

Issues in the Appeal of the Open Meetings Suit Against Wake County School Board

- Fearing a recurrence of unreasonable attendance policies at future Board meetings, a group of Wake County citizens filed a notice of appeal on June 14, 2010 in their open meetings lawsuit against the Wake County Board of Education.
- The Superior Court ruled last month that the Wake County School Board acted unreasonably in excluding members of the public from committee meetings and in failing to accommodate members of the public who are disabled. In addition, the court found that aspects of the Board's ticketing policy were also unreasonable. Despite these findings, the case was dismissed.
- The plaintiffs believe that, by the court concluding that the Board acted unreasonably, they are entitled to a ruling that the Board violated the Open Meetings Act and a prospective injunction prohibiting the Board from similar unreasonable conduct, so that in the event of a future violation, residents will be able to assert their rights under the Open Meetings Act based on the court's legal ruling against the Board for these prior violations.
- Community and parental involvement are proven tools to improve student achievement. This appeal seeks to protect the rights of those who want to monitor our educational leaders and the decisions they make that impact the quality of education for all children in Wake County.
- A legal declaration that the Board violated the Open Meetings Act is vital to parents and members of the community who seek to participate in the democratic process in the development of educational policy for Wake County.