

Vernis Wright	Bullying	<p>My name is Vernis Wright, and I am the father of Aniya Wright. I am writing this letter as my last attempt to figure out how we can work together as a team to support Aniya. Since School has been in session and I am concerned for my daughter's well-being. Aniya suffers from depression. Last year Aniya attempted to harm herself, and since then, she has been seeing a therapist. This school year, there have been several bullying incidents (see below). My understanding, according to Policy Code: 1710/4021/7230 Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying, "The Wake County Board of Education acknowledges the dignity and worth of all students and employees and strives to create a safe, orderly, caring, and inviting school environment to facilitate student learning and achievement."</p> <p>I have tried to bring up this concern on more than one occasion; however, my efforts seem to fall on deaf ears. At this point, I feel as though my daughter is experiencing a hostile environment. As defined by the county, this states the following: "Hostile environment means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as harassment or bullying and that the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is harassment or bullying." If we cannot move forward in a productive manner where my daughter is safe at your school, my choice is the Board of Education. I fear these incidents will continue to negatively impact my child and exacerbate her mental health. I love my child and am unwilling to lose her due to unsafe dynamics at school. Please let me know when we can meet to discuss my child's safety while she is attending your school.</p> <p>Incidents:</p> <p>There has been a girl hitting Aniya. At one point, Aniya had to run into the bathroom because she was so afraid, and a teacher had to come and assist her.</p> <p>There was an incident of a male student expressing wanting to rape Aniya.</p> <p>A male student on the bus picks on Aniya and calls her names.</p> <p>There has been a girl pulling Aniya's hair.</p> <p>There has been a girl who has called her fat.</p> <p>There was even a student who tripped Aniya on purpose in the cafeteria, and a teacher had to catch her from falling.</p> <p>Consistently, there have been two male students bullying Aniya.</p> <p>There was an incident of one throwing pencils at Aniya, in which the teacher had to tell her to stop.</p> <p>There was an incident of one calling her a B****, one called her a crab, and one called her a monkey.</p> <p>There have been several incidents of them hitting or picking on her.</p>
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Kathryn Staley	Supporting proposed Equity Policy	<p>As a teacher in a Title I school with high African American and Hispanic student and staff demographics and the co-adviser of our Gender Sexuality Association, I strongly support the approval of the proposed educational equity policy being read at 11/1/22's school board meeting. Our students need to see themselves represented in our curriculum and programs and trust that our systems and procedures are equitable and reflect their needs rather than a cookie cutter 'one size fits all' model. A concrete policy gives the backing when staff are unclear or lack confidence that the district will support their equity- and diversity-related decisions.</p>
Donna Laiosa	Equity Policy	<p>I would like to thank the Board for updating the equity policy to better reflect the mission of the district. I especially like the change to 'individual practice' from 'individual beliefs and actions.' Kudos for putting your money where your mouth is by using "Minority Business Enterprise Participation in Construction Contracts."</p>
Deborah Bromiley	Equity Policy	<p>I am in STRONG support of the Equity Policy. It addresses equity and fairness to ALL students of Wake County Schools. There is too much bullying and discrimination that is very harmful to our youth. The Equity Policy will help with this. Please adopt it as soon as possible!</p>
Stephanie Mitchell	Equity Policy	<p>I am writing to you today in support of the proposed Equity Policy (policy code: 1150). As a parent and a PTA member, I believe that ALL students deserve equitable access to opportunities that will allow them to reach their full potential. I appreciate that the proposed policy not only defines equity using inclusive language, but also asks questions and offers a commitment to equity which will lead to ongoing action. Furthermore, the inclusion of actions the district will take to hire and retain a diverse staff, procure instructional materials that are high quality and diverse, use data to identify barriers to opportunities, and provide evidence-base professional development for school staff strengthens that commitment to our WCPSS students.</p>

