

SCHOOL BOARD LEGAL STATUS

The Constitution of the State of Maine places the responsibility of establishing and maintaining public schools in the jurisdiction of the State Legislature, which provides for a State Board of Education, charged with the general supervision of the public schools. The law also provides that local public schools shall be maintained, developed, and operated by locally elected Boards of Education. Maine School Administrative District Number 40 Board of Directors derives its legal authority from the State Constitution, state statutes and regulations of the State Board of Education.

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 sixteen (16) members on the Board of Directors of Maine School Administrative District Number 40, two from Friendship, three from Union, five from Waldoboro, four from Warren and two from Washington. Each director serves for three years.

As confirmed by letter of the Commissioner of Education dated October 29,2003, Board members will cast weighted votes in regular and special Board meetings as follows:

Each Director from Friendship	45 votes
Each Director from Union	55 votes
Each Director from Waldoboro	73 votes
Each Director from Warren	70 votes
Each Director from Washington	50 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 shall assume the role of Acting Chair with all rights and responsibilities of the Chair contained therein. In the event that both the Chair and the Vice-Chair are absent, the remaining members shall select a member to act in the Chair's capacity.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRS § 1001, 1251 et seq.

Cross Reference: BD- New Member Orientation