

Wake County Board of Education
L. Aytch Public Comments
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- One of the most significant achievements in education public policy in the 20th century was guaranteeing children with disabilities a free, appropriate education and the inclusion of children with disabilities in regular classrooms; in other words, the intentional integration of students with diverse abilities, life experiences, and backgrounds in schools and classrooms.
- There is a strong body of evidence that proves that children with learning disabilities do better in classrooms with typically achieving classmates.
- This is particularly relevant to me because I have a daughter with a significant learning disability who benefited from inclusive classrooms in the Wake County School System.
- From that prospective, we would never set policy or advocate for the isolation or segregation of students with disabilities or special learning needs in one school or classroom.
- However, you have now set policy that has intentionally resulted in the isolation and segregation of black and Hispanic students, of which a disproportionate percentage are low achieving, in one school – Walnut Creek Elementary. This is wrong and goes against everything we know about educational best practices.
- So, now that you have implemented this ill-advised, unjust public policy, how are you going to be accountable to the Walnut Creek students, parents, staff, and community?
- How will you be accountable in ensuring that:
 - These students receive a high quality, innovative, effective, educational program?
 - The school leadership and staff receive the professional development and support that is critical for them to be effective? – and I don't just mean money!
 - How will you ensure that parents receive the support and advocacy necessary to facilitate their active engagement in the school and their child's school success?

- How will you be accountable for the academic achievement of the students?
 - How will you be accountable if this school is not successful in meeting the educational needs of these students?
- While I certainly want each student at Walnut Creek to be successful, the intentional segregation of students is wrong, unjust, and ultimately does a disservice to the whole county, state, and nation and goes against what so many people have fought and died for in this country.