

SAFE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Safety of its students is a primary concern of the Amber-Pocasset Board of Education. The board believes a proper educational environment is impeded whenever there is a concern of safety and violence in its schools. Therefore, in an attempt to have the school district, its students, and families work together to solve this problem and in compliance with state law, the board of education herein authorizes each school site to establish a Safe School Committee.

Each committee is to be composed of at least seven members, with an equal number of teachers, parents, and students.

In addition, the committee shall include a school official who participates in the investigation of reports of harassment, intimidation, bullying, and threatening behavior.

The committees shall study and make recommendations to the school principal regarding the following:

1. Unsafe conditions, possible strategies for students to avoid harm at school, student victimization, crime prevention, school violence, and other issues which prohibit the maintenance of a safe school;
2. Student harassment, intimidation, and bullying at school;
3. Professional development needs of faculty and staff to implement methods to decrease student harassment, intimidation, and bullying; and
4. Methods to encourage the involvement of the community and students, the development of individual relationships between students and school staff, and use of problem-solving teams that include counselors and/or school psychologists.
5. Other issues which the committee believes prohibit the maintenance of a safe school.
6. Policies and regulations to be revised in light of the Department of Homeland Security's threat assessment guidelines.

The Safe School Committee shall meet at least once each quarter. Each committee shall choose among its members a chairperson, who shall be responsible for notifying the members of each meeting. A written report shall be made to the principal at least once per school year, no later than May 1. The principal shall maintain the report and shall provide a copy to the superintendent. A copy shall be given to each member of the Amber-Pocasset Board of Education. Adoptions of, or revisions to, the recommendations shall be at the discretion of the board.

In compliance with state law, the board will also designate a safety coordinator for the district. The superintendent may serve in this capacity.

Responsibilities of the Safe Schools Committee include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Study unsafe conditions in the schools, student victimization, school violence, and other issues concerning school safety.
2. Make recommendations to the principal regarding possible strategies for students to avoid harm at school, crime prevention, professional development needs of the faculty and staff concerning school safety, and methods to encourage the involvement of the community members and students.

SAFE SCHOOL COMMITTEE (Cont.)

3. Review traditional and accepted harassment, intimidation, and bullying prevention programs utilized by other states, state agencies, or school districts. The State Department of Education will provide a list of research-based programs appropriate for the prevention of harassment, intimidation, and bullying of students at school. If the district implements a commercial bullying prevention program, it shall use a program listed by the State Department of Education.
4. Review the district's current safety policies and regulations and make recommendations to the administration regarding any changes needed related to the Department of Homeland Security's threat assessment level and required or proposed actions.

The principal shall give consideration to recommendations of the committee.

REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §24-100

NOTE : District boards of education may combine the Safe School Committee with the Healthy and Fit School Advisory Committee.