

**A. QUALIFICATIONS**

Any person possessing the qualifications for election to public office as provided in Article VI, Section 6 of the Constitution of North Carolina and who is a qualified voter and resident of the election district from which he or she seeks to be elected is eligible to serve as a member of the Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”).

Any person elected or appointed to the board and also employed by the board must resign his or her employment before taking office as a member of the board.

Membership on the board may be held concurrently with an appointive office but not with an elective office. See G.S. 128-1.1.

**B. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF OFFICE**

The board of education will consist of five (5) members. Four members of the board have terms of 4 years, staggered so that two of these terms expire at the next general election and the other two at the following general election. The remaining member of the board has a term of 2 years. All elections are nonpartisan and are to be held at the time of the November general election in even-numbered years.

At every general election, two of the 4-year terms expire and will be filled by the two nominees receiving the two highest numbers of votes. Nominees receiving the next highest numbers of votes will fill the expiring two-year term and any 4-year term vacancies will be filled as described in Policy 1315, Unexpired Term Fulfillment.

**C. OATH OF OFFICE**

Before taking office, newly elected board members will take and sign the following oath or affirmation at the board meeting held in December following their election:

“I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as a member of the Watauga County Board of Education, so help me God [omit phrase if affirming].”

If a board member enters on the duties of his or her office before taking, subscribing, and filing the oath of office, he or she will be ejected from office.

**D. ORIENTATION**

The superintendent shall provide orientation for new board members within thirty days of their taking office.

**E. STUDENT MEMBERS**

Because youth have fresh and different perspectives that aid in keeping the focus on student success, adding a student member to the Board of Education will create a direct link from the discussions and decisions made by the Board to the youth of our community. Youth members will advise the Board of the views of their constituency and assist with community support for district initiatives. Youth members will add enthusiasm and value to the work of the WCBOE as they learn valuable skills for their future.

Two students from Watauga High School shall represent students of the Watauga County Schools as non-voting members of the Watauga County School Board of Education.

The superintendent shall provide procedures to identify and assist the board in selecting the student members.

Legal References: N.C. Const. art. VI, §§ 6 and 7; G.S. 14-229; 115C-35, -37; 128-1.1; 1967 Session Laws Ch. 1254, 1969 Session Law Ch.1260, and 1985 Session Laws Ch. 55

Cross References:

Adopted: November 9, 2015

Replaces: Board policy 1.02, Membership of the Board

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