

SUPERINTENDENT'S LISTEN & LEARN FEEDBACK



Ragsdale High School, October 3, 2016

Hosted by: Nancy R. Routh

At-Large

What does Guilford County Schools do well?

- The variety of course offerings that include special needs, the magnet and arts schools. Planning curriculum maps.
- Initially students who were homeschooled and have transitioned to the public school have had a positive experience.
- Parents and students are awarded and praised for their accomplishments through treats, awards, certificates and scholarships.. College prep opportunities, College Night at the Coliseum and Say Yes to Education.
- Attendance policy holds students accountable.
- GCS Parent academy programs and communicates well with parents.
- Community partnerships to meet low income student needs treated respectfully and privately.
- We have 4 public separate schools for students with severe cognitive disabilities.
- The school staff is available to talk with us when needed.
- We have a school board whose members care about the students and they communicate with educators and parents.

What can Guilford County Schools improve?

- Shift in county leadership structure in order to free up funds for schools—students and staff/tutoring.
- Textbooks cannot be taken home; a lot of them are in poor condition.
- Instructional materials.
- Specialist with limited schedules (4 days per week).
- Bring back tutors to the schools.
- If teachers lose planning periods, etc. communication is difficult.
- There is limited administrative staff (secretaries and speech specialists).
- On-line course registration takes away from individual student contact.
- Vocational and trade courses made more available in all high schools.
- Bullying should be handled more seriously and timely.
- Since all students do not plan to attend a 4-year college there needs to be better counseling to pursue attending the community colleges.
- More outreach with the FAFSA education and training with counselors , students and parents.
- Improve transportation efficiency.
- Student re-assignment process is not clear and complicated, not equal access.
- Continue to educate students and parents on Power Schools to make it easier to use.
- Equity in our schools.
- Global Studies Academy education.

What advice would you give Superintendent Contreras and the Board of Education that will assist them in moving the District forward?

- Commit to sharing how the schools are really doing.
Example: A "C" grade for Guilford Elementary and yet their growth was the largest gain for the district.
- Angie Henry, CFO, give a budget training to PTAs.
- The superintendent could share where the budget (funding) comes from.
- Parents supplementing the schools' budget by providing paper towels, paper, soap, tissue, etc.
- Continually ask for feedback from teachers prior to beginning of the school year.
- See that spaces are being utilized at schools. Do some updating with facilities.
- Purchase quality resources.
- Need school nurse full-time at every school.
- Consistency in technology across schools (projectors, document cameras, etc.).
- Continue to be sensitive to teacher time and training at beginning of the school year.
- Visit our schools.
- We need more money and training for our EC and special needs teachers and students.
- Continue to build partnerships with legislators in NC and Washington towards strengthening public education.
- Continue to build relationships with Guilford County Commissioners toward a better understanding of our schools. Invite them to visit our schools.
- There are schools that do not have adequate indoor teaching space for physical education. Some schools teach in mobile units, only outdoors on asphalt or dirt, and to use part of the cafeteria or the stage area.
- Please advocate for the appropriate meaningful and relevant evaluation of students with significant cognitive disabilities through the use of "Dynamic Learning Maps." The NC Extend 1 is not meeting the educational needs of these students.

