**Mary T. McCray**

Zip Code of Residence \_28227\_\_\_\_\_\_ Years in Charlotte-Mecklenburg \_\_\_\_\_34\_\_\_\_\_

Previous place of residence \_\_\_\_Greensboro\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_       How long? \_4years\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Children? \_\_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Their ages? \_\_\_2 adults and a 19 year old\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

 Collinswood, Villa Heights, Piedmont Middle School, and East Mecklenburg High School

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

 I was actively involved with the PTA as a member of the following committees; fundraising, boosters, and teacher appreciation. I was also a member of each PTA at the sites where I worked.

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

As a teacher in the system for the past 24 years, I am well versed in regard to the history of CMS. As an advocate for children, families and teachers in CMS, I have had to research policies and practices to better inform all stakeholders in CMS.

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

(Excerpts  )The Dream Long Deferred by Frye Gaillard (  )Boom for Whom? by Stephen Smith

 (  )Class and Schools by Richard Rothstein (  ) Schoolhouses, Courthouses, and State Houses by Eric Hanushek and Alfred Lindseth

 ( Excerpts ) The Shame of the Nation by Jonathan Kozol   (  ) Other?

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

Upon graduation in 1976 from North Carolina A&T with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, I became a resident of Charlotte. I worked as an elementary educator, with a strong background in reading, math, and social studies for 34 years. I taught for 10 years at Hemby Bridge Elementary School in Union County before beginning my tenure in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools at Collinswood Elementary in 1986. I was a member of the faculty that opened Morehead Elementary and also taught at Piney Grove and Endhaven Elementary Schools and Community House Middle School.

I served and highlighted my chosen profession in numerous ways; the National Council of Urban Educators, National Council of Teachers of Math, National Council for Social Studies, and the International Reading Association. Locally, I was selected by my peers to be Teacher of the Year for Piney Grove Elementary and to receive the Civitan's Citizenship Award for Civics Education at Collinswood.

I am the immediate past president of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Association of Educators, serving from 2006 -2011. As a part of NEA’s Priority Schools Initiative, I was the only North Carolina local association president chosen to go to Nashville, TN to participate in a Pay for Performance Conversation and Planning Session. As part of my tenure as President of CMAE, I met monthly with the Superintendent and Chief Operating Officer on different days. I served on the Superintendent’s Teacher Advisory Council. I also served on the CMS Accountability Charter Committee and TIF-LEAP Implementation Committee

I have affiliations with the Aggie Club, Queen City Alumni Chapter of NCA&T State University, the NAACP, Tuesday Morning Forum\*, the National Education Association (NEA) and the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE).