

## School Committee

The School Committee is guided by the following vision and mission statements, adopted in 2014:

**Vision:** The Harvard Public Schools community, a leader in educational excellence, guides each student to realize his or her highest potential by balancing academic achievement with personal well-being in the pursuit of individual dreams. The students engage in learning how to access and apply knowledge, think critically and creatively, and communicate effectively. They continue to develop the confidence and ability to collaborate, contribute, and adapt in an ever-changing world.

**Mission:** Our mission is to provide an outstanding educational experience for all students and to help them develop curiosity, perseverance, and social responsibility.

The School Committee has the following responsibilities:

1. Policy – establishing and reviewing educational goals and policies
2. Finance – reviewing, developing and overseeing a budget that addresses the educational goals of the district while maintaining a balance between needs and resources
3. Staffing – appointing, determining the compensation for, and evaluating the superintendent; hiring legal counsel
4. Collective Bargaining – acting as the employer of school employees for bargaining purposes; designating a negotiator or negotiating team.
5. Performance Standards – evaluating the performance of the superintendent and conducting a self-evaluation of the committee’s effectiveness.
6. Professional Development – adopting a professional development plan for the district; providing resources for school committee professional development enabling effective policy leadership
7. School Councils – reviewing and approving an annual school improvement plan for each school
8. Advocacy – advocating for students in the district and promoting the benefits of public education
9. Curriculum – approving major adoption or revision of curriculum and textbooks upon recommendation of the superintendent
10. Governance – establishing educational goals and policies; delegating administration functions to the superintendent
11. Communication – supporting the development and promotion of the vision, mission, goals and strategies of the district; maintaining open communication between the community and the schools through regular public meetings

The School Committee typically meets on the second and fourth Monday evenings of a given month. A meeting schedule and agenda is available on the town website at least 48 hours in advance, and meetings are usually televised on the local cable access channel. The public is encouraged to attend and participate. Open meeting time is provided at regularly scheduled meetings for public input, questions, and comments.