

Good evening.

With the completion of the 2010 US Census, you, the Wake County School Board, will be redistricting our nine school districts.

The **true** purpose of redistricting is to make adjustments for imbalances in population so each school district is roughly of equal size in order to comply with the one-person, one-vote requirement of the US and North Carolina Constitutions.

I'm sure all of you agree that making sure that each person's vote carries roughly the same weight is one of the hallmarks of our democracy.

Redistricting must also uphold a key provision of the Voting Rights Act, Section 2, that protects minority voters from practices and procedures that deprive them of an effective vote because of their race, color, or membership in a particular language minority group.

I'm sure all of you agree that ensuring that minority voters have an effective vote in school board elections is one of the hallmarks of our democracy.

The process of redistricting opens up a great opportunity to the Board, an opportunity to demonstrate **fairness** and **transparency**, something ALL citizens value.

In the municipality where I live, Cary, our Town Council has already begun the process of planning for redistricting. The Council has clearly and publically stated its goals, has held the first of its planned work sessions, and intends to "focus on boundaries that can be clearly conveyed to constituents." Another important stated goal is to formulate "... district populations that reflect a diverse mix of issues, needs and interests."

I hope our Wake County School Board will take the lead from Cary and conduct its redistricting in full view of the public. We are an intelligent, well-educated community, with residents who can provide great value to the process. This is YOUR chance to show, as you've stated many times over, that you want to listen to voters. A fair and transparent public redistricting process can eliminate gerrymandering and allow ALL voters to be heard.