

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER ETHICS  
(Massachusetts Association of School Committees Code of Ethics)

**Preamble**

The acceptance of a code of ethics implies the understanding of the basic organization of School Committees under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The oath of office of a School Committee member binds the individual member to adherence to those state laws which apply to School Committees, since School Committees are agencies of the state.

This code of ethics delineates three areas of responsibility of North Middlesex Regional School Committee members in addition to that implied above:

1. Community responsibility
2. Responsibility to school administration
3. Relationships to fellow Committee members

A North Middlesex Regional School Committee member in ~~their~~his/her relations with ~~their~~his/her community should:

1. Realize that ~~their~~his/her primary responsibility is to the children.
2. Recognize that ~~their~~his/her basic function is ~~to be~~ policy making and not administrative.
3. Remember that ~~they are~~he/she is one of a team and must abide by, and carry out, all **School** Committee decisions once they are made.
4. Be well informed concerning the duties of a **School** Committee member on both a local and state level.
5. Remember that ~~they represent~~he/she represents the entire community at all times.
6. Accept the office as a **School** Committee member as means of unselfish service with no intent to "play politics," in any sense of the word, or to benefit personally from ~~their~~his/her **School** Committee activities.

A North Middlesex Regional School Committee member in his/her relations with his/her school administration should:

1. Endeavor to establish sound, clearly defined policies which will direct and support the administration.
2. Recognize and support the administrative chain of command and refuse to act on complaints as an individual outside the administration.
3. Give the Superintendent of Schools full responsibility for discharging ~~their~~his/her professional duties and hold ~~them~~him/her responsible for acceptable results.
4. Refer all complaints to the administrative staff for solution and only discuss them at Committee meetings if such solutions fail.

A North Middlesex Regional School Committee in ~~their~~his/her relations with ~~their~~his/her fellow Committee members should:

1. Recognize that action at official meetings is binding and that ~~they~~he/she alone cannot bind the **School** Committee outside of such meetings.
2. Realize that ~~they~~he/she should not make statements or promises of how ~~they~~he/she will vote on matters that will come before the **School** Committee.
3. Uphold the intent of executive sessions and respect the privileged communications that exist in executive sessions.
4. Not withhold pertinent information on school matters or personnel problems, either from members of ~~their~~his/her own **School** Committee or from members of other Committees who may be seeking help or information on school problems
5. Make decisions only after all facts on a question have been presented and discussed.

SOURCE: Massachusetts Association of School Committees, 5/22/64 - **Reviewed 2022**

**NOTE: MASC code of ethics is intended to be a guideline for School Committee members. The code is not binding by law.**

**Adopted by the NMRSD School Committee:**

Original Adoption:

Five-Year Review Cycle:

Informational Review:

NMRSD First Vote:

NMRSD Adoption:

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