

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 adhere to the state laws that 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 relations with their community should:

1. Realize that their primary responsibility is to the children.
2. Recognize that their basic function is to be policy-making and not administrative.
3. Remember that they are part of a team and must abide by and carry out all School Committee decisions once they are made.
4. Be well informed about the duties of a School Committee member at both the local and state levels.
5. Remember that they represent the entire community at all times.
6. Accept the office as a School Committee member as a means of unselfish service with no intent to "play politics," in any sense of the word, or to benefit personally from their 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 professional duties and hold them 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 relations with their fellow Committee members should:

1. Recognize that action at official meetings is binding and that they alone cannot bind the School Committee outside of such meetings.
2. Realize that they should not make statements or promises of how they 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 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

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