

Attorney(s)/Corporation Counsel

The attorney of the North Canaan Board of Education shall be the legal advisor of the Board and its officers in questions related to their official duties. The Board of Education may appoint, either on a full-time or retainer basis, an attorney or attorneys to serve as school attorney. The primary function of the attorney is to provide professional legal counsel and representation for the Board and Superintendent.

The Board recognizes that the increasing complexity for school district operations frequently requires procurement of professional legal services. Therefore, the Board shall designate an attorney and/or law firm to provide such services on an ongoing basis. The school attorney(s) shall be admitted to practice law in Connecticut. The Board reserves the right to obtain legal services outside of its designated attorney/law firm as deemed appropriate.

A decision to seek legal advice or assistance on behalf of the District shall normally be made by the Superintendent or Principal. The Board Chairperson may contact the attorney with knowledge and consent of the Board of Education. Such services may also be obtained as a consequence of a formal vote of the Board. In the case of an emergency, when Board approval is not possible in a timely manner, the Board Chair may contact the Board attorney regarding the issue. At any time the attorney is contacted at the request of the Board, or in an emergency, the results of the communication will be reported back to the Board and the Superintendent or Principal in a timely manner.

To ensure the prudent and cost-effective use of legal services, the District will limit and designate the persons with the authority to request services or advice from contracted legal counsel. The persons authorized to confer with and/or seek the legal advice of the Board attorney include the Superintendent or his/her designee, Principal, Business Manager, and Special Education Director. The Board may authorize the Board Chair or a specific member to confer with legal counsel on its behalf. Legal counsel will not be used unnecessarily to make management decisions or to obtain readily available information such as district policies.

Legal services required by the District may include, but not be limited to:

1. Providing general legal advice to the Board and/or administration;
2. Assisting with labor negotiations;
3. Assisting with personnel matters;
4. Assisting with expulsions and other disciplinary matters;
5. Conduct and/or assist with pending or actual litigation involving the District;
6. Other specialized legal services; and
7. Attendance at Board meetings or other activities as appropriate.

The performance of the school attorney(s) shall be subject to an evaluation by the Region One Board of Education and the Superintendent every even year at the May Board of Education

meeting.

The Board retains the right to terminate the service of any attorney.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes

10-220 Duties of Boards of Education

Adopted: October 14, 1993

Revised: November 9, 2021

NORTH CANAAN BOARD OF EDUCATION
North Canaan, Connecticut