

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #53
Burnham – Detroit – Pittsfield

Board Policy Development

It is the intent of the Board to develop policies and put them in writing so that they may serve as guidelines and goals for the successful and efficient functioning of M.S.A.D. #53.

The development of policies which serve as a major source of information and guidance for all staff and interested citizens is considered an integral part of the Board's function. The Board defines policy as:

Principles adopted by the School Board to chart a course of action. They tell what is wanted, they may include why and how much. Policies should be broad enough to indicate a line of action to be followed by the administration in meeting a number of problems; narrow enough to give clear guidance. Policies are guides for action by the administrator, who then sets the rules and regulations to provide specific directions to school district personnel.

The policies of the Board are framed, and are meant to be interpreted in terms of state laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and all other regulatory agencies within our local, county, state, and federal levels of government. The policies are framed, and meant to be interpreted, in terms of those educational objectives, procedures, and practices which are broadly accepted by leaders and authorities in the public education field.

Changes in needs, conditions, purposes, and objectives will require revisions, deletions, and additions to policies of present and future boards. The Board will welcome suggestions for ongoing policy development, and will meet and consult with representatives of the staff bargaining agent in accordance with the Municipal Public Employees Labor Relation Act.

Except for policy actions to be taken on emergency measures, the adoption of Board policies shall follow this sequence which will take place at least two regular or special meetings of the Board.

1. An announcement and distribution of proposed or revised policies as an item for information.
2. Opportunity offered to concerned groups of individuals to react to policy proposals.
3. Discussion and final action by the Board of policy proposals.

The final vote to adopt or not to adopt shall follow by at least four weeks from the meeting at which policy proposals are first placed on the agenda

1. Prior to enactment, all policy proposals shall be titled and coded as appropriate to subject and in conformance with the codification system used in the Board policy manual.
2. Insofar as possible, each policy statement shall be limited to one subject.
3. Policies and amendments adopted by the Board shall be attached to and made part of the minutes of the meeting at which they are adopted and shall also be included in the policy manual of the district.
4. Policies and amendments to policies shall be effective immediately upon adoption unless a specific effective date is provided in the adopted resolution.

On matters of unusual urgency, the Board may waive the four-week limitation and take immediate action to adopt new or revise existing policies. When such immediate action is necessary, the superintendent shall inform concerned groups or individuals about the reasons for this necessity.

Legal Reference: 26 MRSA § 965 (1) (C)

Amended: November 1, 1993

Amended: October 4, 1994

Amended: January 5, 2004