

Westford's public schools belong to the people who created them by consent and support them by taxation. That support is based on our citizens' understanding of the aims and efforts of the schools and their trust in the school governance process. Citizen opinions are formed on the basis of available information and integrity of governance. Therefore, the School Committee, through its own efforts and those of the Superintendent, will seek to:

1. Keep local citizens regularly and thoroughly informed through all available channels of communication on the policies, programs, problems, accomplishments, and planning in the Westford Public Schools, and to carry out this policy through its own efforts, those of the Superintendent, and such information officers as may be appointed.
2. Provide sufficient financial and performance data necessary to monitor and assess the schools' effectiveness and to help ensure the creation of an interested and informed public.
3. Abide by the Open Meeting Law and ensure School Committee meetings and records are a matter of public information except as such executive session meetings and records, which pertain to individual personnel and other classified matter* as defined in Westford Public Schools Policy P7404.
4. Respond to all requests for information fairly, completely, and as expeditiously as reasonably possible.
5. Foster two-way communication between the School Committee and the public
6. Foster two-way communication between the school administration and the public.
7. To solicit the advice of citizens as individuals or through advisory committees to consult on issues or problems that affect the delivery of educational services.

* The Superintendent or other persons responsible for the custody of confidential files will not release for inspection by the public or any unauthorized persons, any personal records. The exception to this will be information about an individual employee or student that has been authorized in writing for release by the employee, student, or student's parent/legal guardian or by court order.

References

Massachusetts General Law References:

M.G.L. 39:23A – Definitions

M.G.L. 39:32B – Open Meetings; Notice; Records/ Enforcement

Westford Public Schools

P1503 Public Complaints/Concerns

P1109 Public's Right to Know

P7203 Operational Goals of School Committee

Policy Adopted: April 9, 2001

Policy Reviewed: September 2011

Policy Revised: January 2012