

The public schools belong to the people. The people govern schools under rights guaranteed to them under the Constitution and statutes of our state. The people exercise their proprietorship through the elective process. They elect state and federal Congress - the framework of the law within which the schools operate. The people elect a school committee to represent them, to determine local educational plans and policy, and to establish publicly endorsed educational goals and objectives. Westford Public Schools function as an agency of the public within this framework.

The School Committee is mindful that people are the ultimate governors of public education and that it is directly accountable to the people through the elective process. But the School Committee also believes that accountability is a shared responsibility involving administrators, students, teachers, other employees, the Superintendent, and the people themselves, as well as the School Committee. The School Committee therefore asserts the following beliefs and expectations:

1. Students should be trained at home and by the schools in order that they will learn to hold themselves accountable for their own lives, actions, and decisions as maturing members of a democratic society.
2. Teachers should hold students accountable for achieving (within each student's abilities) the objectives of each learning experience.
3. The Superintendent should hold administrators, teachers and other employees accountable for working diligently and with intelligence and imagination in achieving the objectives directly related to their stated job responsibilities.
4. The School Committee should appoint the most capable person available to hold the position of Superintendent and should hold him/her accountable for providing creative professional leadership and counsel in all aspects of the school system.
5. The School Committee should hold itself accountable to carry out its policies and to lead in the identification of goals and objectives and to seek the resources necessary for their achievement.
6. The School Committee advocates that the public be responsible and informed citizens.

Massachusetts General Law References:

- M.G.L. 39:23B – Open Meetings; Notice; Records; Enforcement
- M.G.L. 41:1 – School Committee: Term of Office
- M.G.L. 41:107 – Oath of Office; Term

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WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Westford, Massachusetts 01886