

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER AUTHORITY**

### **Authority**

Because all powers of the School Committee derived from state laws are granted in terms of action as a group, members of the school committee have authority only when acting as a committee legally in session.

The School Committee will not be bound in any way by any statement or action on the part of an individual member except when such statement or action is a result of specific instructions of the committee.

No member of the Committee, by virtue of their office, will exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the schools or command the services of any school employee.

The School Committee will function as a body; and all policy decisions and other matters as required by law will be settled by an official vote of the Committee sitting in formal session.

### **Duties**

The duties and obligations of the individual Committee member may be enumerated as follows include, but are not limited to the following:

- To become familiar with the policies and procedures of the school committee and school department.
- To keep abreast of new laws and latest trends in education.
- To have a general knowledge of the goals, objectives, and programs of the public schools of Ipswich.
- To work harmoniously with other Committee members.
- To respect the privileged communication that exists in executive sessions by maintaining strict confidentiality on matters discussed in these sessions, except that which becomes part of the public record, once it has been approved for release.
- To vote and act in Committee impartially for the good of the education of all children.
- To accept the will of the majority vote in all cases, and to remember that he/she is one of a team and must abide by, and carry out, all Committee decisions once they are made.
- To represent the Committee and the schools to the public in a way that promotes interest and support.
- To refer questions and complaints to the proper school authorities.
- To comply with the accepted code of ethics for School Committee members.

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