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**A voice on the board for those who have
no voice – our children**

Dear Friends and Neighbors of District 2:

First I would like to thank you for trusting me with the responsibility to advocate for our children on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education. I do not take your faith in me lightly and I wake up every morning with their concerns in the forefront of my mind.

When I first assumed this position, there was a whirlwind of activity to which I finally became accustomed. In order to get the “lay of the land”, I volunteered to be a member of all of the three (3) standing committees which do the background work of the Board – Intergovernmental Relations Committee (IRC), Policy Committee and Budget Committee as well as representing the Board on the Calendar Committee. I also served on the ad hoc committee to recommend a firm to conduct our successful Superintendent search. Currently, I serve as the Chair of the recently established Facilities and Operations Committee.

In addition to responding to phone calls and emails from the public regarding individual parent and/or student issues, I also attend and speak at various public events throughout the district as well as Mecklenburg County. However, I have most enjoyed attending school events and concerts where I get to see our children actually demonstrating their talents and abilities. I also regularly visit our schools during the day to observe our students.



I have also taken the opportunity to tour our Auxiliary Services facility off Wilkerson Blvd. as well as regularly attend the Project LIFT board meetings to closely monitor the progress of these schools in our community. You may be aware of the Student Assignment Review our Board initiated last year. After I assisted with the drafting our Goals and Guiding Principles in the Policy Committee, we completed Phase One of the Assignment Review which created a plan to roll out new magnet school offerings starting this fall. This plan will give our minority students a priority in the application process to attend the magnet school of their choice.

Now we are working on Phase Two of the Assignment Review. This phase will be looking at our school boundaries and feeder patterns with a goal to make the student population in each of our schools reflect the diversity of the citizen population in Mecklenburg County. I am also personally leading the charge to dismantle the K-8 schools in our community which has hampered our student’s progress for the past 8 years. As you are probably aware, our current superintendent will be retiring on June 30th as we welcome Dr. Clayton Wilcox to assume this important leadership role on July 1st. We are excited to have Dr. Wilcox to lead us as we implement these important efforts and as we pursue a bond to provide the funds to finance our goals.

In Your Service,
Thelma Byers-Bailey, Esq.