

Melissa Caporale
Remote learning

I support the board in its decision to keep all students in remote learning. It is not safe for staff or students to be in the school building when our community infection rates continue to climb.

Kirsten Joubert
Student Achievement Meeting Nov 23, 2020 SPED Section

01/19/2021 Student Achievement Meeting November 23, 2020 SPED SECTION

Dear Ms. Moore, Mr. Sutton, Ms. Mahaffey and Board Members

Pam Doak stated all the resources available for local level schools to work with central office. Where are all the parent resources? Ms. Hamilton said they offer many parent resources. This is not true. Please stop treating the board and families like fools.

Ms. Hamilton stated Recovery Plans are in the works but glossed over it. She did not say when she would have this put in place. She did not say if this is for elementary students only. She did not state how this recovery plan affects middle and high school students. Will there be such a plan? Does a parent request this recovery plan? When will the plan launch? How as a board you did not get her to elaborate? Ms. Moore are you engaged in this presentation? Are you wearing earplugs?

Thank you

Kirsten Joubert

Reed Thompson
Show real leadership

I would like to first thank the board for coming to the logical conclusion of prioritizing the safety of school employees, students, and the community at large by extending the virtual instruction. This should have been a no-brainer considering that community spread is only increasing. Children would be returning to these same communities and potentially spreading the virus in both directions.

The hard part is over. You've already said "no" to the unreasonable parents once you agreed to delaying the reopening of schools. Now is the time to show real leadership to keep everyone safe, including the delusional parents that would rather risk lives than watch their kids at home. Now is the time to look at the data and make informed decisions. This is no longer a new crisis, this is an enemy we know much more about. It's time to end the school year virtually and reassess in the fall after more vaccine doses can be distributed.

We all know the right decision. Don't let fear of backlash lead you to the path of needlessly endangering the lives of the community at large.

Raquel Stroud
Pandemic Support for Teenagers

Dear WCPSS BOE

Helping teen students achieve is a complex, difficult job. Helping teen students achieve in a pandemic is even harder. Teachers are doing the best they can in this virtual learning environment.

You as a board need to focus on building a system that is stronger and better for its students.

Teens in a pandemic are doing the best they can, at any given moment, to satisfy one or more of their basic needs. When you understand this, and you will be more likely to feel sorry for—rather than angry at—these unfortunate kids.

Realizing that teens are doing their best during this pandemic should allow for flexibility and grace and educators can be stop blaming lazy kids for the lack of achievement. If school professionals believe that a child is doing their best, then they can devise strategies that may not only help the child but also significantly increase their own control over the situation.

Every teen wants to be a success, and the struggling student the underachiever wants desperately to be part of the educational mainstream. If every teacher told a teenager I love having you in my class what a world it be.

Barb Anderson

Student Achievement Meeting November 23, 2020 SPED section

Dear Ms. Moore, Mr. Sutton, and Board Members

Thank you for an opportunity to express parental concerns around the special education program within WCPSS. We found the presentation of Ms. Hamilton to be quite difficult to follow and no one from the board asked questions. Were you prompted from Ms. Moore to zip the lip on this section and just roll with it? Were you prompted from Ms. Hamilton before presentation to just listen don't question? We know as parents this department does not like to be questioned on any areas.

Parents know that central office SPED department is not a support resource. It's been a mystery for over 8 years how large the central office sped department is. She mentions having a team and that she works closely with parents. No such team exists.

District is not compliant with 90-day timelines. What are the consequences of not being compliant? Is WCPSS fined from the state? If timelines are in place and email notifications are set up to notify principals, how would it be possible that a school district this large would not stay compliant. It seems systems are in place, so what is the loophole. No one on the board addressed this question. She said its an area of struggle for WCPSS. This is terrible leadership.

The problem here is that Central office SPED department manipulate, bully, and intimidate with their responses which in turn is sent from principals and LEA back to parents. It then creates friction and animosity at the local level causing the local level school department to have a terrible reputation. Who really wants that?? Is this a school system that is centered around children, and children needs.

She never addressed state complaints, in her slide. She has it bulleted on slide 11. State complaints were high the year before pandemic and are still raging in the pandemic. Yet no one on the board chose to drill down on this. What is Ms. Hamilton hiding?

Not every family can afford an advocate. Not every family can afford attorneys. Due process is dragged out increasing unnecessary costs for parents. Why would a family be forced to take money out of 401K, IRA's in order to address the needs of their child? It is appalling that no one spoke up as a board. Why is there no accountability from the top, how is it Ms. Hamilton still has a job?

