



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE CONFERENCE**

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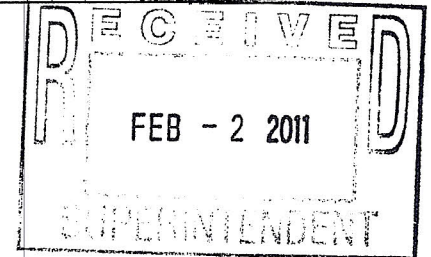
Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II
President

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Executive Director

Via Fax 919-850-1819 and First Class Mail

February 2, 2011

Anthony Tata, Superintendent
Wake County Public Schools System
P.O. Box 28041
Raleigh, NC 27611-8041



Dear Superintendent Tata:

I am writing you this letter one day after the 51st Anniversary of the Greensboro sit-ins led by students and that changed the course of civil rights and racial segregation in this country. On behalf of the North Carolina State Conference of Branches of the NAACP, I welcome you to Wake County and extend our prayers in your new endeavor. We trust we can establish a strong working relationship as we address the critical problems many children in the Wake County Schools face. For those of us in the civil rights and progressive community, our questions for you and any leader of a public school system are simply these, "How will the policies that you and the board implement push forward the goals and ideals of having high quality, constitutional, well-funded, diverse, public education for every child? How will your policies work to eliminate racially identifiable, high poverty schools that are the enemy of student achievement? How will your policies hold together a commitment to diversity, a commitment to student achievement, and commitment to equity in resources, which are interconnected principles necessary for any real commitment to healthy/high quality schools?" We have been clear as to what years of research and history have said regarding the development of high quality public education. We must do the following:

- Stop Resegregation - Promote Diversity
- Provide Equity in Funding For All Schools
- Provide High Quality Teachers and Smaller Classrooms
- Provide High Quality Facilities
- Provide High Quality Leadership Teams in Every School
- Focus on Math, Science, Reading and History
- Promote Parental and Community Involvement
- Address Unjust and Disproportionate Suspensions, Dropout Rates and Graduation Rates Among African-American, Minorities and Poor Students

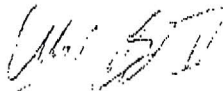
The NAACP has always advocated for schools that provide equal protection for all children under the law. In 1954, we persuaded nine Supreme Court Justices that separate schools for Black children were, by definition, injurious to their educational opportunities. This was an enlightened understanding of the evils of Jim Crow segregation, and a glorious step forward in the long march toward one nation with liberty and justice for all. About 14 months ago, a 5-4 majority of your Board declared their intention to re-assign poor African American and Latino students in separate schools, which they euphemistically called "neighborhood schools." They said this is what they had promised their suburban voters, and therefore they had to carry it out, even if it were unconstitutional. The question in

Wake County has never really been about busing or going to school a little closer to home because those who know the facts know it is disingenuous to try to make busing an issue in Wake County. The question in Wake County has always been whether in our schools we will go backwards to situations of resegregation of bodies, buildings, budgets, and the basic building blocks of high quality education or will we move forward and build upon the excellent foundations that already existed?

We trust you have read carefully our complaint to the U.S. Department of Education and that you will cooperate fully with its review of the Board's student assignments --which have already increased the amount of racial segregation of Wake's 142,000 students. We are monitoring carefully the federal investigation. We also believe your Board has been violating its own rules and the standards set by the Southern Accreditation for Colleges and Schools (SACS). We are monitoring the SACS review and trust you will cooperate with it also.

Again, we welcome and pray for you as you have been selected for this sacred position of trust with all the families in Wake County. We stand ready to help with any initiative that will improve student achievement and graduation rates, or stop the school-to-prison pipeline. We will use every means possible to stop and reverse actions that would dismantle Wake's nationally-recognized SES diversity policy. Now that you are officially superintendent, we would desire to meet with you as soon as possible. We are aware that how we work together and how we struggle against each other on basic policy disagreements will be watched carefully by all, including our children. We trust we shall all learn in the process. And that our children will learn the most.

Yours in Spirit of Truth, Justice and Equality,



Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II
State Conference President, NC NAACP
Board Member, National NAACP