

# Wake Education Partnership

Monthly Newsletter

October 2011



Steve Parrott

## A Message From Our President

Welcome to another edition of Wake Education Partnership's monthly newsletter. The past 30 days have been very active for public education in Wake County. On October 11, voters went to the polls to elect five members to serve on the Board of Education. As we await the run-off election for District 3 on November 8, I want to congratulate Keith Sutton, Susan Evans, Jim Martin and Christine Kushner on their election wins. Wake Education Partnership looks forward to working with each of you to deliver a world-class education for all of our students.

On October 12, the Partnership hosted more than 425 registered attendees at our 2011 Education Summit in Cary. The theme for this event was "Creating Opportunities for Closing the Global Education Gap". Our panelists (Dr. Jim Goodnight, Dr. Randy Woodson, David Young and Tony Tata) did a great job of leading the discussion on what is actually being done in Wake County and across North Carolina to help close the gap. The interactive discussion with the audience (led by moderator Brooks Raiford) identified additional opportunities for us to improve student achievement through innovative classroom instruction, expansion of technology and professional development for our teachers/administrators.

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Welcome! We hope you find the information and links in this publication helpful. To find out more about us:

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[Meet Our Investors](#)

During the Education Summit, the Partnership also recognized Rev. Marion Robinson for his "volunteerism" and tireless efforts to address the educational needs of all Wake County students. He was presented the Vernon Malone Friend of Education Award, which is the highest recognition given to a non-educator and non-elected official in Wake County for their work in education. Congratulations Marion! You continue to serve as an inspiration for all of us who care about the education of our children. I want to thank the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce and their EDGE4 program for sponsoring this year's award presentation.

On October 18, the Board of Education approved (by a 6-2 vote) the school choice plan proposed by Superintendent Tony Tata and his staff. The new plan will be implemented in the 2012-13 school year and is based upon proximity, stability, choice and achievement. The Partnership supports these guiding principles that will form the foundation of the plan going forward. While not a "perfect" plan, we believe it will be practicable to implement and will enable WCPSS to manage projected enrollment growth in a way that is fair to all students. We look forward to working with the school system and other community-based organizations on the outreach and family engagement effort to ensure our parents are educated on the school choices available to their children.



### Teacher Leadership Grants

#### 2010-2011 Grant Outcomes

For the next few months we will highlight outcomes from the 2010-2011 Teacher Leadership Grants.

Wake Education Partnership is currently in the midst of it's nine-week Annual Campaign for 2011-12. We greatly appreciate two of our Cornerstone Investors that have stepped up in these challenging times and increased their investment over last year. We thank them and highlight them for you now.



Supporting the Partnership since 1995 at the Cornerstone level, **Golden Corral** is well-known for its support of public education and literacy in the Wake County community. They are strategic and focused in their giving back to the community because they believe strongly in seeing impact. The Partnership is honored to be a long-time partner with **Golden Corral** and we thank them for their belief in our work, for seeing our impact and for their investment with us.

In addition to their financial investment, **Golden Corral** provides strong guidance and leadership to the Partnership through Leadership Council member **James Maynard** and Board of Director member **Richard Urquhart**. Thank you, Golden Corral!



**Wells Fargo** (then Wachovia) began its investment with the Partnership in 1995 and has been a Cornerstone Investor ever since. They are an investor because they know our work promotes academic achievement by working to eliminate achievement gaps and by advancing

### **Creating Equitable Classrooms through a High Performance Learning Culture**

At Forest Pines Drive Elementary, Diane New's grant provided training to help staff identify fundamental instructional approaches across all grade levels and classrooms. It also helped staff address beliefs and expectations for all students. As a result, survey data show a 29% increase in the number of staff members who believe the statement, "All students can learn and succeed in school and it's my job to make sure they do."

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Teacher Leadership Grants are designed to promote effective teaching and improve student achievement through professional learning communities and instructional innovation.

You can support Teacher Leadership Grants with an investment in this program. For more information, email [Julie Crain](mailto:Julie.Crain) or contact her at 821-7609.



### **Upcoming Events**

#### **WCPSS Magnet Fair - November 5**

The Wake County Public School System will offer its annual Magnet Fair on Saturday, November 5.

Families will have the opportunity to learn

teaching through professional development, support and retention of teachers. Through **Director Damon Dishmon, Wells Fargo** additionally provides strong leadership for the Partnership.

We salute and thank **Golden Corral** and **Wells Fargo** for their increased and continued investment with the Partnership!

