

One of the goals you all agreed on at your Friday retreat was this: “Highly effective principals and teachers are the key to improving growth in student achievement.”

I could not agree more. Today we have a recognition of employees, and I think it’s incredibly important, right now, to make sure our principals and teachers have high job morale. Thank you, Superintendent Tata, for commissioning a survey of our principals. But many of their comments are troubling.

You have many principals and teachers who are very dissatisfied with this Board majority. Late last year, a teacher survey found that an overwhelming number of teachers want to have diverse schools—having diverse, middle class schools helps them teach better and helps them manage their classrooms.

In your survey of principals, Mr. Tata, you found concern among many of our wonderful principals.

- Many principals were embarrassed and concerned about the bickering among Board members. I hope you can help with that.
- Many principals want to keep the focus on student achievement—we need to begin focusing on this as a community, not fighting over student assignment.
- Principals asked you to calm the fears of Wake educators—I was sad to read that many of our teachers and principals are considering leaving Wake County.

Superintendent Tata, please continue to listen and **hear** what these voices on the front line, are saying.