Are you aware that she stated the only way to get a resolution is OCR complaint or Due Process? It is at that time they work very hard to seek resolution. Ladies and Gentlemen of the board, this is terrible, and no one is speaking up on how to stop it. Families for years have asked where the conflict resolution team within WCPSS is. It does not exist.

Regards,

Barb Anderson

Tania Salivia

Student Achievement Meeting November 23, 2020 SPED SECTION

Dear Ms. Moore, Mr. Sutton, Ms. Machaffey and Board Members

Thank you, Mr. Chris Haggerty for bringing up how can we help the SPED department. As one can watch on the you tube video below. Please forward to the 1:45:31 of this video. He suggests multiple ways for improving the department, he leads Ms. Hamilton into many areas with suggestions. Ms. Hamilton is hesitant and not prepared to answer this.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhGgJVAgqas>

If school psychologist is a shortage, why doesn't WCPSS contract out the work to local psychologist and pay for it. Where is the list of approved SPED psychologists? Outsourcing it seems like an easy solution. Why is Ms. Hamilton in this position to lead 19,000 students to success and completion of earning a high school diploma?

The blame is now paperwork and she does not see a way to improve the 80 percent timeline. It seems that she is unfit for the career that Ms. Moore has assigned her. This department needs a full examination.

Non-Certified staff can assist in paperwork. She stutters and cannot formulate a sentence and minimizes the suggestion offered by Mr. Haggerty. Why is that because the leadership is not innovative, and willing to resolve. The IDEA is LAW! Non-certified staff can assist in paperwork, stop saying this department is ran top notch. Let us be mindful that the general education teacher that shows up in a student's IEP typically has zero knowledge of the sped student. Who is she kidding? If your child is in 3rd grade the Gen-Ed teacher that shows up is a 5th grade teacher. This madness continues at the middle and high school level. It is so broken and mismanaged. Replace Ms. Hamilton.

Regards, Tania Salivia

Shelly Guidry

Transracial Identity Transracial Expression add to Policy of Discrimination and Bullying

Dear Wake County Public School Board Members

As we make changes/additions to the policy regarding transgender students, I ask that you include transracial students.

Transracial (identity) are individuals who assert a racial identity for themselves which differs from their birth race. We need to support those who identify with a racial group other than the one into which they were born.

Students that identify as the opposite race than what they were born into for example white student identifying more with black, brown are often teased, bully, and called awful names. This also occurs when black, brown students are drawn to the identity of their white peers. These transracial students need to be added to the discrimination policy.

Regards Shelly Guidry

<https://www.essence.com/news/rachel-dolezal-transracial-identity-opinions/>

Denise Rogers

Student Achievement Meeting November 23, 2020 SPED SECTION

Dear Ms. Moore, Mr. Sutton, Ms. Mahaffey and Board Members

Thank you, Mr. Chris Haggerty for bringing up how can we help the SPED department. Shame on Ms. Moore for leaving the room during this time and offering no input on improvements. Ms. Hamilton states that there are pre-IEP meetings without parent presence to prepare for the IEP scheduled meeting with parents. It is at that time ideas are shared, offered, and more importantly deceptive strategy. Therefore, when the IEP scheduled meeting with parents occurs, a parent is not a team member, a parent voice is not heard, a parent is often pacified and given false hope. The meeting is so manipulative, and parents are rushed through it. No time for questions, no time to review data and causes instant divide. As parents we always had an inkling that the team had met before the IEP meeting but thanks to this you tube video it has now been confirmed. Why do double meetings need to happen, makes no sense other than lies, strategy and misinformation and to confuse parents. Not one board member brought this up, pre-meeting for the actual meeting. Then we speak of a heavy lift for our special education teachers? Why are you misusing resources this way? WCPSS team members meet with out parents to strategize and withhold. Its team manipulation.

This WCPSS board needs to wake up and hold Ms. Hamilton accountable for the terrible job she does in leading this department.

Thank you,
Denise Rogers

Jamie Chambers

Student Achievement Meeting November 23, 2020 SPED SECTION

Dear Ms. Moore, Mr. Sutton, Ms. Mahaffey and Board Members

Ms. Hamilton and her close cronies are manipulating the special education system. As a board you are spoon fed lies from the horse's mouth. Ms. Hamilton is responsible for destroying families. This department works against students and parents.

Where is her data on drop out sped students?

Where is her data on the SPED students that failed Q1?

Will she provide her data on the SPED students that failed Q2?

She didn't provide because she doesn't care!

What is the dollar amount spent within WCPSS on lawsuits settlements?

How much of it is Karen Hamilton's department?

Parents are not the enemy, they are stakeholders and the school district job is to serve students.

