

File: B19

SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY

The School Committee will develop policies and put them in writing so that they may serve as guides for the discretionary action of those to whom it delegates authority.

The formulation and adoption of these written policies will constitute the basic method by which the School Committee will exercise its leadership in providing for the successful and efficient functioning of the school system. Through the study and evaluation of reports concerning the execution of its policies, the School Committee will exercise its control over school operation.

The School Committee accepts the definition of policy set forth by the National School Boards Association:

Policies are principles adopted by a School Committee to chart a course of action. They tell what is wanted; they may include why and how much. Policies should be broad enough to indicate a line of action to be followed by the administration in meeting day-to-day problems, yet be specific enough to give clear guidance.

The policies of the School Committee are framed, and are meant to be interpreted, in terms of state law, regulations of the Massachusetts Board of Education, and other regulatory agencies of the various levels of government.

A vote of at least two thirds of the full board to vote shall be required to accept new policies of the School Committee at the first and second reading of such policies, and to adopt such policies. The formal adoption of policies will be recorded in the minutes of the Committee. Only those written statements so adopted and so recorded will be regarded as official Committee policy.

Adoption

Adoption of new policies or the revision or repeal of existing policies is solely the responsibility of the School Committee.

The Committee will adhere to the following procedure in considering and adopting policy proposals to ensure that they are well examined before final action:

1. First School Committee meeting -- the proposal shall be presented for a first reading. No discussion.
2. Second School Committee meeting -- the proposal shall be presented for a second reading, discussion, and possible adoption.

During discussion of a policy proposal, the views of the public and staff will be considered. Amendments may be proposed by committee members. An amendment will not require that the policy go through an additional reading except as the Committee determines that the amendment needs further study and that an additional reading would be desirable.

Under unusual circumstances, the Committee may temporarily approve a policy to meet emergency conditions; however, the above procedure is required before the policy will be considered permanent.

Policy Review, Evaluation and Dissemination

It will be the Superintendent's responsibility to maintain an updated policy manual of the Chicopee School Committee with all adopted policy changes delivered to individual members for insertion into his policy book. All policies will be distributed to all School Committee members, all administrators, legal counsel, negotiator, CEA president and the press.

Should the Superintendent or the School Committee determine that a policy requires revision, he shall bring forward any recommended changes to the School Committee. The policy manual should be reviewed periodically by the Superintendent for compliance with legal and educational mandates.

Suspension of Policies

The operation of any section or sections of School Committee policies not established by law or contract may be temporarily suspended by a two-thirds vote of Committee members present at any regular or special meeting. Any action to suspend policy must be reviewed at the next scheduled meeting and will be so noted on the agenda for that meeting.

1st reading: Reg SC Mtg 12/21/2011

2nd reading: Reg SC Mtg 12/21/2011