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## **PAC Launched to Take Wake Schools Back**

***TWSB to support Wake County School Board candidates committed to community-based schools and other core principles***

**RALEIGH, N.C., March 3, 2009** – With Wake County parents, students and taxpayers growing increasingly frustrated over the latest re-assignment plans and questionable School Board decisions, Take Wake Schools Back (TWSB) is a new political action committee (PAC) formed to address these concerns. The goal of the TWSB PAC is to raise money to identify and support local school board candidates who will make the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) accountable to the parents who rely on it and the taxpayers who fund it. There are four Wake County School Board seats open for election on October 6, 2009.

TWSB will support School Board candidates who pledge to uphold a number of core values and actions to improve the WCPSS, including:

- **Community schools** - Use of busing only to ease overcrowding as a short-term solution, while new schools are built in the neighborhoods that need them now;
- **Accountability** – A Wake County School Board that is accountable to Wake parents, students and taxpayers and members and will lead based on principle;
- **Flexibility** – Revision of the student assignment policy, which includes supporting stability for individual students, keeping siblings together, and recognizing families as individuals rather than nodes within a system. This also includes creation of additional options for parents and students when a proposed assignment is unfavorable;
- **Transparency** – Support of at-large school board elections, currently being proposed in the N.C. General Assembly, in addition to the need for a full capacity audit of the schools; and
- **Excellence** – Commitment to improving the quality of education via use of common sense above social engineering as well as coherent and content-rich curriculum standards.

“As one of many concerned Wake County parents, it is clear that the current school board is making decisions that are detrimental to the quality of our children’s education,” said Dennis Berwyn, member of the TWSB PAC. “The declining test score numbers illustrate that the existing policies, particularly the practice of busing students far away from their neighborhood schools, are not working. We need to take Wake Schools back by electing accountable school board members who will ensure that our children’s best educational interests are always the number one priority.”

Collin McMichael, president of compliance management consulting company CM&Co. LLC, is serving as treasurer of TWSB. The PAC is in the process of recruiting additional members of its executive committee.

Interested parties can find additional information about Take Wake Schools Back at [www.takewakeschoolsback.com](http://www.takewakeschoolsback.com), including how to get involved and donate to elect four new school board members.

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