Regards, Jamie Chambers

Lauren Boyd

Get on with a Plan - Spring 2021

Dear Superintendent Ms. Moore, Chair Mr. Sutton Vice Chair Ms. MCAFFEY and all Board Members

Most of your staff will not go back until they are vaccinated at least twice. Many of your healthy and able staff do not trust the vaccine. They do not want it. Its all over the NCAE post and social media pages.

Teachers want to stay home this entire year. You can not force teachers to work in the school during a pandemic. They are making this very clear.

Stop beating a dead horse. It is time to rise above and plan how to better serve the deserving students remotely for the remainder of the year. Eliminate the extra stress that is on the teenagers. Find ways to minimize the workload. Please for heavens sake stop saying no one could imagine this global pandemic.

Documentation years ago, was provide by the US Dept of Education regarding swine flu pandemic. You chose to ignore and therefore are behind the eight ball.

Thank you.
Lauren Boyd

Gail Massari
Implement a PeaceBuilders Program as an alternative to School Resource Officers

We want our kids to act safely and be safe. Police in the school send the wrong message and can control but not change behavior. As a former teacher of students who had been rightly forced out of the public schools because of severe behavior problems, we learned that the presence of large, male teachers (who we thought would help control student behavior) actually contributed to a confrontational environment. As a young, small, woman, I was much more effective when I could say, "Your behavior is disrupting learning. Please go to the library and work or chat with the counselor." This is idealistic, yes, but concentrated on the behavior and gave the student a resource. No number of police can protect children from each other.

Pam Burns
Schools- how to promote peace

Please consider training for all staff with peacemaking and non-violent training to help create communities of peace instead of violence and unrest. When we work together in love and care, amazing goodness is created. Thank you for caring for our children. They are our future.
Blessings for all...

Lori Del Negro
Remove SROs from school facilities

I am writing to ask the Board to enact a positive change in schools by removing SROs from the role of policing minors in their daily activities. Extensive educational and psychological research has shown that encounters with police at a young age tend to be truly damaging to the development of young people. In fact, trauma-informed and restorative justice models are far more constructive means for recognizing and addressing students in crisis, but these models require very different training than that of a police force. Finally, given the demonstrated and continual racial bias in which students are singled out for encounters with SROs, I ask that you take the necessary step of replacing a failed disciplinary system with one that has greater potential to serve students and their families equitably.

Kathryn Fromson
School Resource Officers

Policing has no place in our schools. We should remove School Resource Officers from Wake County Schools and use that funding to support much-needed, and ultimately much more effective, counseling services. All children need support, understanding, and encouragement to become happy, healthy, well-adjusted adults. Punitive measures do nothing to help children or our communities.

Citlaly Mora
Sros

I don't understand how allocating 1/10 of one percent of the school budget to a Peacebuilder's Program has yet to be taken up. Given the present moment we are in, it's unacceptable that we refuse to reform our practices. SROs acting violently once against a student is unacceptable, let alone the amount of times we have seen it happen. We need to remove SROs from our schools.

Caci
Police Officers in School

I believe police officers in public and private schools are damaging our communities. Students are on high alert already from all of the school shootings that happen, why add racial profiling by police in there now!? We support peace, learning, and growth. Police don't help.

Michael Eisenberg
Schools

We need Peace Builders in schools not SROs.

Audrey Shelly
replace School Resource Officers with Peacebuilders Program

We need to create a safe and nurturing environment for all students, especially our most disenfranchisement children. This is not possible with School Resource Officers (SROs) who inherently create an environment of criminalization. SROs do not belong in our schools. Black and Brown students--students of all color--deserve to feel safe in schools, not criminalized. Peacebuilders Program is an alternative to SROs and will serve all school children in a more just, fair and age-appropriate manner. SROs do not belong in our schools with our children. As a parent, I expect WCPSS to combat racism in our education system. I expect WCPSS to treat all children fairly and respectfully regardless of race, gender, religion, disability, and neighborhood.

Kimberly Denise Muktarian
SRO's in schools

Wake Public Schools should begin phasing out SRO's and implementing peace talks among our children. Conducting listening sessions that explain why our children are so angry. Please do not militarize our pain by responding to symptoms vs. the actual cause. That is what makes you professionals.

sandy Irving
SRO's in schools no more

Please remove SROs from Wake County Schools. We need counselors and health care providers not police. We need to be teaching children how to solve problems without violence.

I am a former teacher and currently have grandchilddren in Wake Schools.

Thank you for reallocating resources to help students learn to solve problems without police.

Audra Killingsworth

SROS

Please consider the Peacebuilders program instead of putting SROS in the schools. We need opportunities for the kids to grow in character without the threat of police for punishment. Yes I know that's not what SROs are supposed to be there for, but it happens, especially to black and brown children. Thank you.

