

Speech on Busing Data

The Office of Civil Rights from the Department of Education came to investigate this Board of Education and its actions. That alone is cause for concern in this community. But it's only gotten worse in the last month.

I am distressed by the intellectual dishonesty shown by this Board Majority and its legal counsel by releasing purposely misleading data to support its bad policies.

All along, you have known that high poverty schools damage children. But despite this, you, the majority, chose to re-segregate our schools. Make no mistake, most of the children who will be harmed are children of color. But you did it anyway. You said that you had "your own data."

Now, one year later, you release that "data"—and it turns out your data was cooked up by parents with an agenda—that agenda is to expel poor children and children of color from their suburban schools.

Never mind that Southeast Raleigh taxpayers for years have been paying bonds to build new schools in the suburbs for

those parents and their children. Now children from Raleigh are not allowed to attend those schools.

Even worse, the figures you fed the *News & Observer* this last week were misleading and drew false conclusions. You showed that poor black children do worse than wealthier black children, because wealthier black children are less likely to be bused. Huh—what does that show?—that poor children of any color need our help, extra help. The school district needs to make sure poor children get the resources they need, and everyone knows high poverty schools are problems not solutions.

So, I suggest that this Board make sure all schools are high wealth schools. You should make sure that no school has a high concentration of poor children. But wait—that's what the policy had been all along in Wake County, until you came along.

Seems like you are on the wrong side, every where you turn. You have taken a great school system, that needed some improvements, and you've destroyed it for many low income children of color. Make no mistake—that is what you are doing, and that is why the Office of Civil Rights is trying to hold you accountable.