

## **1-10-12 Board Speech:**

### **Please provide a full cost analysis before rushing to implement a new plan**

My name is Ann Campbell and I'm a stakeholder in Wake County Schools - as a parent, as a citizen, and as a local businessperson.

And as both a citizen and businessperson, it's clear to me that we need to delay implementation of the half-baked, so-called "choice" assignment plan.

While this high level plan will clearly cost more money, and even Superintendent Tata has stated that it will increase costs, he has yet to specify or quantify those costs, much less provide a detailed cost analysis - the kind of cost analysis that would be done in any well-run business with a budget even a fraction of the size of our school system's.

Therefore, since there is still no cost analysis, there is no detailed budget, and without a budget, there is also no agreed funding for the increased costs.

Examples of unknown and unfunded costs include:

1. The costs of remediating the multiple high poverty schools that would result. (We can only hope that each one won't have an additional \$1 million in costs as Walnut Creek is proving to have.)
2. The costs of busing kids from the same neighborhoods, and even the same streets, to different schools - whether due to "choice" or to likely capacity caps at high performing schools.

These are only two examples of the many unclear costs.

Since we don't yet know many critical costs, the financial risks of rushing to implement an unanalyzed, and by any reasonable business standard, incomplete plan, are too high.

Luckily, 94% of parents reported they were happy with their current school assignment, so there is no emergency. We have time to slow down, complete a responsible financial analysis, and either change the plan or seek more funding as needed, and then implement a sound plan and get it right the first time.

As a businessperson and a taxpayer, I urge this Board to do just that.

Thank you.