Elvis Greer
SROs

Police officers, specifically SROs do not belong at school. There are many national studies, such as this one (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/pam.21954>) that clear show a rise in suspensions, arrests among young children, and an increase in arrests for older children, 14+, both IN and OUTSIDE of school, when SROs are present. I won't even dive into the ramifications for children of color, which could be an entirely different topic.

Everything we know about childhood development tells us brains are not fully formed in adolescence, so why should an individual who's job is to punish, not develop, be present at a place of learning. Children need to be supported and understood, not punished. You can't argue that placing a police officer at school will do anything except increase the potential for conflict. While I'm sure many well-intentioned parents (I have two young children attending WCPSS schools) think it makes schools safer, using a public survey to influence a school board decision with this level of importance is misguided. There is plenty of data and expert opinion on this topic and what children need. We don't need to go fishing for ill-informed, emotion-based opinion from parents (including me) to confirm or disprove what we can already know through research.

While it may look like a "solution" to see an officer arrest a student engaged in violence, it's only a red herring. Punishment has no positive long-term benefits among children. Pick up any book or study on the topic. This isn't a controversial subject.

Instead place much-needed funding in the hands of well-trained counselors. Give these kids a chance. Don't put them in yet another position where they feel threatened and/or targeted.

Thank you.

Sara Rose
School counselors

Please make it a priority for schools to have ample resources for counselors as well as psychiatric testing available for all students.

Aubrey Clyburn
SROs

I support a Peacebuilders Program as an alternative to School Resource Officers. Kids don't need more cops in school, particularly after a year that has highlighted how dangerous the police can be to Black

people. In order to create an environment in which all our students feel safe at school, WCPSS should prioritize counselors over SROs. Thank you.

Kendall Lancaster
No SRO in wake county

Trained, licensed, Master's level educated mental health counselors over cops. No SROs in public schools. No adult in a ballistic vest helps a child feel safe in school. Period.

Gillian Kepley
Student Resource Officers

I am a student at Apex High and I support peacebuilders in schools, not SROs. Black and Brown students deserve to feel safe in schools, not criminalized. As you decide on whether or not to continue having SROs, I hope you will consider welcoming all students, instead of continuing the school-to-prison pipeline. Thank you.

Theresa Pasquale
School Resource Officers

Dear Wake County School Board,

Please maintain the presence of School Resource Officers at schools within Wake County. These officers protect all students at the school. They are not racist and to assume so is unjust. There is no need for "brown and black students" to feel threatened by them, as the ACLU alleges.

Kendall Yount
Peacebuilders Program as an alternative to School Resource Officers (SROs)

I support implementing a Peacebuilders Program as an alternative to School Resource Officers. Students should feel safe at school and SRO's are not effectively accomplishing that. It's time to dedicate resources to making schools a safer space for all students.

Marc Scagnelli
SROs

Implement a Peacebuilders Program as an alternative to School Resource Officers (SROs).

David Harscheid
SROS' yearly substandard results.

The SROs, however sincere their motives, severely lack the educational sensitivity necessary to impact and create substantial and important solutions to problems with students, especially minority students. we need to recruit and organize deeply humanistic policy groups to immediately confront the serious needs of these students. Policing merely scares or /and silences many pupils from speaking up for fear of reprisals or, even worse, ignoring their situations altogether. Surely we can find better ways to respond to these conditions, which never seem to resolve themselves.

We need professional help.

Get on it immediately, or the next elections may result in replacing several educators/facilitators we currently employ with taxpayers' money.

Thank You.

Audra Killingsworth

SROS

Please consider the Peacebuilders program instead of putting SROS in the schools. We need opportunities for the kids to grow in character without the threat of police for punishment. Yes I know that's not what SROs are supposed to be there for, but it happens, especially to black and brown children. Thank you.

Madelyn Gross

Cumulative Folders Requested

Dear WCPSS BOE

What is a reasonable time allotted for a records request? What exactly can be found in a cumulative folder? Who has the right to pull a child's folder? Is it documented? What if documents go missing? Are they stored somewhere else? Where would a parent find a logbook of who has been through their child's cumulative record? Does one exist?

Can you invite a panel member to answer these questions?

[Note from WCPSS]: Ms. Gross, the data manager for your student's school can assist you with any questions regarding their cumulative folder.

Lani St. Hill

SROs Do Not Belong in our Schools

The health and safety of our students do not come from a daily police presence. Rather, it comes from having space that is free to learn and grow. Police and security guards that walk their hallways and grounds are not a comfort, rather a anxiety-driving factor that are students do not need at this time. We should be investing monies spent on those officers salaries into providing counselors, healthy meals, and nurses in our schools. Data shows that these service provide more benefit to students health and safety than officers. Keep SROs our of our schools. Invest in resources that uplift, not attack, our students.

