File: BDF - ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The following general policies will govern the appointment and functioning of advisory committees to the Somerville School Committee other than the student advisory committee, which is governed by the terms of the Massachusetts General Laws.

1. Advisory committees may be created by the Somerville School Committee to serve as task forces for special purposes or to provide continuing consultation in a particular area of activity. However, there will be no standing overall advisory committee to the Somerville School Committee.

2. If an advisory committee is required by state or federal law, its composition and appointment will meet all the guidelines established for that particular type of committee.

3. The composition of task forces and any other advisory committees will be broadly representative and take into consideration the specific tasks assigned to the committee. Members of the professional staff may be appointed to the committee as members or consultants, as found desirable.

4. Appointments to such committees will be made by the Committee; appointment of staff members to such committees will be made by the Somerville School Committee upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

5. Tenure of committee members will be one year only unless the member is reappointed.

6. Each committee will be clearly instructed as to:

   a. The length of time each member is being asked to serve.

   b. The assignment the Somerville School Committee wishes the committee to fulfill and the extent and limitations of its responsibilities.

   c. The resources the Somerville School Committee will provide.

   d. The approximate dates on which the School Committee wishes to receive major reports.

   e. Responsibilities for the release of information to the press.

7. Recommendations of committees will be based upon research and fact.

8. The Somerville School Committee possesses certain legal powers and prerogatives that cannot be delegated or surrendered to others. Therefore, all recommendations of an advisory committee must be submitted to the Somerville School Committee.

The Somerville School Committee will have the sole power to dissolve any of its advisory committees and will reserve the right to exercise this power at any time during the life of any Somerville School Committee.

All Advisory Committees of the School Committee are subject to the provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

Adopted: January 1996

Reviewed: October 2008

Revised: January 2013