SCHOOL COUNCILS

As enacted by the state legislature in the Education Reform Act of 1993, a school council shall be established in each school to advise the principal in specific areas of school operation. The school council is a representative, school-based committee composed of the principal, parents, teachers, community members; and at the secondary level at least one student. The principal shall have primary responsibility for the management of the school. School council decisions must be aligned with the budget, policies, curriculum, and goals adopted by the school committee. In addition, decisions must comply with any state and federal laws and regulations and with any negotiated agreements of the school district. The council may not expand the scope of its authority beyond that established in law or expressly granted by school committee policy.

The principal shall have the responsibility for defining the composition of and forming the group pursuant to a process approved by the superintendent and school committee. Parent representatives are selected by the parents of students attending the school, in elections held by the local parent teacher organization. Teacher representatives are to be selected by the teachers in the school. The school council may invite individuals representing community organizations and constituencies to serve as non-school members in the council. The composition of the council will be made with the following provisions:

1. The number of parent representatives must be equal to the number of professional personnel representatives including the principal.

2. Not more than fifty percent of the council shall be non-school members. Non-school members are defined as members who are other than parents, teachers, students, or staff at the school.

3. School Councils should be broadly representative of the diversity of the community.

The council assists the principal in:

1. Adopting well-defined educational goals for the school that are consistent with district policies and curriculum standards.

2. Identifying the educational needs of the students of the school.

3. Reviewing the school building budget annually.

4. Preparing a school improvement plan that will be implemented after review and approval of the superintendent and school committee.

Adopted: December 10, 1997
Revised: July 10, 2013 Mohawk Trail Regional School District Committee
Ref: M.G.L. c.71, sec.59C