

1 The Transylvania County Board of Education (the “board”) recognizes that, collectively and
2 individually, all members of the board must adhere to a code of ethics as required by G.S. 160A-
3 86 and G.S. 115C-47(57).

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5 **A. BOARD MEMBER ETHICAL REQUIREMENTS**

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7 The following standards will guide each board member in the performance of his or her
8 official duties:

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10 1. the need to obey all applicable state and federal laws regarding official actions
11 taken as a board member;
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13 2. the need to uphold the integrity and independence of the board member’s office;
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15 3. the need to avoid impropriety in the exercise of the board’s and board member’s
16 official duties;
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18 4. the need to perform faithfully the duties of the office; and
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20 5. the need to conduct the affairs of the board in an open and public manner,
21 complying with all applicable laws governing open meetings and public records.
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23 **B. SPECIFIC BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS**

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25 In order to implement the above standards, each member of the board commits to do the
26 following:

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28 1. attend all regularly scheduled board meetings insofar as possible and become
29 informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;
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31 2. endeavor to make policy decisions while always keeping in mind the objective of
32 providing students the opportunity to receive a sound basic education and only
33 after full discussion at publicly held board meetings;
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35 3. render all decisions based on the available facts and independent judgment and
36 refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;
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38 4. model civility to students, employees, and all elements of the community by
39 encouraging the free expression of opinion by all board members and engaging in
40 respectful dialogue with fellow board members on matters being considered by
41 the board;
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43 5. respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law
44 and refrain from unauthorized disclosure of matters discussed in closed session;

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6. work with other board members to establish effective board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the superintendent;
 7. communicate to other board members and the superintendent expressions of public reaction to board policies and school programs;
 8. learn about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by the state and national school boards associations;
 9. comply with North Carolina General Statute 115C-50 by earning the required 12 hours of training every two years;
 10. comply with G.S. 160A-87 by earning two hours of ethics education within 12 months of election or appointment to the board;
 11. support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school employees and avoid allowing personal relationships and biases to influence decision making;
 12. refrain from investigating or attempting to resolve complaints received personally, but instead direct the complainant to follow the board's complaint or grievance process to resolve concerns;
 13. avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest and refrain from using the board member's position on the board for personal or partisan gain;
 14. as stated in board policy 2121, Board Member Conflict of Interest, refrain from participating in, deliberating on, voting on, or attempting to influence any person with respect to any matter pertaining to the employment with the board of the board member's spouse, including but not limited to hiring, transfer, promotion, demotion, suspension, discipline, performance evaluation, or review or investigation of a complaint of any kind;
 15. take no private action that will compromise the board or administration; and
 16. remember always that a board member's first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.

85 All newly elected board members are expected to sign a code of ethics statement that includes
86 these provisions at the organizational meeting of the board.
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88 Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -47(1), -47(57), -50; 160A-86, -87; *Leandro v. State*, 346 N.C.
89 336 (1997)

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91 Cross References: **Board Member Conflict of Interest (policy 2121)**, Board Member
92 Opportunities for Development (policy 2123)

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94 Adopted: October 19, 2015

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96 Revised: December 14, 205; **[DATE]**

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