

The board, as a corporate body, may transact business only at official meetings of the board. An individual board member has no authority to act absent the delegation of authority by the board at an official meeting.

As defined by law, an official meeting of the board includes any meeting, assembly, or gathering together at any time or place or the simultaneous communication by conference telephone or other electronic means of a majority of the members of a public body for the purpose of conducting hearings, participating in deliberations, or voting upon or otherwise transacting the public business of the public body. However, a social meeting or other informal assembly or gathering together of the members of a public body does not constitute an official meeting unless called or held to evade the spirit and purposes of the open meetings law.

**A. TYPES OF MEETINGS**

While the board is determined to operate efficiently, it also is mindful of the importance of thoughtful planning and discussion prior to taking formal action. Regular meetings will be held at a predetermined time and place to conduct the business of the board. In addition, the board may hold specially-called meetings and emergency meetings as it deems necessary to act in a timely manner and provide its members and executive staff with the opportunity to have an exchange of ideas and receive input from other staff, parents, students, and the community.

**B. REGULAR MEETINGS**

The Haywood County Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting on the second Monday of each month. The time of the meeting will be determined by the chairperson.

The superintendent shall keep on file the schedule of regular meetings with the predetermined time and place. The schedule will be revised only in accordance with legal requirements for notice.

As practicable, the United States flag and the North Carolina state flag will be prominently displayed at board meetings, and the Pledge of Allegiance will be recited prior to conducting business at each meeting.

**C. EMERGENCY MEETINGS**

An emergency meeting may be called in order to address generally unexpected circumstances that require immediate consideration by the board. The chairperson, or the vice-chairperson, if the chairperson is unable to act, or the superintendent shall call an emergency meeting when it is determined that the meeting is necessary and cannot be delayed until 48 hours' notice is provided for a special meeting as described in Section D,

below.

#### **D. SPECIALLY-CALLED MEETINGS**

##### **1. Specially-Called Meetings Generally**

Specially-called meetings may be scheduled in between regular meetings of the board. Work sessions, retreats, and public hearings are specific types of specially-called meetings. The board chairperson (or the vice-chairperson, if the chairperson is not available) or the superintendent may call special meetings when necessary to conduct business that cannot reasonably be handled at regular meetings. The board chairperson or superintendent shall call a special meeting if a majority of the members of the board so requests.

##### **2. Retreats and Workshops**

Retreats and workshops are specially-called meetings that may be scheduled in order to give the board more time to deliberate or evaluate issues.

##### **3. Public Hearings**

Public hearings are official proceedings during which members of the public are given an opportunity to be heard. Public hearings may be required by law or deemed advisable by the board. Public hearings that are not required by law may be scheduled when the chairperson or superintendent determines that the public hearing is advisable or when a majority of the members of the board so requests. Notice of all public hearings will be provided as required by law and will include the subject, date, place, and time of the hearing as well as any rules regarding participation, such as the length of time for each speaker. The purpose of a public hearing is to gather information and hear opinions from the community. Generally, board members will respond only to seek clarification. At the appointed time, the chairperson or designee shall call the hearing to order and preside over it in accordance with any rules regarding participation adopted by the board. When the allotted time expires or when no one wishes to speak, the chairperson or designee shall declare the hearing ended.

#### **E. OPEN MEETINGS LAW COMPLIANCE**

The board will comply with the open meetings law, including notice of meetings.

The date, time, and location of all meetings will be published by the secretary or designee. The regular meeting schedule will be posted on the school system website, and notice of a meeting will also be posted at the Central Office and the Education Center.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-41; 143-318.9, -318.10, -318.12, -318.14

Cross References: Compliance with the Open Meetings Law (policy 2320)

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: January 11, 2016; January 13, 2020