

**BOARD of DIRECTORS' LEGAL STATUS**

The Constitution of the State of Maine places the responsibility of establishing and maintaining public schools on the State Legislature, which provides for a State Board of Education, charged with general supervision of the public schools. The law further provides that local public schools shall be maintained, developed and operated by locally elected School Committees or Boards of Education. The Windham Raymond Board of Directors derives its legal authority from the State Constitution, State statutes and the regulations of the State Board of Education.

However, by custom and tradition, local Boards have responsibilities to the local citizenry they serve and which elects them. Recognizing this twofold concept of authority and responsibility, the Board of Directors conceives itself as a policymaking body for the school system, serving within the framework provided by law and the will of the local citizenry.

There shall be nine (9) members on the Board of Directors, six (6) from Windham and three (3) from Raymond. Each Director 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 Director from Windham: 130 votes
- Each Director from Raymond: 73 votes

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

One Director 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 SS 1001, 1251 et seq.

Cross reference: BDB – Board Officers

First Reading: May 20, 2009

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