

<b>Regional School Unit 73 Board of Directors</b>	<b>CODE: BB</b> Page 1
<b>SUBJECT: Board of Directors' Legal Status</b>	
<b>DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY:</b> June 3, 2010 <b>DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:</b> 2017 <b>CANCELS POLICY CODE:</b> None <b>REVISION DATE:</b> None	
<b>JURISDICTION:</b> RSU 73 Schools	

**POLICY:**

Recognizing that “a general diffusion of the advantages of education [is] essential to the preservation of rights and liberties of the people,” the Constitution of the State of Maine declares that the Legislature has the duty to require communities to provide for the support and maintenance of public schools in order to further this objective. Maine law establishes a State Department of Education to supervise a coordinated system of public education, a Commissioner to enforce regulatory requirements and to provide technical assistance and educational leadership, and a State Board of Education to act as a body with certain policymaking, administrative and advisory functions, but places the responsibility for control and management of public schools with locally elected School Committees, School Boards or Boards of Directors. Thus, RSU 73 derives its legal authority from the State’s Constitution, state statutes and regulations of the State Board of Education, as well as Federal laws and regulations.

By custom and tradition, local School Boards/Committees have responsibilities to the local citizenry they serve and which elect them to office. Recognizing this parallel concept of authority and responsibility, the Board becomes a policy-making body for the school district serving within the framework provided by law and responding to the will of the local citizenry.

There shall be 13 members on the Board: 6 from Jay; 4 from Livermore Falls and 3 from Livermore. Each member serves for three years (except the initial terms of the members shall be staggered in accordance with Title 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1472-B) and these terms overlap so that in each year a directorship or directorships are vacated and must be re-supplied by election. Each member has one vote.

Each year as a part of the Board reorganization procedure, one member is elected to serve as Chair and is the presiding officer at all its meetings.

<b>Regional School Unit 73 Board of Directors</b>	<b>CODE: BB</b> Page: 2
<b>SUBJECT: Board of Directors' Legal Status</b>	

One member 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: 20-A MRSA §§ 1001, 1251 et seq.  
20-A MRSA §§ 1451; 1471 (RSU)

Cross Reference: BDB - Board Officers

**Adopted: March 8, 2012**