

There are many benefits to communities taking ownership of schools- school spirit and volunteerism being paramount on the list. But we must remember that communities are not “sole owners” of our schools. Each school is an integral part of the Wake County School System.

It is the responsibility of the board to ensure that all children have access to high performing schools- not just children who are fortunate to have more affluent zip codes. I applaud the board members who support providing such access for our most vulnerable students.

Other communities have allowed the creation of low performing schools and have had to pull needed resources from affluent schools—remember the example of Charlotte providing \$4,000 per pupil in suburban schools and \$11,000 per pupil in high poverty schools? the money pot will be even smaller next year with the loss of American Recovery Act funding as well as state budget cuts. This might be an appropriate time to ask the board to request an update on the status of Walnut Creek Elementary, a school that is receiving an extra 1 million in funding, as it was opened with a very high needs population.

On Mr. Alves’ very first visit to Wake County, I remember hearing that he asked to see our “bad” schools- and was startled that there were none. At his first meeting with the public, Mr. Alves stressed that for any choice plan to work - that ALL children (including our disadvantaged) must have high quality options. I ask all board members to look out for the interests of ALL of our children- they are our future.