

Descriptor Term:
COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS LAW

Descriptor Code:
2.3200

Legal References: G.S. 143-318.0, -.9, -.10, -.11, -.12

Cross References: 2.6100 Board Attorney; 2.3210 Closed Sessions

The board affirms the public policy of this State that hearings, deliberations and actions of public bodies be conducted openly.

A. APPLICABILITY

All "public bodies" holding official meetings must comply with the requirements of the open meetings law in Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes. The term "public bodies" includes the board, any committees of the board, school improvement teams and, as defined by law, any other committee of two or more members that exercises or is authorized to exercise a legislative, policy-making, quasi-judicial, administrative or advisory function, unless the committee or group is solely comprised of professional staff.

B. COMPLIANCE

As secretary to the board, the superintendent shall provide required notice and record and maintain minutes of all official meetings of the board, board committees or committees appointed by the board. The principal or designee shall be responsible for compliance with the open meetings law by school improvement teams or any other public bodies at the school level. The superintendent or his/her designee shall make copies of the open meetings law available to any public bodies associated with the school system. The board and other public bodies of the school system are encouraged to consult the local board attorney in accordance with policy 2.6100, Board Attorney, to obtain advice on complying with the legal requirements of the open meetings law.

1. Notice

Notice shall be given in accordance with law for all regularly scheduled meetings, emergency meetings, and any other meetings, such as public hearings, work sessions, electronic meetings or retreats.

2. Minutes

For all official meetings, whether held in open or closed session, minutes shall be recorded and maintained in accordance with all legal requirements.

3. Closed Sessions

Closed sessions shall be held only when required to permit the board to act in the public interest and as permitted by law. A motion to go into closed session must be made and adopted in open session in accordance with the requirements of G.S. 143-318.11.