

## **COMMITTEE CANDIDATE ORIENTATION**

The Committee considers it important that a new member be knowledgeable about school governance and operations, and - insofar as possible, prepared to discuss and cast informed votes on matters before the Committee - from the time that he/she is sworn into office.

All candidates shall be urged to attend, and be welcomed at, public meetings of the Committee during the period of their candidacy. All public information about the school system shall be made easily available to them. To the extent that time permits, this invitation will be extended to candidates for the Board of Selectmen.

Additionally, the Committee directs the Superintendent to cooperate impartially with all candidates in providing them with information about school governance, Committee operations, and school programs. This cooperation, for example, may include:

1. Notification of public meetings of the Committee, with the agenda provided;
2. Meeting with the candidate or candidates to provide background information on the school system and School Committee service and/or arranging such other candidate-orientation sessions as he/she finds desirable;
3. Providing each candidate with information published by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees on the powers and duties of committees and other association materials germane to Committee service;
4. Making arrangements for the candidate to review the current policies of the Committee, administrative regulations, and other publications of the school system.

The Committee and its staff shall seek to be impartial as they cooperate in the orientation of Committee candidates. It expects the candidates to recognize that until and unless elected to the Committee their official status is that of other members of the public, and thus are not entitled to privileged information such as is rightfully discussed only in executive session.