

Tickets Needed: Seating Limited in Book Challenge

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With a possible overflow crowd expected at the Board of Education office tomorrow night, the Watauga County Board of Education will hear the final appeal regarding the use of *The House of the Spirits* in a public meeting, but one restricted in the number that can occupy the meeting room. The school board states in a release that the meeting is not a hearing at which public comments will be heard, and says only the teacher in whose class the book is used and the parent who is appealing its use will make statements to the Board of Education. Superintendent Dr. David Fonseca said in the release, "We're making this announcement in advance because we don't want people to come expecting that they can address the Board of Education and then be disappointed when they find out otherwise," and he said, "Public comments were received at the February 10th Board meeting. The purpose of this meeting is for Board members to hear directly from the teacher who uses the book and the parent who opposes its use." With that setting, admission to the 7pm meeting will be limited through the use of tickets to ensure safe conditions for the appeal. The tickets are free and will be available at the Board of Education with a limit of two tickets per person beginning at 4:30 p.m. this Thursday. Doors to the building will open at 6:00 p.m.