

***** For Immediate Release ****

JOHN TEDESCO to leave BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS for full time public service to the Wake County School Board.

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One of the great privileges of my life has been the opportunity to serve my community helping our most vulnerable children. I have worked for communities, non-profits, universities and more. Over the last few years I have been blessed to serve as the Chief Development Officer for Big Brothers Big Sisters here in the Triangle as we served thousands of our region's at-risk youth. While my heart is with the mission of this incredible organization, today our broader community stands at a crossroads. With that in mind, and to honor the public trust placed upon me by my community, I am departing my role with Big Brothers Big Sisters to commit full time over the next few months to my role as a member of the Wake County Board of Education.

Growing up as one of society's vulnerable children I was blessed to realize that it was only God's Grace and multiple contributions of public good (churches, role models, mentors, teachers, non-profits, government services, and private support) throughout my life that spared me a different path. It has been my life's calling to do the same for others and provide opportunities for all children to have a life that opens doors to unlimited possibilities.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle is an incredible organization that opens those doors for our children and produces real measurable impact. They remain the national youth mentoring standard, and with their local Mentoring Children of Prisoners Initiative, Community Based, and School Based mentoring programs they stand uniquely positioned to have far reaching impact for our community. I encourage anyone who can to get involved in the life of a local child today or at least make a commitment of support for those who do.

I fundamentally believe that education is the key to upward social mobility in America; a key that can help children escape the bonds of poverty and stop the cradle to prison pipeline. The Wake County Public School System remains a good system with many dedicated professionals serving 140,000 children of diverse cultures and needs. However, in recent years, under the pressures of growth, recession, and evolving demands in education, we have slipped in our academic performance at various levels, consumer satisfaction, and efficiencies. There are those in our community who fear the continued slide and those who fear a loss of all we have gained. Amidst these concerns we stand uniquely positioned to take our school system from "good" to "great" for our children and our community.

Being elected by an overwhelming number of those who voted in my community remains both an honor and a responsibility. I was further honored with the trust of my colleagues to serve as Chairman of both our Student Assignment Committee and our Task Force for Economically Disadvantaged Youth. For many, a large share of the public concern and uncertainty rests between these two roles. I believe in times of challenge leaders need to make sacrifices to serve a greater public good. As we launch this new course over the coming months I will be working beyond full time in these efforts to bridge those gaps on our path to "great".

Through these roles Wake County Schools will strengthen our systems to challenge our most gifted, while raising our most vulnerable. We will lay the foundation for a World Class public education system prepared to excel in the 21st century while ensuring our commitment to a better educated citizenry, cultural integration, stability, balance, parental choice, and community development. A high quality education remains our promise for ALL children and I (as all my colleagues) will work tirelessly to bring our community together around this goal.

Again, I thank Big Brothers Big Sisters for the great privilege to serve the organization on behalf of thousands of young people and remain a strong advocate for their mission. I also encourage others to support these efforts by contacting Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle's CEO, Kim Breeden at (919) 850-9772 or visit www.bbbstriangle.org.

Together WE WILL dare mighty things for our children.

John T. Tedesco