

**Newton School Committee Goals  
2014 – 2015**

*The School Committee goals reinforce the 2014-2015 Systemwide and Superintendent Goals. They support the District's efforts toward continuous improvement in academic achievement and social emotional learning for all students; the effective and judicious utilization of resources; and provide accountability to parents, students, and the community. School Committee goals will be developed and assessed annually.*

**Goal 1: To enhance the School Committee's and School Department's communications and engagement with key stakeholders across Newton around key NPS initiative/issues (e.g. accomplishments, new building projects, student assignment etc.)**

Strategies:

- Establish a joint School Committee/NPS subcommittee to facilitate this work.
- Develop a communications plan that lays out an action plan for reaching key stakeholders such as parents, residents, and other elected officials.
- Ensure multiple mechanisms for conducting outreach, providing information, and getting input/feedback (e.g. digital, community meetings, listserv, website).
- Synchronize NPS communications with on-going City of Newton efforts in this area.
  - Ensure School Committee presence on vital committees at the city/district level.

Evidence:

- Regular meetings of subcommittee that is coordinated with and supports key district initiatives
- A written Communications plan and series of action steps; regular updates to assess effectiveness.
- City and SC plans are interconnected/mutually reinforcing.
- Meetings with PTOs at every school
- # of Community Meetings or Forums
- Feedback from constituents, parents and other officials.

**Goal 2: School Committee has an expanded set of tools and strategies to manage crises that are within the purview of the School Committee.**

Strategies:

- Develop a set of guidelines for SC to manage a range of crises that complements, but does not interfere/overlap with NPS and City Crises teams.

- Delineate roles and responsibilities (Chair, Vice-Chair, members) and how to integrate outside expertise such as the city's Legal Department, Mayor, Superintendent, mental health support, etc.
- Ensure SC members receive relevant professional development with regard to media relations, the law, and other key areas of crisis management.

Evidence:

- A written Crisis Management Plan for the SC.
- An "after action" review system to assess and learn from any crisis.
- SC members report feeling better prepared for a range of crises.
- SC members have completed some professional development.

**Goal 3: School Committee meetings are efficient and effective, while promoting productive, and thoughtful deliberation about complex issues.**

Strategies:

- Develop a set of agreed upon set norms for meetings.
- Develop a process for vetting and bringing new topics to SC meetings.
- Develop guidelines for what is an effective SC meeting, including strategies for managing different kinds of conversations.
- Develop a simple process for evaluating meetings based on guidelines.
- Utilize outside resources as needed.

Evidence:

- Written set of norms that are assessed and revisited regularly.
- Written guidelines for ways to bring new topics to the SC.
- Set of criteria for effective SC meetings.
- Data from simple way of evaluating SC meetings against guidelines, criteria, and norms.

**Goal 4: The Leadership Selection process is clear and orderly.**

Strategies:

- Develop set of guidelines for Leadership Caucus elections that is based on best practices across the state, and includes guidance for in-coming (new) members.

Evidence:

- Set of guidelines in place for 2015 Leadership elections.
- Fair, clear election process takes place.

