



The Boston School Committee at a Glance

The Boston School Committee is the governing body of the Boston Public Schools. The School Committee is responsible for:

- defining the vision, mission, and goals of the Boston Public Schools;
- establishing and monitoring the annual operating budget;
- hiring, managing, and evaluating the Superintendent; and
- setting and reviewing district policies and practices to support student achievement.

The seven members of the School Committee are Boston residents appointed by the Mayor to serve four-year staggered terms. The Mayor appoints members from a list of candidates recommended by a 13-member Citizens Nominating Panel composed of parents, teachers, principals, and representatives of the business and higher education communities. Under the legislation that established the appointed School Committee, “the Mayor shall strive to appoint individuals who reflect the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity of the city.” The Committee also includes a non-voting student member of the Boston Student Advisory Council.

The School Committee meets approximately twice per month during the school year to adopt, review, and modify policies and practices that support teaching and learning and improved student achievement. Most meetings are held on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Edward Winter Chambers, 26 Court Street. With the exception of executive sessions, Committee meetings are open to the public, feature public comment periods and are broadcast on Boston City TV.

On the first Monday of the year, the Committee holds its annual organizational meeting, at which time the members elect a chair and vice-chair and determine the meeting schedule for the upcoming calendar year. Each February and March, the Committee holds a series of community hearings to receive feedback from students, parents and other stakeholders on the Superintendent’s budget preliminary recommendation prior voting on the budget on the last Wednesday in March.

The School Committee has three active sub-committees led by one-two Committee members: the English Language Learners Task Force; Inclusion Task Force; and Superintendent Search Committee. The School Quality Working Group recently completed its work developing a new tool to measure school quality.

Following an extensive community engagement process, this year the Committee created a strategic plan that sets aspirational goals for the District in the following priorities areas: improved student outcomes; improved school quality; strong school and district leadership/high quality, action-oriented teachers and staff; effective resource allocation; and greater community engagement. The Superintendent is currently working with his executive team to set measurable goals that align with the priorities.

For more information, please visit www.bostonpublicschools.org.