

**PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC**

The Somerville Board of Education encourages volunteers and/or residents of the community who are especially qualified because of training, experience, or personal characteristics to take an active part in school affairs. Such persons may be invited to act as advisers both as groups and individually in:

- A. Clarifying the general ideas and attitudes held by our residents regarding school;
- B. Determining the purposes of courses of study and special services to be provided for students; evaluating the extent to which these purposes are being achieved by present practices;
- C. Giving active assistance to the professional staff in the actual operation of classes and services where the superintendent and staff deem such aid valuable;
- D. Offering suggestions on a specific problem or set of closely related problems about which the board must make a decision;
- E. Coordinating the delivery of social services to students.

Volunteers carrying out prescribed functions under the supervision of designated professional staff members shall be covered by the board's liability insurance policy.

The superintendent shall supervise development of programs and procedures to enlist community participation in school events and deliberations. He/she shall keep on file information on all volunteers and documentation that requirements of law have been fulfilled.

The board, superintendent, and the staff shall give substantial weight to the advice that they receive from individuals and community groups interested in the school, especially those individuals and groups that have been invited or created to advise them regarding selected problems. The board, superintendent, and staff shall use their own best judgment in arriving at decisions.

The superintendent shall report to the public annually on all aspects of community support of the educational program.

**Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Activity Advisors**

The director of athletics will be responsible for the screening of volunteer athletic coaches and extracurricular activity advisors/assistants and their assignment. The district is not obligated to utilize the proffered services of a volunteer whose abilities or interests do not serve the needs of the school district. The superintendent in consultation with the building principals shall be responsible for identifying areas in which volunteers are need and the qualifications that may be required for the volunteer service.

Volunteers coaches and activity leader shall at a minimum be persons of known character, responsibility, and integrity and must be recommended by the superintendent and approved by the board prior to assuming any responsibilities.

The director of athletics will oversee the conduct for volunteer athletic coaches and volunteer extracurricular activity advisors/assistants. Each volunteer athletic coach and volunteer extracurricular activity

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advisors/assistants will be directed to review board policies and procedures 1200 Participation by the Public, 1250 Visitors, 5131.1 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying and other relevant policies regarding appropriate conduct.

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Key Words

Community Volunteers, Volunteers, Public Participation

**Legal References:** N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties  
N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 Powers of board (county vocational schools)

**Possible**

**Cross References:** \*1000/1010 Concepts and roles in community relations; goals and objectives  
 \*1120 Board of education meetings  
 1210 Community organizations  
 \*1220 Ad hoc advisory committees  
 \*5020 Role of parents/guardians  
 \*6162.4 Community resources

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.