative to the School Committee. The representative has a proportional vote, based on the Regional Agreement, on matters that come before the Committee, including the budget, Superintendent and teacher contracts, and District policies. The Committee’s thoughtful oversight and support are critical to maintaining the school’s position as one of the most respected, innovative vocational technical schools.

Guidance for candidates considering service, and for town leadership making an appointment to the Committee is below:

Candidate’s ideal background		Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prior service on town boards	Minuteman is a regional high school serving nine member-towns. Representatives who have already engaged in some type of town board service are best prepared to deal with the more complex financial documents and policy questions of a regional school district. Suggested boards: Selectboard, Finance School Committee.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Leadership experience and willingness to speak in public	The leadership of the 9-member School Committee is a large job, and the District needs a deep pool of members who can serve as officers. The Officers are elected annually by the membership. Also, as one of ten members of the Committee, the representative should be prepared to join in the conversations, and to communicate with and report back to their town boards.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge of MA educational issues	Massachusetts continues to lead in public education, and vocational technical education in particular. Complex laws and regulations govern the delivery of education, and Committee members who have some familiarity with these rules can “hit the ground running.” The learning curve is pretty steep, but the material is manageable and fascinating.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Focus on serving students	The representative should be interested in improving educational services for students. Education is a major focus of each meeting, so representatives with a genuine interest find the work most enjoyable.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commitment to attending meetings	<p>The Committee approves the school budget that is sent to the towns, selects and hires the Superintendent, negotiates with the teachers’ union, and approves school district policy. The representative will review meeting materials and attend at least 2 meetings per month, Sept-July. The main monthly Committee meeting is always on a Tuesday, with subcommittee meetings scheduled as needed. There are also training sessions, including 8 hours of mandatory training offered by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) at the beginning.</p> <p>The representative will have the opportunity to learn about the wide variety of Massachusetts workforce development and education boards and their work.</p> <p>The School Committee often takes a meeting break in August.</p>
Prior to appointment we strongly recommend		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tour of the school	A tour of the school will familiarize potential Committee members with the wide variety of technical majors available to their town’s students. It will help them determine if they are interested in championing the school.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Meeting with the Superintendent	Minuteman provides technical education using an Academy model, and the teachers and the School Committee are committed to the Professional Learning Community approach. The students spend significant time in their major shop, yet they pass the MCAS tests, too. An effective representative will take the time to meet with the Superintendent and learn about the unique aspects of the Minuteman education.

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