

RSU #16 (Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland)

Policy Code: BB

Adopted: November 2012

Revised: November 2012

SCHOOL BOARD LEGAL STATUS

Recognizing that “a general diffusion of the advantages of education is essential to the preservation of rights and liberties of the people,” the Constitution of the State of Maine declares that the Legislature has the duty to require communities to provide for the support and maintenance of public schools in order to further this objective. Maine law establishes a State Department of Education to supervise a coordinated system of public education, a Commissioner to enforce regulatory requirements and to provide technical assistance and educational leadership, and a State Board of Education to act as a body with certain policymaking, administrative and advisory functions, but places the responsibility for control and management of public schools with locally elected school boards. Thus, RSU #16 derives its legal authority from the State’s Constitution, state statutes and regulations of the State Board of Education, as well as Federal laws and regulations.

By custom and tradition, local school boards have responsibilities to the local citizenry they serve and which elect them to office. Recognizing this parallel concept of authority and responsibility, the board becomes a policy-making body for the school district serving within the framework provided by law and responding to the will of the local citizenry.

There shall be **15** members on the school board, **5** from **Mechanic Falls**, **5** from **Minot**, and **5** from **Poland**. Each member serves for three years and these terms overlap so that in each year three directorships are vacated and must be resupplied by election. As required by law, board members will cast weighted votes as follows:

- Each member from **_Mechanic Falls.....57** votes
- Each member from **_Minot.....50** votes
- Each member from **_Poland.....94** votes

Each year, as a part of the school board reorganization procedure, one member is elected to serve as Chair and is the presiding officer at all its meetings.

One member is elected to serve as Vice-chair. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-chair will assume the role of Acting Chair with all rights and responsibilities of the Chair contained therein.

Legal Reference:

- 20-A MRSA §§ 1001, 1251 et seq.
- 20-A MRSA §§ 1451; 1471 (RSU)

SIGNATURE BLOCK:

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Mary Ella Jones, Chair

DATE

Jack Wiseman, Vice Chair

DATE

Jennifer Boenig

DATE

Grace Gendron

DATE

Tina Love

DATE

Susan Callahan

DATE

Ed Rabasco, Jr.

DATE

Melissa Hodgkin

DATE

Steve Holbrook

DATE

Jessica Smith

DATE

Ellie Biron

DATE

Scott Sawyer

DATE

Joe Parent

DATE

Scott Tiner

DATE

Mary Martin

DATE