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### For Immediate Release - Senator Joyce Waddell's North Carolina School Districts

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Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 4:59 PM



From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate  
Mecklenburg County



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, February 23, 2018

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#### North Carolina School Districts

**Charlotte, NC** – On Wednesday, the Joint Legislative Study Committee on the Division of Local School Administrative Units held its first meeting to discuss and begin examining whether public school districts should be split up. Mecklenburg County, one of the top 20 largest school districts in the nation with an enrollment of 147,000 students, is among those counties being considered. Members of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Board of Education attended the meeting: Board Chair, Mrs. Mary McCray; District 3 Representative, Dr. Ruby Jones; and Legislative Liaison, Mr. Charles Jeter. The committee heard presentations from legislative staff comparing North Carolina’s school districts to others in the Southeast. The reports also reviewed state law governing school districts and funding for schools.

No action was taken during this meeting, and members anticipate it will be some time before any action is taken. The committee chair, Representative Bill Brawley, was adamant that the goal was not to recommend or introduce legislation that would lead to the breaking up of school districts. The purpose, said Brawley, is to analyze the data they are given and “inform the debate.” Senator Joyce Waddell declared at the meeting that she does not want the community to feel blindsided by what will come from the committee.

**“I just want to ensure that this process is transparent. We should take all things into consideration before making any recommendations,” said Senator Joyce Waddell.**

The upcoming committee meetings will study issues concerning the impact of school system size on student achievement, how efficient large districts are at meeting the specialized needs of students, and the effects of dividing large school districts. The committee’s next meeting is March 14. The committee must report to the legislature by May 1.

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