

## ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Community: Community participation in the affairs of the schools is encouraged and essential if the community is to maintain confidence in the schools and contribute to improvement of the quality of education for students. The Committee recognizes the importance of drawing upon the expertise of the citizens of the Town in the processes of problem solving and policy development. Such involvement in the schools can: a) stimulate the interest and awareness of citizens regarding the schools; b) involve citizens in analyzing problems and shaping decisions which confront the schools; c) develop better communication and understanding between the community and the schools; and, d) create a unity of action and citizen support upon which the education of students depends.

Staff: The School Committee acknowledges and respects the professional status of Duxbury teachers, their desire to work toward the improvement of education, their skill and knowledge in their fields, and their wishes to have opportunities to make suggestions concerning proposed policies which will affect their professional lives. Staff members are encouraged to contribute to the planning of educational programs, to the development of policies and regulations and to budget and facilities planning. Professional staff representatives will be given opportunity to contribute to curriculum development and to the selection of instructional materials. The School Committee also recognizes the essential contributions made by members of the support staff and their interest in the successful operation of the Duxbury Public Schools. Each principal shall maintain channels for conferring with professional and support staff in recommending school policies, regulations and budgets. Copies of pertinent proposed policies will be sent to administrators, and Duxbury Teachers' Association president.

Students: Two essential factors in creating a stimulating learning climate for students are: the act of involving students in their education, including educational planning; and the fostering of a spirit of inquiry whereby students may express freely their views, listen to the views of others, and take part in the decision-making process, in keeping with their level of maturity. Such participation is endorsed for the classroom, school and system-wide levels. The School Committee or its designee(s) meets regularly with the Student Advisory Council, and members of the Council are encouraged to participate in Open Sessions of the Duxbury School Committee.

From time-to-time, persons may be invited by the Superintendent or School Committee to act as advisors individually or in groups in such areas as the following:

1. Clarifying problems or general ideas and attitudes held by Duxbury residents in regard to the schools;
2. Gathering facts, organizing and analyzing data;
3. Identifying and evaluating alternative solutions;
4. Making recommendations for action by the administration or School Committee;
5. Assisting in communicating to the community decisions made by the School Committee.

The role of community/staff/student committees will be advisory and/or consultative. By establishing such committees the School Committee does not relinquish its statutory responsibility for making decisions which will affect the school system. To the extent possible, the membership of each Advisory Committee should reflect a broad range of opinion (the Duxbury community as a whole), rather than being dominated by narrow interest groups. The School Committee reserves the right to dissolve an advisory committee at any time.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 30A:18-25

CROSS REF.: JIB, Student Involvement in Decision-making