

I would like to start by thanking our new Superintendent for using the “D” word yesterday. You see, according to several on this board, diversity is a bad word and we are not to use that word in Wake Co.

Speaking of diversity, did I read in the paper today that Mr. Tedesco suggested having diversity through videoconferencing? Really? What would you call that, virtual diversity? That one speaks for itself.

Mr. Tata, while you are listening and learning, please make sure you listen to Wake Co. teachers and parents. A recent survey of Wake Co. teachers indicated that while a majority of teachers are happy with our school system and their individual schools, a majority of those teachers also disagree with the school board’s decision to end socio-economic diversity and they have a negative impression of this school board.

A parent survey conducted at the request of this board, indicated that 94 ½% of parents who responded were satisfied with their children’s school assignment. This board has done nothing to find out why the 5 ½% was unhappy. It is hard to address a problem if you don’t know what that problem is or what caused it.

Also while you are listening Mr. Tata, don’t forget to listen to yourself. At a press conference almost a month ago you stated that in Washington DC neighborhood schools are working. However, less than 24 hours before that at the BBQ Lodge, you stated that the DC schools have “flight out” and “empty buildings”. That doesn’t sound like it is working for the taxpayers.

In recent public schools ranking by Education Week the Washington DC school system was ranked last with an overall grade of D+. In the K-12 Achievement category, DC earned an F. That doesn’t sound like it is working for students.

In a recent Washington Post special report, Coolidge Senior High School social studies teacher, Harold Cox, was quoted as saying, “You can walk around this building, there is very little educating going on. It’s sad. And the people who are really trying, they’re about ready to give up. Some of those new teachers they are bringing in are getting ready to leave.” That doesn’t sound like it is working for teachers.

These problems are duplicated in urban, neighborhood school systems across the country. We do not have these same problems in Wake County, and we don’t want them created.