

1 Meetings of the Transylvania County Board of Education (the “board”) are conducted for the
2 purpose of carrying on the official business of the school system. The public is cordially invited
3 to attend board meetings to observe the board as it conducts its official business.
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5 The board of education, as an elected representative body of the school system, also wishes to
6 provide a forum for citizens to express interests and concerns related to the school system. In
7 order that the board may conduct an orderly meeting while providing an opportunity for input,
8 individuals or groups may be heard by the board in accordance with this policy or subsection D.2
9 of policy 2300, Board Meetings, which addresses public hearings.

10 11 A. PUBLIC COMMENT

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13 Each month, ~~a the first~~ part of at least one regularly scheduled board meeting will be set
14 aside for citizens to address the board through public comment. ~~Each speaker will~~
15 ~~receive three (3) minutes to present comments; however, the public comment session will~~
16 ~~not exceed thirty (30) minutes total except by majority vote of the board.~~ A sign-up sheet
17 will be available ~~thirty (30) minutes before the meeting begins~~ for any individual or
18 group to indicate their desire to address the board. ~~During the public comment period,~~
19 ~~the board chair will recognize speakers in the order in which they signed in. Substitute~~
20 ~~speakers will not be permitted and speakers may not donate any portion of their time to~~
21 ~~another speaker. If a speaker is unable to present all of his or her information within the~~
22 ~~specified time limit, the speaker may provide the board with the additional information in~~
23 ~~written form. If an unusually large number of people requests to speak, a majority of the~~
24 ~~board may decide to reduce the time for each individual or to require the designation of a~~
25 ~~spokesperson for each group of persons supporting or opposing the same positions. The~~
26 ~~board will decide the amount of time devoted to public comments. The superintendent~~
27 ~~shall develop~~ ~~At any time, the board may establish~~ additional procedures to ensure that
28 public comment sessions proceed in an efficient and orderly manner.
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30 Board members will not respond to individuals who address the board except to request
31 clarification of points made by the presenter.
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33 Except in cases of emergency, information received during presentations will not be
34 acted upon at the time it is received. It will take unanimous vote of the board members
35 present to take action on a presentation considered to be of an unusual or emergency
36 nature at the time it is presented.
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38 Disruptions by any person or persons of a public meeting will be subject to action in
39 accordance with G.S. 143-318.17.
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41 If the board does not hold a regular meeting during a month, the board will not provide a
42 time for public comment at any other meeting held during that month, unless a majority
43 of the board votes to allow public comment at the meeting or unless the purpose of the
44 meeting is a public hearing.

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B. REPORTS OF COMPLAINTS

Complaints about the performance of school personnel, implementation of board policy, the quality of the educational program, or school facilities should be submitted initially for a response to the school system official responsible for the program or facility or to the superintendent. The superintendent or designee shall make available this policy and other relevant grievance procedures to any individual or group submitting a complaint.

Legal References: G.S. 143-318.10 and -318.17; 115C-36, -51

Cross References: Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (policy 1740/4010), Responding to Complaints (policy 1742/5060), Role of Board Members in Handling Complaints (policy 2122), Board Meetings (policy 2300), Board Meeting Agenda (policy 2330)

Adopted: December 21, 2009

Revised: October 19, 2015; [DATE]

REVISED