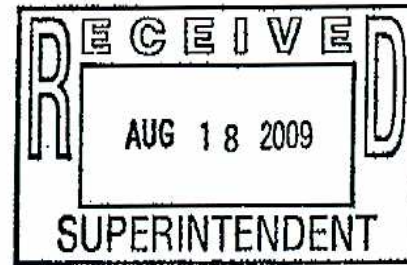


August 17, 2009

Mr. Kevin Hill, Chair
Wake County Board of Education
3600 Wake Forest Road
Raleigh, NC 27609



Dear Mr. Hill:

I am writing to request that I be considered as a replacement for Beverley Clark on the Wake County Board of Education. I am a citizen of Wake County, and I live in District 6 at 430 Yarmouth Road, Raleigh. My resume is attached.

My private and professional lives have prepared me well for this position. I will be able to contribute to the work of the Board of Education for the following reasons:

1. I am a parent of two children who completed their K-12 education in the Wake County Public School System.

As a parent, I worked closely as a partner with the schools to support the teachers and administrators to ensure the academic success of my children and the other children in the school.

2. I was a teacher in Wake County for 28 years.

As a teacher in Wake County, I spent 27 of my 28 years at Fred A. Olds Elementary School. My teacher assistant and I were partners in the classroom, and our students' individual progress was always paramount. I am proud of the close contact I had with parents, and I had high expectations for them as well as for the students in my class.

3. I served as the spokesperson for the employees of the Wake County Public School System as President of Wake NCAE for the 2 years before my retirement from WCPSS.

As President of Wake NCAE, I was in constant contact with staff in all grade levels and in all positions, and I advocated for the fair and positive treatment of all employees of the Wake County Public School System. I worked closely with the staff at Central Office and participated in the Superintendent's Cabinet. The nearly 5,000 members of Wake NCAE knew I was there whenever and wherever needed, and Central Office staff knew that I was open-minded and willing to work through issues that arose.

4. I have been a community volunteer my entire adult life and most recently served as Chairperson of Wake Relief.

Over the past seven years, I have been involved with Wake Relief and a number of other organizations and civic groups. From 2008 to 2009 I was Chairperson of Wake Relief, an organization that gives emergency groceries to families in Wake County who find themselves in crisis. As Chairperson, I was responsible for the day-to-day operation of our food pantry. I supervised 85 regular volunteers and 25 substitutes. In addition, I spoke to various civic organizations, such as the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh and several Rotary Clubs.

Three Strategies for Advancing the Board's Goal and Mission:

Success for All Students

In order to achieve the goal of "high academic growth" with the outcome of "graduating on-time, prepared to compete globally", there must be strong support from administrators, teachers, and the community. This support must begin in pre-school and continue throughout each student's journey in our public schools. This goal can be accomplished only when, at each level, there are qualified and caring teachers, a curriculum that is aligned with North Carolina's Standard Course of Study, administrators who are trained to be instructional leaders, time in the school day for professional development, mentors for beginning teachers and administrators, and other support services that ensure the social, emotional, and academic success of each individual student.

The goal of retaining our very best educators must be paramount; they will in turn be the mentors for our new hires. A strong mentor program, in which our best educators participate, will reduce the number of teachers and administrators that leave the system each year.

Students need varying levels of support in order to be successful. When problems arise, there must be a plan in place with individuals ready to support a student with whatever is needed. If this occurs, there will be fewer students in trouble academically, dropping out of school, suspended and expelled due to inappropriate behavior. Students who are low performing or who are not in school are far less likely to be productive members of society. It is also important to recognize and acknowledge that every student who graduates from high school may not go to college. The Wake County Public School System must strengthen its programs to meet the needs of these students so they are better prepared for employment after high school.

Healthy Schools

Healthy schools are those that have strong and caring academic leaders and the resources to meet the needs of all students. Having been in the classroom for 28 years, I can speak with authority that without strong and fair leadership and sufficient resources, it is very difficult to meet the individual needs of all students.

Equity in our schools is also critical. Favoritism and elitism in the Wake County Public Schools are not acceptable. In addition, all students deserve to attend schools in which they are treated equally. It is imperative that we provide schools in which all students are treated with respect by staff and fellow students, and there needs to be zero tolerance for bullying.

Responsive school system leadership should build collaboration, honor professionalism, and maintain a shared vision for the entire system. Open communication between administration, staff, and stakeholders is critical and benefits all involved.

Involved Citizenry

When the community gets involved with its public schools, they improve. There are many ways in which the Wake County Public School System can benefit from more involved citizens. We have within this county many retired educators who can be tapped into service as tutors and mentors for those students who need them. Research tells us that when parents are involved in their child's education, the child does better in school. Therefore, we need to put forth more effort in involving parents in their child's education. And we cannot forget those citizens who have neither worked in the school system, nor have children attending our schools.

Getting these individuals involved in our schools serves two purposes. They will see the wonderful work going on at these sites, and they will add to the manpower needed for volunteers.

While I was President of Wake NCAE, I had a conversation with a woman who called me at home one evening. I will never forget it. She was furious that, as a retired person on a fixed income, she and her husband were being asked to support a salary supplement increase for our teachers. I calmly asked her what she enjoyed doing in her retirement and we got around to the fact that she and her husband didn't feel safe going out at night because of the crime in Wake County. I grabbed that "teachable moment" and explained to her that many of the individuals who committed crimes did not have enough education to obtain and keep a job, and that for every dollar we spend on education, there is the potential to cut the dollars needed to incarcerate, not to mention the emotional and social pay-off. She said she had never thought about it that way, and we ended our conversation with her acknowledgment of the importance of retaining the best and most caring educators who challenge students to stay in school and to work to their full potential. We must be willing to listen and then be ready to educate our fellow citizens, using clear and concrete data.

