

Thank you for dissolving the student assignment committee—which held true to the definition of COMMITTEE: a body that keeps minutes and wastes hours. I am pleased that staff has been given back control.

Having our committee go public did accomplish one thing - Wake County residents saw the complexities of the student assignment process. Growth, along with years of inadequate funding for capital and operating needs is the culprit of parent dissatisfaction, vocalized as:

too many reassignments
too many year round schools,
too few magnet seats than demanded, and
too little classroom resources for all students.

AdvancEd gets it. It is easy to see, now, removing the scapegoated diversity component from 6200 and calling for neighborhood schools does nothing towards fixing our problems, in fact it will create new ones.

Bottom line - stakeholder dissatisfaction, really, can be drilled down to inadequate funding.

Policy 1000 states you are "to seek to obtain funds for the operational support, maintenance, improvement, and extension of the school system". Some of you have publicly stated you will not support asking for more funds, resulting in a per pupil reduction next year. You are a direct advocate for our students to the Board of Commissioners. Refusing to advocate for more funding to address our clear cut growth related issues violates board policy.

We need to build thirty plus schools in ten years to accommodate tens of thousands of students. We need operating funds for those schools. We need more operating funds for the schools we have now to broaden course offerings, to help underenrolled schools and to close the achievement gap, in other words – rise to the minimum expectations vocalized by you AND to you by your stakeholders. It is not your job to analyze the economic climate and determine whether the funding is or is not available. Please find the intestinal fortitude to be a champion for our students, not a political party and its tax rate.