

**Wareham School Committee/Superintendent Operating Protocols  
2018-2019**

As elected members of the Wareham School Committee, we, including the Superintendent, accept the high honor and trust that has been placed in us to ensure that the Wareham Public Schools educate students so that they are supported, challenged, and engaged. Students will be introduced to innovative, globally minded and educational experiences. To that end, we hereby publicly commit collectively, and individually, to the following operating protocols. We shall...

**Operate**

1. Represent ALL students within the district and place their well-being above all else in the decisions we make.
2. Honor the School Committee roles and obligations as elected members of the community, remembering that we represent the entire community at all times.
3. Respect the authority of the Superintendent and District staff in managing the day-to-day operations as well as exercise leadership in vision, planning, policy making, and advocacy on behalf of the students.
4. Acknowledge that the School Committee meeting is a business meeting of the School Committee that is held in public-not a public meeting.
5. Ensure meetings are effective and efficient by being well-prepared and conduct district business through a set agenda, acknowledging that any other business brought forth, will need to be addressed at subsequent meetings allowing for the proper time and forum for research, vetting, and preparation by all members of the Committee.
6. Promise to provide service to the community as a whole and vow that School Committee positions shall not be used for personal or partisan gain.
7. Operate respectfully and in accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Open Meeting Law in deliberations on which public policy is based while maintaining operational and executive session confidentiality.

**Communicate**

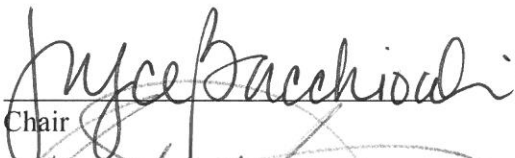

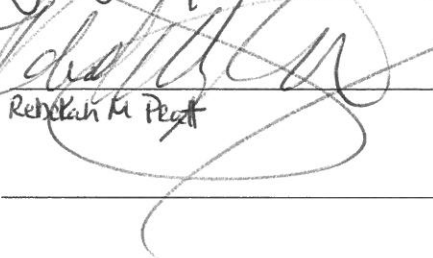
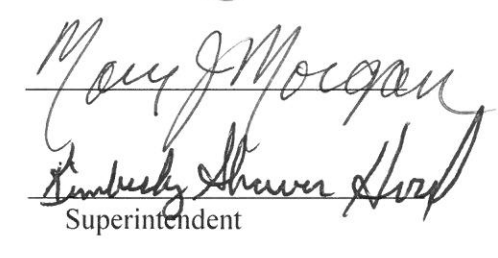
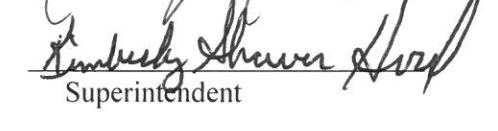
1. Promote a positive image for our school system-through our actions, agendas, and all communications thereof.
2. Work to build trust between and among School Committee members, the Superintendent, and the school and town administration by treating all with dignity and respect, even in times of disagreement by maintaining an open environment where each member, the Superintendent, and the public is empowered to freely express opinions, concerns, and ideas.
3. Strive to avoid 'surprises' for the Committee or Superintendent at School Committee meetings allowing for all to proactively prepare for meetings and agenda items, thus facilitating the most expedient and positive outcomes for our students, staff, schools, and our community.
4. Agree that when not in a scheduled meeting, questions, concerns, and requests for information/data will be through the School Committee Chair and Superintendent, rather than directly to district staff.
5. Whenever possible, all committee members will be informed equally regarding pertinent issues affecting our schools.

**Make Decisions**

1. Keep an open mind and strive to make decisions by consensus using the best information available at the time, considering available facts, research, best practice, public input, and the Superintendent's and other members' recommendations, proposals, and suggestions.
2. Engage in critical thinking, prior to making a Committee decision.
3. Recognize and respect that our authority exists only when a quorum of the Committee meets and is derived only through a majority decision of the Committee acting as a whole during an open, public meeting.
4. Accept that individual members do not have authority, will not take unilateral action, and when attending meetings, boards, or acting as a liaison from the School Committee, will only speak as individuals and not for the committee except when reporting a decision of the majority.

These protocols are to be reviewed and signed yearly at the first meeting following the spring election, and/or at such time as a new committee member or superintendent begins their term of service.

Signatures

 Chair	 Laura Spear
 Rebekah M. Peart	 Mary J. Morgan
	 Superintendent