**Ericka Ellis-Stewart**

**Zip Code of Residence:** 28213

**Years in Charlotte-Mecklenburg** Since 1992

**Previous place of residence** Native of Greensboro, NC

**How long?** 18 years

**Children?** Yes, two, **Their ages:** 16 and 13

**If your child is/children are school age, what school/s do they attend?**

My children has attended the following schools: Billingsville, HIghland Mill, Piedmont, Harding & the NC SChool of Science & Mathematics.

**If your child is/children are adults, what schools did they attend?** N/A

**What is/was your experience with those schools?**

\*School Leadership Team Chairman - Harding University High School

\*PTSA Scholarship Committee Chairman - Harding University High School

\*School Leadership Team Member - Piedmont IB Middle School

\*PTSA Legislative Affairs Committee Chair -  Billingsville Montessori

\*PTSA Member - Highland Mill Montessori

\*Mentor -  Performance Learning Center

\*Title I Tutor - Merry Oaks Elementary School

\*Inaugural CMS Character Education Task Force

\*CMS Long-Range Facilities Master Plan Citizen Advisory Committee (two terms)

\*Citizen’s Task Force on Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools - Facilitator

**What have you done to educate yourself about the history of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools?**

Regularly attend board workshops/sessions and meetings.

Communicate with current and former school board members, dialogue with teachers, administrators, and other parents, read CMS school data, read the Cachionne trial notes/draft, read books such as Reading, Writing and Race, etc.

**Which of the following books about Charlotte , its schools, and public education in general have you read?**

( YES )The Dream Long Deferred by Frye Gaillard

( NO )Boom for Whom? by Stephen Smith

(  )Class and Schools by Richard Rothstein

(  SOME ) Schoolhouses, Courthouses, and State Houses by Eric Hanushek and Alfred Lindseth

(  SOME ) The Shame of the Nation by Jonathan Kozol

( YES ) Other? Marian Wright Edelman, My boat is so small, J. Kozol -- , All of Our Kids

**Please share pertinent information about your background/experihich will inform your work on the Board of Education.**

As a CMS parent, non-profit professional and local advocate for public education, I have exhibited a long-standing passion for education and the youth of our community.  My decision to run for school board is an extension of my continued desire to serve the community that I love.I am a thoughtful leader who is concerned with moving this community forward and doing what is right for our students and our schools.

I am passionate about improving the state of our school district.  Through my professional career and my volunteer leadership, I have worked alongside others to create positive change for Charlotte communities.  As a result of my ongoing involvement, I have gained a tremendous understanding of the issues and challenges we face.  I believe that service to one's community is important and over the last decade, I have had the privilege of serving my community as the leader of two wonderful non-profit agencies.

My work has included prevention-based programs for at-risk children, advocating for others and working to bring our diverse community together.  Over the last 15 years,  I have served on PTSA's, SLT's, various task force groups, led parent/community efforts, served as a facilitator and spokesperson on local issues that impact school governance, boundaries, and facility expansion.  Over the last two years, I have volunteered at three local public schools and served as a Title I Tutor at another.  As a result of this involvement, I am clear about the need to close the achievement gap that exists and ensure that all students have access to a quality education that will prepare them to be productive citizens.