



**School Committee role
in financial oversight**

OUTSIDE

of budget season

What is the School Committee authority?

Why does it matter?

“A school committee may award a contract to a superintendent of schools or **a school business administrator** for periods not exceeding six years...”

MGL Ch.71, sec.41



“The selectmen and all boards, committees, heads of departments and officers authorized to expend money **shall approve and transmit** to the town accountant as often as once each month all bills, drafts, orders and pay rolls chargeable to the respective appropriations of which they have the expenditure.”

MGL Ch.41, Sec.56



check
and
balance

“School committees of cities and towns and regional district school committees may **accept grants or gifts** for educational purposes from federal, state, county and municipal governments or agencies thereof, charitable foundations and private corporations and disburse the same for such purposes.”

MGL Ch.71, Sec.37A



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“The vote of the legislative body of a city or town shall establish the total appropriation for the support of the public schools, but **may not limit the authority** of the school committee to determine expenditures within the total appropriation.”

MGL Ch.71, sec.34

“only the school committee has the authority to transfer amounts between line items in its budget and cannot delegate this authority to any other municipal board or officer”

DOR opinion 93-660



transparency

**“...shall review and
approve budgets...”**

MGL Ch. 71, sec. 37A

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