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### **New Assignment Plan Approved**

A new student assignment plan built upon the goals of stability, school choice, proximity and student achievement was approved by the Wake County school board this month.

The school system is maintaining a detailed [web site](#) that explains how the plan will work starting in 2012-2013, but for most parents the two most important points are obvious.

1. All students who are happy with their current assignments can remain in their schools with their current level of transportation.

2. Students beginning kindergarten in 2012-2013 will need to choose a school. Choice lists are expected to be posted within days at the school system's

about magnet school options from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5 at Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School. You can learn more about the Magnet Fair and the [Magnet program](#) on the WCPSS websites linked in this article.

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### **Partnership Joins Key Initiatives; Continues Education and Outreach**

Wake Education Partnership President Steve Parrott was recently named to two school system advisory boards expected to play important roles in strengthening the academic success of Wake County's schools.

The Partnership will serve on advisory boards overseeing the expansion of both the Global School Network and the STEM Schools Network within the school system.

The [Global Schools Network](#) includes 15 schools committed to providing students with the skills needed to compete, collaborate and communicate in a global society. The [STEM Collaborative Network](#) is committed to replicating best practices in the studies of science, technology, engineering and math. The advisory boards of both groups will work to assist in securing corporate sponsorships and grant opportunities.

The Partnership was also involved in several community presentations recently to members of local real estate firms and parent groups interested in learning more about the new approach to student assignment in 2012-2013.

Please [contact us](#) today if you would like to learn more about an issue involving the education of Wake County's students.

### **Our Cornerstone Investors**

The following have invested in the work of the Partnership at \$10,000 and above. We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them and want you to know

web site listed above. In general, the choices will be the five closest elementary schools to a student's home as well as the magnet programs currently available.

The Partnership and the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce were instrumental in creating the framework of the proposal that eventually became the student assignment plan approved by the school board. Business leaders were among the first in the community to hear the concepts explained almost 15 months ago. They then helped shape the debate that determined the final result.

The Partnership appreciates all who were involved in that process and looks forward to your continued involvement in the schools.

Although school district leaders took over the details and implementation of the plan more than seven months ago, the Partnership remained an active participant in the process. We also provided [regular updates](#) as part of the *In Context* news summaries.

We will continue our involvement in the effort to educate parents about the plan's detail by working with the school system and directly with community groups that want to know more.

If you have questions, please visit the [district's web site](#) or contact [Tim Simmons](#) at 919.821.7609 if you have questions about the Partnerships' efforts.

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### **In Their Words: Why The Partnership Matters**

From time to time, people will graciously drop us a line telling us why the Partnership matters to them. For those of you who have done so, many thanks.

To get a fuller idea of what it is we

who they are.

AT&T  
Bank of America  
BB&T  
Capitol Broadcasting Company  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Golden Corral  
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce  
Lifetouch  
News & Observer  
Progress Energy  
RBC Bank  
Rex Healthcare  
SAS  
SunTrust Bank  
Time Warner Cable  
Wells Fargo

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### ***In Context***

An independent review of school issues for business leaders, elected officials and the education community in Wake County.

*Provided free by Wake Education Partnership*

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do, we encourage you to [visit our site](#) where you can learn more about our work with Wake County's schools.

Don't be shy. [Send us an email](#) letting us know why the Partnership's work matters to you. We sincerely appreciate the support.

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*"There are very few things I can do in either my professional or personal life that will affect as many kids as being involved with the Partnership."*

**Russell Killen**

**Partner**

**Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP**



## **By the numbers...**

A few years back the Partnership published an annual digest titled Quality Matters. Most of the data found in the publication can now be easily collected online, but we thought it might still be appreciated if we offered a few facts and figures in each newsletter that help define the 18th largest school district in the country.

The beginning of the school year is the obvious time -- at least in Wake County -- to look at enrollment growth. For those who like to skip right to the last page of a book, the total number on the 20th day of the school year was 146,687. The 20th day is considered the "official" enrollment as far as the state is concerned.

Almost as interesting this year is the projected enrollment compared to the actual

enrollment as shown in the following table.

School level	Actual	Projected	Difference
Elementary	70,564	70,484	80
Middle	33,750	33,887	-137
High	42,373	42,286	87
Total	146,687	146,657	30

So the district didn't get it *exactly* right this year. They were 30 students off on growth of 3,398 children. That would be an accuracy rate of just over 99%. More breakdowns by school can be found on the [Demographics](#) page presented by the school system.

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Please contact our [staff](#) at 821.7609 if you have any questions about our work or if you wish to find out how you can invest in public education through the Partnership.

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