Brenda Soley

Student Achievement Meeting November 23, 2020 SPED SECTION

Student Achievement Meeting November 23, 2020 SPED SECTION

Dear Ms. Moore, Mr. Sutton, Ms. Mahaffey and Board Members

Please clarify who the principal is for a special education student? Is it Ms. Hamilton?

She mis uses her power under IDEA, she influences principals to Deny FAPE! It appears she directs and demands the principal on what to do. Principals and Area Superintendent always point everything into special ed, as if they have no power and authority regarding that student. The area superintendent does the same thing. It appears she is given a free pass to operate at a local school site level as a principal and is endorsed by Cathy Moore to do that. Please bring back Karen Hamilton to ask these questions.

Parents are hassled at IEP meetings and therefore parents do not want children to attend. Define STICKY situations. As a Board do you want to help parents and offer guidance? Stop thanking a department head for running a poorly developed department. Start caring for the 18K students that need a voice.

Thank you, Brenda Solely

Sykvia Orski

Student Achievement Meeting December 14, 2020 MTSS

School improvement plan is to promote achievement and outcomes for all students. It is a framework that is implemented in all wake county schools K-12th grade. Are all schools implementing this framework or only the low performing schools?

Slide #6 are all indicators, Ms. Alford zipped through this slide. Are we holding schools accountable?

What if the school is not utilizing the NCSTAR practices? Where is the data? Does the data drill down to group students who are at risk?

Would a parent know if their child is in MTSS? Who requests MTSS tiers? Drew Cook who has the list of students that need extra supports? Who is responsible for communicating this to parents? Are parents left off this process?

Thank you to Ms. Hostler to point out this MTSS is not getting done as a school wide initiative. While watching this presentation I felt as if I was on a carousel that had the on button jammed. Big buzz words repeated over and over no accountability. No data provided. What was presented was a book review of MTSS.

Parents want to know what this looks like in the classroom. What does this look like for teachers? Where is the recording of data? How does a parent request this data? What does this look like for middle and high school students? Is this data stored in their cumulative file?

What classes are to help record data is it just core subjects? Where are the local school improvement team meeting notes? How often do they meet? Dr. McFarland you gave a vague fluffy response to a direct question. Dr. McFarland MTSS is not aligning at the local level even pre-pandemic, pandemic, and most likely post-pandemic.

How often are these improvement teams meeting? Ms. Moore are you training your principals at WCPSS schools to implement MTSS? Ms. Moore are you reviewing school improvement team minute notes? Find a principal that can come forth and discuss MTSS at the elementary, middle, and high school levels for parents and the board. Present who is on the team, present minutes, talk about how this leads to special education evaluation.

Ms. Cash and Mr. Sutton, you have been on this board over 10 years, its time to raise your head from the sand. You must face facts. You cannot just bury your head forever.

Concerned Parent

Sylvia Orski

Courtney (Calvo) Richardson

Safely Reopening Schools

School board members,

I want to first of all thank you for the difficult, yet safe decision you made to keep schools remote until re-evaluating in February. I know how much pressure is on all of you to make the "right" decision, even though your decisions will never be able to please everyone. I thank you dearly, because while not a popular choice, this is the safest choice for students, staff, teachers, families, and community members.

I am a second grade teacher in Wake County, and I know that we need to have face to face learning. Remote learning is not the same. I understand that more than anyone. However, during remote learning, our students are still learning so much, AND our students and educators are safe! Our students have built routines and know how to maneuver through Google Classroom and other online resources. We have created engaging lessons, assignments, and more! We still have support groups for students to enrich and intervene when needed.

I CONTINUE to ask that virtual learning continues until we are at a rate of 5% COVID positive cases for two weeks OR until educators begin receiving vaccines. I have heard repeatedly from some board members that Pre-K-3 does not face issues for social distancing, and this is simply NOT true. I want that to be clear. I am expected to have at LEAST 22 kids when we return in person (10 kids switching from VA are being added to my roster) which will take away our social distancing completely in my classroom. We cannot follow all 3 Ws which has been a constant reminder by Governor Cooper, Dr. Cohen, and ABC Collaborative as a MUST to slow the spread. So how is it safe to take away our social distancing and increase class sizes, all while our cases sky rocket? When students take off their masks to eat breakfast, lunch, and snacks, the risk is high. We keep hearing that children rarely get COVID and less rarely have complications, but some do and some die. And educators are getting sick and dying. One death is too many. The rates are too high right now and we are too close to vaccines to play roulette with lives. The benefits of face to face do not out weigh the risks right now.

