Chair's Comments
07.20.10

- I acknowledge that during the last few month, the discussions of the Board of Education have focused on student assignment and devising a better method of offering choice and stability to all families.

- We have made every effort to be diligent in responding to the voices of parents.

- We believe that this new approach to student assignment will provide quality educational opportunities for all children by addressing the needs of families and communities that the district serves.

- The new assignment plan will overcome the inefficiencies of the past including a lack of stability, a lack of choice and stagnated student achievement, while increasing trust and collaboration between all stakeholders.

- This Board does not intend to create high poverty OR low-performing schools in the new zone assignments.

- Again, let me repeat that this Board does not intend to create high poverty OR low-performing schools in the new zone assignments.

- Our intention is to provide choice and increased stability for all families while increasing the focus on student achievement and methods to ensure academic success for all children.

- While there are those individuals who prefer to cause unnecessary distractions, this Board cannot and will not permit these distractions to divert our attention away from our priority of increased achievement for all students.

- I have requested from Superintendent Hargens, along with the support of staff, a detailed report using the most recent student achievement, once the 2010-2011 data has been verified by the Department of Public Instruction.

- This report will include a complete and thorough analysis of End-of-Grade and End-of-Course results, showing the gains and losses by grade level for every Wake County school.

- Based on this report, I have also requested that staff prepare a plan of action identifying the needs of students as well as strategies to address those needs.

- I have requested information for students below grade level as well as strategies for addressing

the needs of students who are academically gifted.

- While this Board will continue to forge ahead in devising a new method for student assignment, I look forward to conversations during the next few months focusing on strategies to boost student achievement throughout the system.