

SCHOOL BOARD LEGAL STATUS

The Constitution of the State places the responsibility of establishing and maintaining public schools in the jurisdiction of the State Legislature, which provides for a State Board of Education charged with the general supervision of the public schools. The law also provides local public schools shall be maintained, developed, and operated by locally elected school committees or boards of education. This Regional School Unit Board of Directors derives its legal authority from the State Constitution, state statutes, and regulations of the State Board of Education.

There shall be nineteen members on the Board of Directors, two from Etna, two from Dixmont, two from Hartland, two from Palmyra, two from Plymouth, two from St. Albans, three from Corinna, and four from Newport. Each director shall serve a 3-year term, except that the initial terms of the members of the first Regional School Unit Board shall be staggered according to the Reorganization Plan. Each town will elect their subsequent representatives as they normally would following the initial election that was held in November 2008.

Each year as a part of the board reorganization procedure, one director is elected to serve as chair and is the presiding officer at all its meetings. One director is elected to serve as vice-chair. In the absence of the chair, the vice-chair will assume the role of acting chair with all rights and responsibilities of the chair contained therein.

Legal Reference: Title 20A MRSA Section 1001

Cross Reference: BDB - Board Officers