Parents have been given choices for their children, but educators have been denied requests to teach virtually. Given the rising numbers of this deadly virus, this is not acceptable. Please continue to save lives, making difficult choices when it is needed, although unpopular. I want to be back in the building, as I know every educator does, but I plead that you continue to pause face to face instruction until the spread slows down again or until educators receive vaccines.

Thank you for your consideration, and for being vulnerable during your meetings. We appreciate you.

Nathaniel Dibble
School Resource Officers (SRO's)

I don't think school resource officers should be allowed in Wake County Public Schools. There has been a lot of research and several studies that have looked into the negative effects of SROs in schools, all of which are free viewing for you and the rest of the public. From a young age, we as students are forced to see what society expects of us when we can see armed police officers patrolling the halls of our school. With these officers, it doesn't send the message that we are students here to learn. It sends the message that you see us as a threat to our own safety, in our own halls, in our own classrooms, and on our own campuses. I am a student. Although you may not walk those halls, we do. Right now, we are the ones who deal with the effects of this. But when we inevitably get out of high school, then the problems from our school become the problems for the rest of the world. It would be best to do something about these problems while they are still in your control.

As a student, I can accurately speak to this. At my current school, I believe that the SROs have a good relationship with students, but I have also been at Wake County Schools where that is not the case. In these cases, the officers' presence only stands to teach, at an even younger age than before, the problematically bad officer-community relationship that we see on the streets today. While I do

understand that these officers are here for our own safety, standing between students and potential violence, this solution does not fix the problem. This is the easiest solution that requires the bare minimum of care. Care, which should be in our schools and care that is needed. Instead, the money that is put towards SROs can be redirected toward more productive programs like peacebuilders and guidance counselors. Emotional support systems like these are would have the potential to get rid of violence in our schools, not the promise of more violence at the hands of armed officers. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and I do hope you choose to listen.

Marcus Thompson
No More SROs

School resource officers are part of the problem when it comes to the school-to-prison pipeline. I worked a few years for the state juvenile defender office and more kids are referred to the court system due to the presence of police in schools, which can have long-term effects on their lives for simple incidents teachers could handle. We need to make changes now.

Melinda Thomas
School Resource Offices and School Counselors

Hello. I am writing to express my concern about the use of School Resource Officers and ask instead that you put more funding and support into a Peacebuilders Program. I feel that developing dedicated mental and emotional health professionals will better address the needs of students who may be struggling or acting out instead of being continually subjected to a cycle of punishment. Consequences, yes. But consequences need to be part of a larger, wholistic care plan for students who are struggling. Thank you.

Andrea Smith
Counselors vs SROs

It would be much better certainly to have counselors vs. SROs provided the counselors are well trained in how to deal with critical issues that arise. In my years (7.5) supervising the Durham County Youth Home, teaching High School, and serving on the Mayor's Youth Advisory and Anti-Bullying boards, I know most are not qualified or trained to deal with present issues in a quick and forward manner. Truly, I feel it would be a much better solution; however, more instruction is mandatory for both counselors and SROs.

Kim Mackey
Continuing a careful approach

Thank you for recognizing the compelling results of the recent staff survey as one of the factors in your decision to continue remote instruction as we navigate what is hopefully the peak of this crisis.

It's unfortunate that some folks perceive reopening school buildings as asking staff to jump into a puddle. 87% of staff who participated in the survey said they don't think it is safe to return to buildings under current community conditions, which are beyond the control of WCPSS.

Without improved conditions many staff perceive a return to buildings despite their legitimate concerns not as puddle jumping but as being pushed headfirst off a cliff into water whose depth we don't yet know

given our limited understanding of the novel virus, new variants, and inability to fully implement testing and tracing to mitigate the spread.

If you intend to send us back into buildings at some point despite our concerns (which I hope you'll continue to consider and recognize for yourselves), at least equip us with a life jacket - a vaccine - before expecting us to take the plunge.

Erin McLaughlin
Student resource officers in schools

Students of color need to feel safe in their own school in order to focus on their education. Prioritizing school guidance counselors over student resource officers is one of the first steps in doing so.

Karen Nelson
Get our schools open -- time for 5 day a week, in person learning

Why are we waiting to send the children back to school? It was mentioned that teacher's 'aren't comfortable' going back to school. Did someone forget that they are EMPLOYEES? If employees refuse to work, they don't get paid; they get terminated. Other essential workers aren't being catered to -- they have to go to work or risk termination. School system employees chose their career path -- time for them to put on their 'big girl or boy panties' and do their job. Children are suffering with the school closures. Middle & High School students are being given tons of work that keep them on the computer or working day & night -- younger students are missing out on the basic education. One of my grandsons, a 5 year old Kindergarten student, had a report card indicating how well he's doing. In truth, he's just recognizing 'some' letters of the alphabet. We're either going to have children promoted because of incorrect grading or retained because they've lost so much of their education. Bottom line -- Stop catering to those who don't want to go back to school -- employers need to ensure that employees are doing their job. As an essential employee, I must work to be paid -- the same needs to be so with school systems. Stop waiting on vaccinations -- it's not even known if they're going to totally work.

