

Book Challenge Meeting Moved

Written by Steve Frank

Thursday, 27 February 2014 06:06

The Watauga County Board of Education, late yesterday afternoon, moved their meeting regarding the use of *The House of the Spirits*, a controversial book used in an honors sophomore English class at Watauga High, the meeting moved to courtroom one of the Watauga County Courthouse on West King Street. The members of the Board of Education changed the venue for the meeting based on the recommendations of local law enforcement and due to the number of folks who might attend. The room is double the size of the Gragg Education Center meeting room. The meeting will still take place at the original time of 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 27th. Doors to the building will open at 6:00 p.m. With the seating for approximately 205 people, tickets will not be required to attend the meeting, though admission may be limited if required to comply with fire safety standards. Marshall Ashcraft, spokesman for the Watauga Schools, stressed that the meeting is not a public forum, and that only the teacher and the parent challenging the book's use will speak. Ashcraft pointed out that the review process for hearing objections to books and other media used in the Watauga County Schools is governed by the Board of Education policy, "Selection and Use of Educational Media."