

City Of Raleigh
North Carolina

Charles Meeker
Mayor

April 21, 2010

VIA E-MAIL RMargiotta@wcpss.net
AND U.S. MAIL

Mr. Ronald A. Margiotta, Chair
Wake County Board of Education
3600 Wake Forest Road
Post Office Box 28041
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611-8041

Re: School Board Issues

Dear Mr. Margiotta:

We are in receipt of your letter dated April 6, 2010 concerning a request for \$7,000,000 in City funds for the relocation of a public high school, as well as a resolution from Commissioner Stan Norwalk as to the segregation of Wake County's Public Schools. I will address each of these matters below. Please note that the City of Raleigh has 400,000 residents, who represent approximately 45% of those students and families in the Wake County Public School System.

First, as to the request for \$7,000,000, the Raleigh City Council voted yesterday 8-0 to deny such request. Among other matters, our City Attorney advised the Council that it would be illegal for us to expend the City funds for such a purpose. I personally have other concerns about the proposed relocation, and I am willing to talk with you about those concerns if you would like to do so.

Second, the Raleigh City Council voted 8-0 to adopt the attached Resolution opposing segregation of Wake County's Public Schools, including those schools in the City of Raleigh. In addition, the Council also voted unanimously to request that you forward to us the new plan for school assignments. We understand that while such plan has not been presented publicly to the School Board, a plan has been presented privately to selected individuals. We also note that the School Board majority in effect has repealed Wake County's long-standing diversity policy, and rejected two resolutions opposing segregation of the Public Schools.

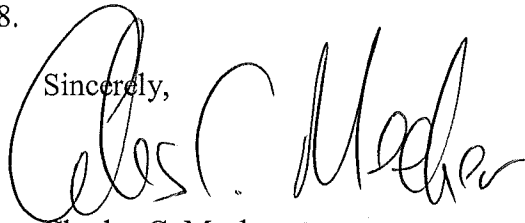
Ronald Margiotta, Chair
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In forwarding the new plan to us, please provide information as to each school, including schools in Raleigh, as to the racial and economic background of students for the current assignments, as well as the same information for the proposed new assignments. It has been reported that approximately 100 students who are predominantly minority students and from low-income areas of the City have recently been reassigned, without notice or hearing to the affected students and their families, to Southeast Raleigh High School, which is already a majority minority School.

Finally, the Council voted unanimously to request that the City of Raleigh, Wake County and the Wake County Board of Education jointly work together on a study of the costs of the proposed new assignment plan. Both operating and capital costs are to be considered. Our Council is concerned that the proposed reassignment plan will lead to higher taxes and more public debt.

Our next Council meeting is Tuesday, May 4, 2010. We request that you provide the requested information and response before such meeting so we can discuss the next steps. If you have any questions about the content of this letter, the enclosed Resolution or the requests made herein, please call me directly at 890-4168.

Sincerely,



Charles C. Meeker
Mayor, City of Raleigh

CCM:act

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Donna Hargens, Interim Superintendent (*via e-mail and regular mail*)
Debra Goldman, Vice Chair, Board of Education (*via e-mail*)
Chris Malone, Board of Education Member (*via e-mail*)
John Tedesco, Board of Education Member (*via e-mail*)
Kevin L. Hill, Board of Education Member (*via e-mail*)
Keith Sutton, Board of Education Member (*via e-mail*)
Dr. Anne McLaurin, Board of Education Member (*via e-mail*)
Carolyn Morrison, Board of Education Member (*via e-mail*)
Deborah Pickett, Board of Education Member (*via e-mail*)
Raleigh City Council (*via e-mail*)
Russell Allen, City Manager (*via e-mail*)
Thomas McCormick, City Attorney (*via e-mail*)
Gail Smith, City Clerk (*via e-mail*)

Meeker, Charles C.

From: stan [stann2372@att.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:18 AM
To: 'David Cooke'
Cc: Tony.Gurley@wakegov.com; betty lou ward; Meeker, Charles C.
Subject: Resolution for next Modays meeting

David,

Please include the following resolution in the packet for next Monday's (4/19) BOC meeting. I have sent the resolution on to the Raleigh City Council for their consideration.

Stan Norwalk
Wake County Commissioner
H (919) 363-4685

Resolution regarding Re-segregation of Wake's Public Schools.

Whereas it has been widely established that schools with concentrated populations of low income students have low academic achievement levels; and

Whereas high poverty schools have lower levels of qualified, experienced teachers; and

Whereas it is difficult and costly to improve the performance of such schools; and

Whereas middle class parents will locate or move to other areas to avoid such schools; and

Whereas there are many examples of "white flight" or middle class flight across the nation and in North Carolina; and

Whereas the City of Raleigh and Eastern Wake County will be prone to middle class flight; and

Whereas the decline in growth will cause schools in the areas noted above to run at below capacity and cause severe overcrowding in more prosperous areas of the County; and

Whereas overcrowding in prosperous areas will require new school capacity even if nearby areas have empty seats; and

Whereas the combination of special initiatives to improve the performance of high poverty schools plus new school construction for overcrowded schools in more prosperous areas will result in substantial tax increases; and

Whereas middle class flight will adversely impact economic development, job creation and property values in the City of Raleigh and Eastern Wake County; and

Whereas the City of Raleigh and Wake County merged their public school systems over thirty years ago to avoid the problems noted above; and

Whereas this merger has aided in the growth and economic vibrancy of both areas.

Be it resolved that the City Council of Raleigh and the Board of Wake County Commissioners hereby express their deep concern over any attempt to re-segregate Wake's public schools by either race or socioeconomic status