

Through taking part in Student Government Day I have learned numerous amounts of interesting things. I was chosen to be a part of the School Committee for the day. I had never realized how much the School Committee truly does for not only the schools, but for our town.

The School Committee is made up of five members, three of them being the president, vice president, and the secretary. All of the members must take a seminar to get into the School Committee and obviously you must be aware of what the state rules and boundaries are. They meet twice a month on the first and second Tuesday. I was very surprised to find out that the School Committee is actually the boss of the Superintendent of the schools. Though the Superintendent gets paid, the School Committee is completely volunteered. So why do they do it?

They do it because they love seeing children grow up and get an excellent education here in Acushnet. Some of them are teachers themselves, and have been involved with education related things for a very long time. Being a part of the Acushnet School Committee is also a way for them to give back to this wonderful town.

There is a lot of frustration involved with the School Committee. In this decade our economy is going down the drain and getting money is not a simple task. We are beginning to get into a recession. The definition of a recession is an extended decline in general business activity, typically two consecutive quarters of falling real gross national product. Because of this we are not getting the funds we need for a lot of important things children need to succeed in school. This could also end up making teachers get laid off or even lose their jobs, and that would be a very unfortunate thing for our town.

Although the School Committee is struggling for money, they are still continuing to get more advanced educational programs for students. They recently bought a new program that will hopefully help children to pass MCAS. This program will also put children all on the same level of education.

The School Committee has many important jobs in the town. They make the policies for Acushnet. This means they make the guidelines and rules for the town of Acushnet to follow. Like I said earlier, the School Committee gives the Superintendent direction as well. Being one of the most important things that the School Committee does, they control the budget. They make sure that they spend just the right amount of money. I feel it is incredible that these individuals offer so much time and effort to our town when they are not bringing home a paycheck. I had an amazing time learning about their special responsibilities in our town on Student Government Day.