My interest in, and enthusiasm for, the public schools has never wavered. I am, therefore, seeking a seat on the Board of Education because I am at a point in my life where I can give this position the energy and commitment that it requires. I have a passion for public education and would be honored to play a part in helping every child in Wake County succeed in school and "graduate on time, prepared to compete globally". Friends and colleagues have helped me realize that I have the capacity to reflect on issues and then follow up with thought-provoking questions. I can then analyze and synthesize the information in order to determine how best to address a need or solve a problem.

Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie M. Nau". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Julie M. Nau

Julie Marshall Nau

430 Yarmouth Road
Raleigh, NC 27608

(919) 785-3401

nauj@bellsouth.net

Education

Needham Broughton High School - 1965-1967
Mary Baldwin College - 1967-1969
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - 1969-1971
B.A. Degree in Early Childhood Education

Educator, Wake County Public Schools – 1971-2000

Fred A. Olds Elementary School – January 1973- June 2000
(Assistant Director, Young World Day Care Center – June 1972-December 1972)
Lincoln Heights Elementary School - 1971-1972

North Carolina Association of Educators – 1971-2002

President of Wake NCAE - 2000-2002
NCAE Board of Directors -2001-2002
NCAE District 11 Director – 2001-2002
NCAE Professional Rights and Responsibilities Commission – 1999-2000

Community Boards

Wake Relief - 2004-2009
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – 2000-2008
Broughton High School Vocal Music Boosters – 1992-1993
Raleigh Junior League 1978-1979, 1988-1989

Community Committees**Wake Education Partnership****Production of the "Quality Matters" Report under the School Finance Committee**

This committee scrutinized the budget of the WCPSS. The results showed that student achievement in Wake County Schools surpassed that of comparable school systems despite the fact that Wake County's cost per student was less than that of the other school systems. (This document was published in 2006.)

Recruit, Retain, and Respect Committee

This committee was convened to determine progress that had been made on the recommendations of the Wake Task Force on Teaching Excellence. The research-based recommendations were put forth to ensure quality teachers in every classroom. (This report was presented at the Wake Education Summit in 2005.)

United for Student Achievement

This committee, which included the school system and community stakeholder groups, hosted the United for Student Achievement Community Forum. The forum focused on various programs and services offered in Wake County and identified gaps in the services offered. (The event was held in 2002.)

Wake Task Force on Teacher Excellence, Human Resources Committee

This task force produced *All for All*, a report that documented the following needs in the Wake County Public School System: sustained professional development embedded in the school day, the individual principal's capacity to create an environment that supports quality teaching, critical self-analysis and shared reflection, support of teachers as professionals through career enhancement and leadership opportunities, and improved working conditions for all staff. (The report was published in January 2001.)

Wake County Public School System**Superintendent/Teacher Advisory Council**

As President of Wake NCAE, I helped with the initial structure and selection of Council members. This work served as the foundation for Dr. Burns' Summit Model, giving voice to all stakeholders in order to aid the Superintendent in making informed decisions. (This Council was initiated in 2001.)

Wake County Public Schools Task Force for "No Child Left Behind" - Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps

This task force examined practices to ensure educational opportunities and proper outcomes for all Wake County Public School System students. (The Steering Committee began work in spring of 2003, and the report was published in January of 2004.)

Wake County Public Schools Advisory Committees to the Board of Education

Finance, 2000-2002

Human Resources, 2000-2002

Facilities, 2000-2002

Raleigh Junior League Committees

Projects 1977-1978 (Chairperson 1978-1979)
Public Relations 1977-1978
Training 1980-1982

White Memorial Presbyterian Church Committees

Children in Worship
Youth Ministry

Volunteering in the Community

Wake Relief Co-Chair 2007-2008, Chair 2008-2009
Wake Relief Shift Volunteer 2002-2009
Teaching English as a Second Language at Holy Trinity Church 2003-2009
Wake Literacy Training 2009
Reading Program for YMCA's "High Hopes" Camp/Girls' Club 2003-2009
Tutoring at Fred A. Olds Elementary School 2002-2008
Office of the Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen 2002-2003
Interfaith Food Shuttle 1995, 2007, 2008
Trees Across Raleigh 2007-2009
American Cancer Society Neighborhood Campaign, yearly
American Lung Association Neighborhood Campaign, yearly
Multiple Sclerosis Neighborhood Campaign, yearly
Leukemia Foundation Neighborhood Campaign, yearly

Volunteering through White Memorial Presbyterian Church

Youth Group Volunteer
Sunday School Volunteer
Greeter and Usher, ongoing
Martha's Ministry, ongoing
Substitute for Reception Desk, ongoing
Clothing Closet, ongoing

Volunteering as an active member of the Raleigh Junior League

Boys' Club 1972-1973
Drug Offender Program 1973-1974
Bargain Box 1974-1975, 1986-1987, 1988-1989
Child Advocacy Advisory Planning 1975-1976, 1976-1977
Friendly Visitor 1983-1984
Children's Festival 1985-1986
Society to Prevent Blindness 1987-1988

Honors

Fred A. Olds Teacher of the Year 1996-1997

Updated August 17, 2009