

## **SCHOOL ATTORNEY/LEGAL SERVICES**

The School Board recognizes that the increasing complexity of school unit operations frequently requires procurement of professional legal services. Consequently, it shall retain an attorney or law firm for purposes of systematically securing such services. The school attorney shall be an individual who has been admitted to practice law in Maine.

A decision to seek legal advice or assistance in behalf of the school unit shall normally be made by the superintendent or by the School Board chair. Such action shall occur as is consistent with approved School Board policy or standard practice and meets an obvious need of the unit. It may also take place as a consequence of formal School Board direction.

The school attorney shall render administrative advice, conduct or assist with the conduct of school district litigation and provide specialized legal services. The legal advisor may be requested to attend School Board meetings or other activities when his/her services are needed.

Many types of instances of legal assistance to the unit may be considered routine and not necessitating specific School Board approval or prior notice. However, when the administration concludes that unusual types or amounts of professional legal service may be required, the School Board directs the administration to so advise it and to expeditiously seek either initial or continuing authorization for such service.

First Reading:           October 6, 1999

Second Reading and Adoption:   December 1, 1999