

Governance Norms

File: BM

For the purpose of enhancing teamwork among members of the School Committee and between our School Committee and administration, we, the members of the Dracut School Committee and the Superintendent, do hereby publicly commit ourselves collectively and individually to the following operating protocols:

1. The School Committee will represent the needs and interests of ALL the children in our district.
2. The School Committee will lead by example and work to build trust. We agree to avoid words and actions that create a negative impression of an individual, the School Committee, or the district. While we encourage debate and differing points of view, we will speak with care and respect.
3. The Superintendent is the Chief Executive Officer responsible for the day-to-day operations of the district and for advising the School Committee on items that come before it.
4. The School Committee will help establish the vision, create policies and assure accountability. The Superintendent will manage the schools and staff.
5. We agree to ask the School Committee Chair or the Superintendent to place an item on the agenda instead of bringing it up unexpectedly at a meeting. The School Committee will speak to the issues on the agenda, not engage in inappropriate debate. Surprises to the School Committee or the Superintendent will be the exception, not the rule.
6. General communications between district staff and the School Committee are encouraged. Facts and information needed from the administration or requests of staff will be referred to the Superintendent.
7. All personnel complaints and criticisms; or matters of district operations received by the School Committee or its individual members will be directed to the Superintendent. The School Committee will encourage others to follow the district Chain of Communication policy.
8. The School Committee will consider research, best practice, public input and financial impacts in their decision making.
9. When executive sessions are held, School Committee Members will honor the confidentiality of the discussions.
10. The School Committee and Superintendent will facilitate goal setting for the school district.
11. Individual School Committee Members do not have authority. Only the School Committee as a whole has authority. We agree that an individual School Committee Member will not take unilateral action.
12. When School Committee Members attend meetings of other committees or boards as liaisons from the School Committee, they will be speaking as individuals and not for the Committee except when reporting a decision of the majority of the School Committee.
13. While we recognize the Chairperson as the official voice of the School Committee, individual members may express their personal views and opinions to the media and community, but should be stated as such.

Adopted by Dracut School Committee June 11, 2018

Revised and Adopted December 12, 2022

Dracut Public Schools