

*February 1, 2011*

*Speaking to the Wake County Board of Education with welcome to Tata:*

Chairperson Ron Margiotta, Board Members, and Superintendent Tata,

I am Betsy Lovejoy from Cary. My children attended neighborhood and magnet schools as now does my Granddaughter. I am a former public and private school teacher and head of school. My passion is education for all children.

I would first like to thank all of our school board members and Donna Hargens for the many hours and work that they put forth for our schools! It is a tireless job with countless issues and many opinions.

I would especially like to welcome Superintendent Tata and thank him for coming to our Wake County Public School System! This is a huge school system with many dynamics.

Mr. Tata, as you begin your job as our Superintendent and make your decisions, I ask you to embrace ALL diversity – cultural, ethnic, racial, mentally/physically challenged, academic/vocational AND socio-economic.

We have lost so much this past year. One of those, SADLY, is our standing on diversity which has been supported by our magnet schools. While no system is perfect, we have always been proud and thankful for the education provided by the Wake County Public School System. Yes we need to assess our schools, their programs, allow parents choices, and provide stability to families. And with a 95% parent's satisfactions rate, we have been on target. Let us keep our Award Winning Magnet School programs as they are and where they are currently located! And where it is beneficial, let us create more. Academically these schools are sound, and culturally they provide us with the rich environment that allows us to work with, to understand, and to enjoy ALL cultures. This is social enrichment.

I ask you, as the Superintendent, to reinstate our diversity policy!

Having the choice for diversity - both culturally and economically - in our magnet schools, makes not only our children richer, but it educates and enriches the lives of us as adults as well!

Thank you!