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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CHRISTINE KUSHNER TO RUN FOR SCHOOL BOARD**  
**“Strong Schools Make Strong Neighborhoods.”**

RALEIGH—June 6, 2011—Christine Kushner, a long-time schools advocate, writer, and policy analyst, will seek election to the District 6 seat on the Wake County Board of Education.

“My goal is to bring thoughtful and practical leadership to the Board of Education,” she said. In her work with Wake County Public Schools, Kushner has focused on strategies to reduce the achievement gap, advocated for more common ground on the Board of Education, and called for a more open and transparent decision-making process by the school district.

Kushner has served in numerous policy and volunteer leadership positions within the schools for more than 11 years. A former chair of the District 4 Board Advisory Council, she currently is a member of the District 6 BAC, appointed by Board member Carolyn Morrison. Kushner also serves on Superintendent Tony Tata’s Parent Advisory Council, she tutors through Communities in Schools, and she has been a PTA president and executive officer. She also has participated as a parent representative on School Improvement Plan teams, which create strategies to raise achievement. She is interested in building public-private partnerships to expand after-school and arts programming in the schools.

“I have worked inside the classroom with students and teachers and outside the classroom on committees with teachers, principals, and superintendents,” she said. “In the past decade, I have seen firsthand the excellence of our system, and I have also seen the work that needs to be done, especially in reducing the achievement gap and achieving success for all students. We need data-driven solutions for our children.”

Kushner said she shares these values for our schools:

- ✓ Strong schools make strong neighborhoods
- ✓ Quality matters—I value retaining accreditation for our high schools
- ✓ Low performing schools waste taxpayer dollars and short-change students
- ✓ Student achievement means challenging all students and continuing to reduce the achievement gap
- ✓ A strong public school system is vital to our local economy to train our future workforce

“Christine has the leadership and broad educational experience that we need on our school Board,” said Virginia Parker, a Sanderson High parent.

“We need Board members who will make wise choices, and I trust Christine to make smart decisions,” said Anne Dahle, another supporter. “Those of us who do not currently have children in the school system need to be able to trust our Board members to spend resources wisely.”

Kushner, the parent of two children in public schools, is a native of Fayetteville and has lived in Wake County for more than 20 years.

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***Christine Kushner***  
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Christine has been a Wake County resident for more than 20 years, married for 23 years, and has two children in the public schools.

**Policy Analyst, Consultant and Journalist**

- Communications, policy analysis, program administration, and grant-writing experience with nonprofits
- Served as deputy director for a \$16.5 million national grant program from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, designed to assist government agencies in 15 selected states expand resources to medically-underserved rural and urban communities
- Worked as chief policy analyst and grant-writer for the N.C. Foundation for Advanced Health Programs, leading efforts in primary health care delivery systems, rural health, hospital networks, maternal and child health, and public health issues
- As consultant, developed a leadership program and major annual fundraising event for N.C. Foundation for Advanced Health Programs
- Former newspaper reporter on education, crime, and local news for daily newspapers, *Dallas Times Herald* and the *Raleigh News and Observer*

**Education Advocate and Community Volunteer**

- District 6 and District 4 Board Advisory Council member
- Active PTA leader, Hunter Elementary, Ligon Middle and Enloe High schools
- Member, School Improvement teams, Ligon Middle and Enloe High schools
- Founding Board Member, CONCERT: Communities Organizing to Nurture and Celebrate East Raleigh Talent, with focus on after-school programs
- Facilitator, YWCA Study Circles on racial and ethnic relations, Hunter, Fuller and Powell elementary schools; developed school-based solutions to achievement gap
- Parent representative, Parents as Teachers Advisory Group, Project Enlightenment
- Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee member under Superintendents Tony Tata, Donna Hargens and Del Burns
- Volunteer tutor and classroom volunteer, Communities in Schools
- Review panel, Youth Arts Programming, United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County
- Former Board Chair, Volunteer Families for Children, nonprofit providing support to foster families
- Sunday School Teacher, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

**Education**

Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Master's Degree in Public Affairs

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Morehead Scholar, Bachelor's Degree in Journalism and Political Science

E.E. Smith High School, Fayetteville City Public Schools