Rebecca Adams
Open schools for in-person instruction on 1/25/21

Please conduct a survey for teachers and parents that is fair and consistent. Put parameters in place, such as only take the survey once- valid WCPSS teacher email address, and as a parent of a child in the WCPSS system- use students IDs to help with validation of the parent. You can still set to be anonymous and have authenticity of the survey. Teachers, parents, and students want school open- the science, the mental health proves it can happen and safely! Please stop bending to NCAE, which is lead by a biased individual. Her tweets should embarrass you, and take away her validity for the reason schools should stay closed. Our children flourish, and need the in-person connectivity of an education. PLEASE listen to EVERYONE!!!

Joe Abelson
Replacing SRO's with Peacebuilders

Please implement a Peacebuilders Program as an alternative to School Resource Officers (SROs).

Francine Johnson

All children should feel safe no matter the skin color

Yes I will support the Peacebuilder program

Meredith delaVergne

End the SRO's

One day I received a call from Broughton telling me that my daughter was not in class. it was the only time they ever called me and I found out that she had been leaving campus. I was a single parent and I worked in a hospital. It was difficult to leave my job but that day I left my job. I went to Broughton and I looked everywhere. Where did I find her? I found her at the SRO office. My daughter and her friend were in his office. Did anyone contact the SRO guy? NO. Did he look for her? NO. Did the school hold him responsible for letting her stay in the office. It is not good to have police officers at a school. Please get rid of the SRO's.

Elizabeth Marin

Decision Process for Re-Opening Schools

I have three children in Wake County schools. I am grateful for all that teachers and administrators are doing to support learning during this difficult time. All of my children need to be back in school but particularly my first grader who has an IEP and is unable to fully participate in the online format. I have been watching the board meetings and am disappointed in the county and school board decision making processes and lack of pro-active planning to safely return Plan B students to school. Please consider:

- 1) Parents who do not feel comfortable sending their children to school have a virtual option. Much of the discussion in the last meeting was about returning all children to school. That is not what was on the table for 2nd semester. Please have numbers at your fingertips in these meetings so that you can reference the total number and percentage of children in each plan for the district and by grade and school.
- 2) There should be individuals with medical and Wake County COVID data expertise at your decision-making meetings to offer perspective and answer questions. This is a critical perspective that seems to be missing from Ms. Moore's recommendation for continued closure and from your meetings. Dr. Martin spent quite a bit of meeting time giving a personal data perspective without providing written support or any type of presentation so that attendees could see or question the data he was referring to. It would have really helped to have an outside medical or data expert there to respond to his assertions.
- 3) A NCAE Facebook survey was provided as support for keeping schools closed. However, survey questions and information about the development/administration of the survey were not shared. Any survey results that are factored into decisions about our schools needs to be reviewed for reliability, validity and administered to either all or a representative sample of teachers/administrators.
- 4) I am very concerned that the board has not received district and grade-level attendance or student achievement information. The board needs this information to be adequately informed about the impact of school closures and in order to plan NOW for how schools will support the many students who have fallen behind.

Thank you for your service and your consideration.

Amanda Boyd
Keep WCPSS Remote

I want to thank the board for making the difficult decision to keep schools remote/virtual for the time being. This was the safe and logical decision. Community spread is increasing while schools are struggling to be properly staffed and maintain smaller class sizes with proper distancing.

As an employee who was EXPOSED at work (school setting), I will say it was not fun watching my amazing coworkers have to cover my in-person students and work during my mandatory quarantine period. Please vote to keep WCPSS remote through the end of the school year at least. We should not be back in-person until every school employee is fully vaccinated and the positivity rate is under 5%.

Christie Sue Cheely
Resource officers in schools

Children need love and support as they grow, especially those who are troubled or struggling. Schools serve our communities best when they help children, not punish them. Invest money in counselors and resources that will identify kids who are struggling, offer support, and help them to thrive. Children are not criminals. Remove cops from schools.