Teresa Jones	Equity Policy	<p>I am writing in support of the proposed Equity Policy. My children have been in WCPSS Magnet Schools since 2008. My husband and I were intentional about placing our kids in the Magnet Program to provide them the opportunity to attend school with children from all areas of Raleigh. This has allowed my kids to have a diverse group of friends and has given them, and me, insight into the disparities that exist in our schools. Whether it is the lack of children of color in AP classes, who gets stopped for passes in the hallway, or who gets passed over for prime spots in the school band, my kids have seen it all.</p> <p>I appreciate the Board moving forward on this policy and the compromises that have been made. It was fascinating and heartening to see the Board in action at the October 25th meeting. Despite your differences, you have decided to work together in the best interest of the students of Wake County. This policy and the operational efforts yet to come are necessary to move our schools to a place where they are safe and welcoming for ALL students. Administrators and teachers need to know that there is an expectation to interrupt inequities as they encounter them, but also that there is encouragement to take action, knowing they have the support of the Board.</p> <p>These are frightening times we are living in. There was a lot of talk about bullying at the 10/25 meeting. It is not just our students who are being bullied, teachers and librarians are being harassed and threatened for being inclusive of all students. By adopting this policy, the Board sends a clear message that Wake County will not give in to the bullies, that all children are valued, all children deserve a quality education, and all children deserve "an inclusive environment in which they can learn, grow, succeed, and reach their unbounded potential."</p>
Carrie Anne Krall	Equity policy	<p>All WCPSS students, faculty, and staff deserve equitable and inclusive paths to success. I support the passing of the updated equity policy. I encourage all board members to vote 'yes' for this policy which will have a positive impact on all of WCPSS.</p>

Robin Livingston	To GOP - Stop Bashing Our Schools	<p>As a longtime Republican resident of Wake County and a parent of 3 children, 2 of whom graduated from WCPSS schools, and one who started high school this year, I've been gravely concerned about the bashing of school board members, students and parents by certain political groups. In normal times, I would ally myself with these groups, because we share a common political viewpoint. At least, we did until recently. As a white republican Christian woman, I do not agree with the GOP's positions on banning books, bashing school officials, calling teachers "groomers," etc. We can disagree on policy, but public school belongs to everyone. We must come together as a community to support all kids and make sure no one is made to feel inferior or unworthy. Every child in NC deserves a sound basic education per our constitution. This means real history is taught, real books with real people of diverse backgrounds are available, and real health/science is respected and taught. It's been a disappointing 3 years to see my political party devolve into something I no longer recognize as reasonable. If parents don't like the way public schools teach, they certainly have other options. When the new school board is elected, all should remember whom they work for and why they are there. It concerns me that the next 2 years could be very contentious. I would ask that each newly elected board member commit to working with their fellow board members for the good of everyone. That's the job. It isn't about your step up to another political office or a mission to mold school into your own vision of what it should be. If you are one who has been very vocal and get elected, don't trash our schools. Also, stop bearing false witness against school officials by lying about their motives and actions. Just stop.</p>
Samantha Wahl	Audit Athletic Boosters	<p>Dear WCPSS BOE I'm sure you heard of the husband and wife sentenced to prison for stealing 200,000 dollars from a high school athletic booster club in Charlotte, NC. Time and time again wcpss parents have requested all athletic Boosters to be audited and publicly shared on each schools website. This will reveal and expose any and all unethical money practices. You should stay abreast of money transactions, and what is not disclosed to families and sponsors. For example we have an orthodontist that is a life long sponsor at the school. No other orthodontist can be a sponsor. The school sold exclusive sponsorship rights to one and only one community partner. When asked what that dollar amount was.... We were told a lot of money and I mean a lot. Where is the transparency? This is shameful! Start to Audit HHS boosters.</p>

Mark Dixon	Equity Policy	<p>I am very concerned about the progress that the Equity Policy has taken recently. From viewing board sessions and attending a parent input session myself, it seems that some or many board members are so determined to deliver this policy that they refuse to listen to counter points. On more than one occasion, some board members cite that there is dialogue against parts of the policy and there has been NO RESPONSE from the rest of the board members. This is not open dialogue... it's closing one's mind to a differing point of view.</p> <p>In the session I attended, I asked about and challenged the very first statement about equal outcomes and did not receive an adequate answer. Perhaps I do not understand, but the school board should not aspire to achieve equal outcomes. There are too many factors of which the school has little or no influence on (you all know the largest ones are home life and the amount of homework done). Further, you have a committee that measures performance, so eliminating the predictability of performance based on certain categories is well known and you see that data regularly. An endeavor to seek equal outcome is an exercise in dividing by zero (it blows up in your face until you watch it go far enough to see that there is no solution). As such, references to outcomes should be removed from the document.</p> <p>It is not unreasonable to have a session that gathers all of the counter points and criticism to the policy and answers each one. If there is not an adequate answer to the point, then it should be removed from consideration.</p> <p>On the topic of the definition, I do like very much the definition that Dr. Martin offered and wish that it received serious consideration... it is an appropriate definition. HOWEVER, where I oppose Dr. Martin, it is in his willingness to not hold up the policy if not considered. Yes, the board should stop and re-think the defemination.</p> <p>Lastly, the lens you should all now be looking through is the one at which this policy will be a tool (or really a club) against others.</p>
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