



Fact Sheet

Good Governance

What's at stake - The members and supporters of the Great Schools in Wake Coalition believe that the public schools are our most important public asset in Wake County. Though far from perfect, the school system remains an invaluable, shared resource – a public structure that binds us together in the present and helps assure a promising future for our community.

For the last several decades, the Wake County public schools have played an enormous role in promoting our community's rapid growth, comparative wealth and widely-shared prosperity. It is essential that we build on this success by continuing to improve the school system.

In short, the Wake County schools are *our* schools; they belong to all Wake County residents. Each and every Wake County resident has a vested interest in the school system's continued success and improvement and ought to have an opportunity to contribute to making this a reality.

- ✓ For Wake County schools to continue to thrive and improve, Wake County residents look to their democratically elected officials on the Boards of Education and County Commissioners to pave the way. They count on those officials to lead and to listen, to elevate the common good over special interests, to provide adequate resources, and to assure that first class public education for every child is our county's top public priority.
- ✓ All members of the public have the right to know and understand what is going on with the schools. All substantive discussions and decisions of the Boards of Education and County Commission must take place in well-publicized public meetings.
- ✓ Board processes should follow standard legislative rules. Majority votes should be binding and must not be ignored or overruled unilaterally by the Board chair, some subset of the Board, or professional staff.
- ✓ All interested residents and community groups should have an opportunity to provide meaningful input to governing Boards. For this to occur, there must be adequate notice to the public (with an opportunity to comment) before any substantive decisions are made by either Board or any Board committees.
- ✓ Major policy decisions about controversial issues cannot and should not be made without full consideration and disclosure of the real world costs to taxpayers and the real world impacts on those who consume county services.
- ✓ Any and all surveys should take place *before* the Board's final decision-making process and be designed in such a way as to provide ample time for widespread and informed input without risk of tampering or skewed results. Additionally, questions should not be asked in isolation without providing those surveyed with full information about the implications of their choices.

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