Jennifer Birch
In Person Instruction

The mental health crisis continues, and worsens when you choose to extend remote learning for all students. Extending remote learning adversely impacts the mental health and well-being of:

- Adolescents and teenagers socially isolated and self-harming
- Children with an IEP that cannot be met
- Neurodiverse children who cannot successfully function in this remote environment
- Children with learning disabilities who are even more discouraged due to remote learning
- Children on the brink of failing who were counting the days to learn face to face
- Adolescents who have difficulty focusing on the screen and have learned very little since March 2020
- Children who are not participating in the remote learning format at all

It seems like there is a lack of focus and effort on implementing measures to make in person learning feasible and instead changing the criteria for in person learning to meet NCAE requests. I fear for WCPSS and how we will ever recover from this season, losing so many amazing families to private or home school in order for their children to be emotionally healthy. As a mental health provider for children, I am discouraged and dismayed by the board and administration in their decision making. These kids deserve your best efforts at making in person learning safe and possible.

Katie Dukes
School resource officers (SROs)

I was a WCPSS high school social studies teacher for more than a decade and am now in my final semester as a Master of Public Policy student at Duke. I'm currently studying the prevalence of SROs statewide. The bulk of the research on SROs indicates that children, particularly children of color, are harmed by the presence of law enforcement officers in schools. There is even specific evidence

demonstrating that the presence of SROs in N.C. does not improve school safety (<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2018/11/08/does-more-policing-make-middle-schools-safer/>). The money spent on contracting law enforcement officers for schools should be redirected to providing students the mental, emotional, and material support they need to be successful in their education and in our community. I hope you'll seriously consider removing SROs from WCPSS schools.

Tony Church
In Person Learning

Good afternoon,

The school board is letting parents who opted for choice down. In the July meeting you said the metrics would determine if the schools would open on time. The metrics all pointed in the right direction and were below the levels you collectively determined would allow for opening schools. However, schools remained closed while you found ways to actually implement the plans you were required to submit to the governor. Showing shoddy work that I doubt you would accept from any of the students. Schools were eventually opened and in-person learning allowed those who selected it to thrive. At that point you stated publicly that there would be no unilateral county wide closings again. Of course you showed that to be a lie when you opted to go to online learning for two weeks after the winter break. I voiced my displeasure and concerns. Citing specifically that you were no longer working as mandated to see the children educated and instead were opting for easy solutions. I clearly stated that your choice of easy solutions could easily become a habit. Your response was that this was needed to guarantee adequate staffing, not safety from the pandemic but simple staffing concerns, that would never be needed again. You followed that lie by doubling down and starting the second semester with more online learning in direct contradiction to your two prior assurances. Why is school being done from home again... did your own collaborative research (ABC collaborative) show that there was greater risk, No. Were there ample signs of spread at school from students to teachers, (0 according to ABC collaborative) , No. Were school rates elevated above the levels of the community of 773 instances of Covid found in schools and only 33 were even possibly acquired at school) so again NO . Multiple countries have shown that the science doesn't back you and educational theory doesn't back you and the most at risk kids are suffering worse conditions than the extremely minor risks posed by Covid, yet you continue to lazily reach for the easy expedient nuclear option of closing schools altogether. This is not in the best interest of educating the kids, you will find no one that agrees that online learning is as helpful or as good as in person instruction yet you continue to force this upon everyone (citations available upon request). Many schools including hard hit areas on Long Island have had full in person instruction since September, yet you continue to harm our kids and put them behind their peers across the country needlessly. If this is your plan it is a bad one and demonstrates that delivering the best education possible to our kids is not your intent. If that is the case then you should resign immediately and allow others who are willing to work the problem and find creative solutions that allow for the best educational opportunities for all of the counties children.

Sincerely,

Tony D. Church

Letha Muhammad
Public Statement Denouncing Attack on US Capitol

The January 6th heinous and evil attempted coup at the United States Capitol has left many of us, adults and young people alike, hurt, fearful, ashamed, and angry at the perpetrators. It clearly shows our nation that racial discrimination, bigotry, biases, and the ongoing issues of the injustices that black and brown students and community members face when engaging with public systems in our country. This event will have a lasting impact on our country, state, and communities as more details emerge regarding the motive and aim of the insurgents that participated in trying to usurp our right to a democratic process in this country. We received the internal message from the district on January 7th, 2021 and appreciate the attempt. However, we believe the statement is not strong enough in denouncing White Supremacy nor empathetic enough in recognizing the attack's impact on students and families in Wake County Public Schools. We, as members of the Community Equity Leadership Team, request the school board and Superintendent Moore to act in your leadership roles by releasing a public statement to the media denouncing these heinous acts and wholeheartedly offer continuous support to all staff members and stakeholders in our school community. Finally, WCPSS must prioritize creating safe spaces in our schools for continued dialogue and support for an event that is traumatizing to people of color and minority religious groups in this country.