

Procedure in the Event of a Vacant School Committee Seat – Due to Death or Resignation

Per the Acts and Resolves of Massachusetts: Chapter 108, Section 7 D of the Acts of 1991¹, within 10 days of the notice provided by the city clerk that a vacancy exists in the office of any school committee member due to death or resignation, the School Committee nominating panel must convene to put forth recommendations for a replacement. Within 30 days of the panel’s first meeting, the members must present the mayor with between three and five names for consideration. The mayor then has 15 days to choose and appoint one of those recommended candidates. If, however, the panel fails to send the mayor a list of candidates within thirty days, the mayor has the power to appoint any person he or she deems suitable to the vacant seat. The candidate appointed to the vacant positions will serve the remainder of the vacant seat’s term.

Below is the timeline specific to filling the vacant seat due to the recent resignation of School Committee Chair, Michael Loconto.

Timeline for filling vacant position due to resignation

Oct. 22, 2020	Michael Loconto resigned from the School Committee
Oct. 28, 2020	City clerk provided notice of accepted resignation
Nov. 7, 2020 (10 days after notice is received)	Nominating Panel must convene within 10 days
Dec. 7, 2020 (30 days after 1 st meeting)	Nominating Panel must present its recommendations to the Mayor within 30 days of the nominating panels first meeting
Dec. 22, 2020 (15 days after recommendations) This is the last possible day for action on this matter.	The Mayor must appoint a new Committee member to fill the remainder of the vacant position’s term within 15 days of receiving the recommendations

¹Chapter 108, Section 7 D of the Acts of 1991 “An Act Reorganizing the School Committee of the City of Boston” <http://hdl.handle.net/2452/10406>