

Brooks PTA Advocacy Update

August 31, 2017

Election Summary

Get ready! October 10, 2017 municipal elections are coming up soon! A free candidates' forum will take place on Sept. 28 from 7pm-9pm at Avent Ferry United Methodist Church in Raleigh.

Kudos to NC Teachers!

NC ranks highest in the nation for percentage of K-12 teachers who are National Board Certified – 11%! Way to go, NC teachers!

NC Board of Education

The NCBOE recently created a committee to discuss breaking apart large school districts such as Wake County. The Advocacy Chair will update you throughout the year.

NC Legislature: Budget and Class-Size Legislation

The NC General Assembly passed its education budget when the legislature overrode Governor Cooper's veto. For school year 2018-19, there are **no additional funds** approved for arts or PE despite the new requirement drastically cutting class sizes in K-3. Until now, class size for K-3 could be up to 24, but starting in 2018-19, class size will be cut to 18 in K, 16 in 1st grade, and 17 in 2nd and 3rd grade. Schools are grappling with how to meet these requirements without added funding (since more classrooms and teachers will be needed), so the arts may be cut. **Please contact your legislators to ask them to repeal the required class size change!**

Yet another repercussion of the new class-size legislation is the possibility of required school reassignments. On August 29, 2017, Wake County School Board student assignment staff proposed several changes to the student assignment policy, including removing the "stay where you start" wording that says that Wake will provide students an opportunity to remain at the same school that they're attending. The proposed changes come as school leaders are considering moving students in 2018 to elementary schools that have space, to meet new state requirements for lower class sizes.

NC Legislature: Learning Disabilities

On July 20, 2017, Governor Cooper signed into law House Bill 149, which requires the state Board of Education to develop tools to ensure that students with dyslexia and dyscalculia are identified before the school year starts.

If you learn of policy issues or legislation affecting Brooks, please contact Advocacy Chair Tara Muller at (919) 244-4131 or Tara@MullerLawFirm.com.