

Wake County Clergy Coalition

We are a group of pastors, ministers, priests, rabbis and clergy from the many different churches, religions, and denominations within the community of Wake County. We have come together because, beyond all the differences in our religious practices and traditions, we are all united as one in our belief that:

1. **The integration of our diversity in our communities and in our public schools is a fundamental religious, social, and moral value.**
2. **Aware of the history and present reality of our State and of our County, and informed by expert studies on current developments at public schools, we realize how changes in integration policies such as the ones being now proposed at the School Board lead to negative results. We are convinced that the proposed changes of abandoning the current integration policies, however well-meaning they may be, do in fact lead to a re-segregation of our schools.**
3. **As they lead to re-segregation, we consider the proposed changes to go against the basic principles of our faith, to be contrary to the Bible's tradition of compassion and care for all our children, and consider them to be opposed to our religion's teachings on social justice.**
4. **Our WCPSS can always be improved, and its problems need be addressed, but the current Board's rush to effect a major and historic change in policy is proving divisive and controversial in our community – this is not the right way to make policy and solve problems. A civil, informed and participatory process of study and discussion is what our community needs and expects from our elected leaders as we decide the future of our children's education.**

Therefore,

1. **We call on the School Board to postpone the decision** on changing the current integration and diversity policies, and give this major issue the time it requires to be seriously considered.
2. **We call on the School Board to lead a civil study and discussion process of this complex issue;** we especially request from it to give all voices in our community a fair chance to be heard before any decision is submitted to a vote.
3. **We call on the School Board not to make a major reversal of such a historic and successful policy without first allowing the examination of the facts and figures,** which in-depth independent studies show, and experts are ready and willing to present to the community.
4. **We invite all fellow clergy in Wake County to join us,** so the voice of our values and our faith may help guide our community as we shape together the future of our children, of our schools, and of our community itself.

May God bless all our children.

Title/Name

Congregation

