PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW

The School Committee is a public servant and its meetings and records will be a matter of public information except as such meetings and records pertain to individual personnel and other classified matters.

The School Committee supports the right of the people to know about the programs and services of their schools and will make every effort to disseminate information. All requests for information will be acted on fairly, completely, and expeditiously by the Records Access Officer (RAO).

Effective January 1, 2017, the Massachusetts Public Records Law, G.L. c.66 and c.4§7(26), provides that a School District must, within 10 business days (Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays), respond to a request for records by providing access to or a copy of such records, or explaining any delay or denial. These guidelines are intended to assist members of the public seeing access to public records in the custody of the School Department. Request for all commonly available public record documents of the School District can be found on the district's website

In addition, the official minutes of the Committee, its written policies and regulations, and its financial records will be open for inspection at the office of the Superintendent by any citizen desiring to examine them during hours when the office is open. No records pertaining to individual students or staff members will be released for inspection by the public or any unauthorized persons by the Superintendent or other persons responsible for the custody of confidential files. The exception to this will be information about an individual employee (or student) that has been authorized in writing for release by the employee (or student or student's parent).

Each building administrator is authorized to use all means available to keep parents and others in the particular school's community informed about the school's program and activities.

SOURCE: MASC October 2016

LEGAL REF.:   M.G.L. 4&; 66:10; 30A 18-25

CROSS REFS.:   BEDG, Minutes

Agawam School Committee 2017