

Desmond Tutu said it best: If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. This is why I am here.

I am not in this fight just for my sons. My energy is spent to lift my whole community; we would be far more successful if we all adopted a “we versus me” mentality.

It's seems trite to say that schools matter. Education is the cornerstone of everything that drives our community. Property values. Economic stability. An able work force. Strong neighborhoods.

Education is paramount to how we function as a society. Education will help us rise as a community. Education is a ticket, an escape, a goal set, a dream realized, a right. For everyone. It's been a tough, heated couple of years here, with the current school board majority more interested in pushing political power than boosting student achievement. The majority has finagled its way to dismantle exactly what makes Wake County desirable and prosperous. For two years we have seen a charade of leadership, ripe with a blatant disregard for data. The board is moving too hastily in its reassignment proposal and plans to create single sex academies.

The most shameful byproduct of the proposed student assignment plan is the resegregation of our schools. This is not hyperbole. There is a dangerous undertone of "separate but equal" in the rhetoric that they and their supporters spew. There is a wasteful effort to reinvent that which is not broken while budgets are slashed and students are hurting. A lack of funding and focus leaves the teachers spent, and at the end of the day, students pay the price. We leave these children in the wreckage of our political warfare as casualties, the detritus of grander, selfish agendas.

Wake County is home to major universities and the state capital. It is perched among global, forward thinking corporations. It rests amidst a wealth of medical and technological innovation. Yet our school board is moving us backwards. Irony at its finest.