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**GREAT SCHOOLS IN WAKE COALITION ANNOUNCES MAY
NEIGHBORHOOD FORUMS**

Series to Continue in Cary/Apex and Garner/South Raleigh

Raleigh, NC, May 14, 2010—With uncertainty and confusion governing new Board of Education policies on where our children go to school, the Great Schools in Wake Coalition (GSIW) has scheduled two public forums in May that will focus on student achievement and assignment.

“Great Schools in Wake continues to be flooded with questions from the public regarding the future of our public schools,” said GSIW Chair Yevonne Brannon. “There is a great deal of confusion and concern, because different audiences are being promised different things by different members of the Board majority—and decisions are shrouded in a cloak of mystery and misconception,” Brannon continued. “What may seem fair for one part of our community can result for unfair outcomes in other parts of the county. These decisions will have long-term effects for everyone—regardless of whether they have students in our schools.”

The first forum will be held Thursday, May 20th from 7 to 8:30 pm at Pleasant Grove Church, 1528 Davis Drive, Cary. The Cary/Apex area forum will feature: Chuck Dulaney, Former Assistant Superintendent for Growth and Planning, WCPSS, Lori Millberg, Former Member, WCPSS Board of Education, and Charlotte Turpin, President, Harriet B. Webster Task Force for Student Success.

The second forum, scheduled on Thursday, May 27th, will be held from 7 to 8:30 pm at Poplar Springs Christian Church, 6115 Old Stage Road, Raleigh. Featured speakers include Chuck Dulaney, Lori Millberg, and Wake County Commissioner Stan Norwalk. Both forums will allow time for citizens to ask questions and give comments.

Speakers at past GSIW neighborhood forums have included parents, former school board members, current Wake County commissioners, educators, and other community leaders.

“We have received a great deal of positive feedback from those who attended past forums,” Brannon said. “By reaching out and hosting forums across the County, we are making it convenient to engage in thoughtful discussion with experienced leaders--so the public can ask the right questions of this board and demand honest, data-driven answers. The restricted meeting policies supported by the current board majority continue to

squelch debate and make it extremely challenging for most people to attend and speak up at board meetings. Our forums are open discussions of the urgent issues that will impact the future of our school system.”

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About Great Schools in Wake Coalition:

A project of WakeUP Wake County, Great Schools in Wake Coalition (GSIW) is a community coalition of organizations, business leaders, parents and citizen advocates who are working to ensure educational excellence in the Wake County Public School System. GSIW’s mission is to provide accurate information to educate the public about policy initiatives that would impact the quality of education, foster well-informed discussions about critical education issues, and advocate for policies that improve public education in Wake County. For more information on the Coalition or to join, please visit: greatschoolsinline.org.