

ARTICLE 4.
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Sec. 4-1. Composition; Eligibility; Election and Term.

(a) Composition—There shall be a school committee of 9 members, which shall exercise control and management of the public schools of the city. Eight of these members, who shall be known as school committee members, shall be nominated and elected by the voters at large, 1 school committee member to be elected from each of the 8 wards of the city. The mayor shall serve, ex officio, as a member of the school committee with full power to vote. The school committee shall be the judge of the election and qualification of its members.

(b) Eligibility—Only voters shall be eligible to hold the office of school committee member. A candidate for the office of school committee member shall be a resident of the ward from which the candidate seeks election as of the date that the election commission makes available blank forms for the nomination of candidates for office. In order to hold the office of school committee member, a candidate shall have continuously been a resident of the ward from which the candidate is elected from the date that the election commission made such blank forms available until and including the first day of the term for which the candidate is elected. A member of the school committee shall, notwithstanding the member's removal from 1 ward of the city to another, continue to serve and to perform the member's official duties during the member's term of office. The removal from residency within the city shall create a vacancy in such office.

(c) Election and Term—The terms of school committee members shall be 2 years beginning on the first secular day of January after their election and until their successors are qualified. No person shall be eligible for election to the school committee for a fifth consecutive full term. (Referendum of 11-04-75; Acts of 2002, Chap. 368.)

Sec. 4-2. Organization; Quorum; Rules of Procedure.

(a) Organization—After the mayor-elect and a majority of the school committee members-elect have been sworn, the school committee shall be called together by the mayor who shall preside. The school committee shall then elect from among its members a chair and a vice-chair, who shall act as chair during the absence or disability of the chair. The school committee shall also elect a secretary who shall not be 1 of its members. The chair, vice-chair and secretary shall serve at the pleasure of the school committee.

(b) Quorum—A majority of the school committee then in office shall constitute a quorum but a smaller number may meet and adjourn from time to time.

(c) Rules of Procedure—The school committee shall from time to time establish rules for its proceedings.

Except as otherwise authorized by sections 18 to 25, inclusive, of chapter 30A of the General Laws, all sessions of the school committee shall be open to the public and press. A full, accurate and up-to-date record of the proceedings of the school committee shall be kept and shall be open to inspection by the public. It shall include a record of each roll call vote.

Sec. 4-3. General Powers and Duties.

The school committee shall have all the powers and duties which school committees may have under the General Laws and may have such additional powers and duties as the city council may by ordinance from time to time assign. The powers of the school committee shall include, but not be limited to, the power to: (i) appoint a superintendent; (ii) appoint all other officers and employees connected with the schools, fix their compensation and define their duties, make rules concerning their tenure of office and discharge them at its pleasure; (iii) furnish all school buildings with proper fixtures, furnishings and equipment; and (iv) provide ordinary maintenance and repairs on all school buildings up to a maximum expenditure equal to 2 per cent of the school department's operating budget adopted for the preceding fiscal year; provided, however, that sums in excess of the maximum for the provision of ordinary maintenance and repairs may be appropriated by the mayor and the city council and no sums appropriated to accounts for ordinary maintenance and repairs shall be transferred without a 2/3 vote of the city council. (Referendum of 11-04-75.)

Sec. 4-4. New School Buildings.

Whenever in the opinion of the school committee a new schoolhouse is required or material alterations are needed, it shall send a written communication to the city council stating the locality and the nature of the further provisions for schools which are needed; provided, however, that no schoolhouse shall be located, built or materially altered until the school committee shall have been consulted as to the proposed location and plans and had full opportunity to set forth its requirements.

Sec. 4-5. Prohibitions.

No former school committee member shall hold any compensated appointive city office or city employment until 1 year after the expiration of the member's service on the school committee. This provision shall not prohibit a former city employee or city officer from resuming the duties of the city officer or city employee at the conclusion of service on the school committee.

Sec. 4-6. Filling of Vacancies.

If there be a vacancy, by failure to elect or otherwise, on the school committee within the first 15 calendar months of the term for which school committee members are elected, the city council shall forthwith call a special election to fill the vacancy. The election shall be by the voters of the whole city.

If the vacancy shall occur after 15 calendar months of the term for which school committee members are elected, no special election shall be held and the person elected at the next regular city election to the seat in which the vacancy exists shall immediately be sworn and shall, in addition to the term for which the member was elected, serve for the balance of the then-unexpired term.