

Voters change the face of school board



McGarry



White



Cramer

One county commissioner called Tuesday's school board election results a threat to harmonious race relations in Mecklenburg County.

Another said the election meant "diversity gets the boot."

Decisions made Tuesday by an organized remnant of the county's voters will create a heavily white board to govern a majority-minority district, the state's largest.

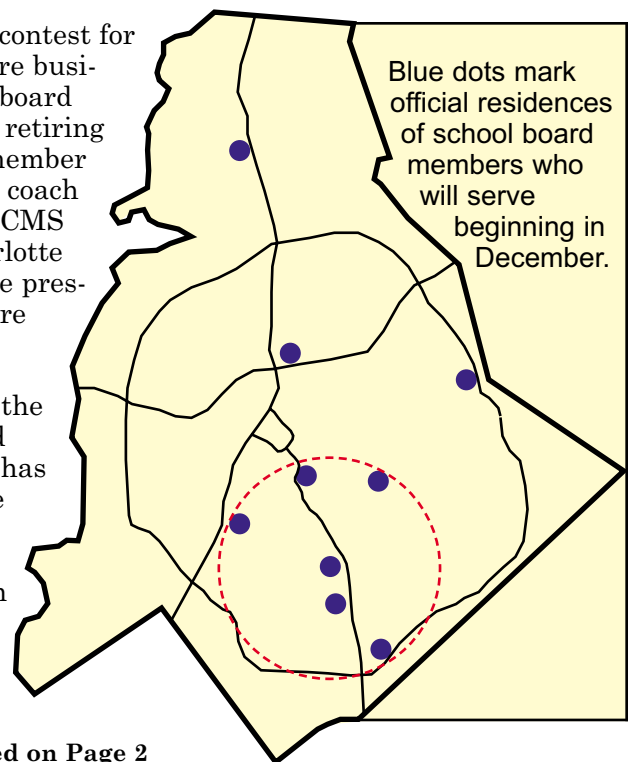
When installed in December, the new board will come mostly from south Charlotte, will include six women and three men, will shift from 5-4 white to 7-2 white, and will be little beholden to the voters of the county's three most demographically diverse districts (details, Page 3).

Turnout was 23%, and was far lower in many predominantly minority precincts.

Victors in an 11-way contest for three at-large seats were business owner and CPCC board trustee Kaye McGarry, retiring at-large City Council member and former high school coach Joe White, and former CMS spokesperson and Charlotte Chamber education vice president Kit Cramer. All are white.

Running fourth was Wilhelmenia Rembert, the at-large incumbent and African-American who has been chairperson of the board. Incumbent District 3 representative George Dunlap ran sixth, but will keep his seat. Dunlap and District 2's Vilma Leake will be the two

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N.C. teacher turnover falls in many districts

Teacher turnover rates are down in many N.C. school districts, CMS among them. And though CMS didn't curb turnover enough to reach the state average, its 16.73% rate leaves its five-year peak of 21.77% far behind.

Wake County's rate, at 10.22%, represented an increase from 9.2% two years ago. Smaller systems in the Triangle area were mixed, with Johnston, Chatham and Orange down, but Chapel

Hill-Carrboro and Durham up.

In systems adjoining Mecklenburg, Union saw a two-year drop from 17.62% to 10.08%, while Kannapolis dropped from 18.3% to 12.57%. Also seeing drops were Catawba, Rowan-Salisbury, Cabarrus, Iredell-Statesville, Lincoln, Gaston, Mooresville and Kings Mountain.

The turnover statistics are carefully watched because each bit of churn means a bit more instability in a school environment, some-

times compromising children's achievement. The report, however, is not a good gauge of whether teachers are dissatisfied.

Rates may well be down this year somewhat for economic reasons.

Of the 11,531 departures statewide, nearly 15% involve teachers moving from one N.C. district to another.

Another 17% or so represent retirements.

Details are on Page 6.

McGarry, White, Cramer take seats

Continued from Page 1

racial minorities on the new board.

With Rembert out, the new board will elect a new chairperson. Since district seats were added, the board's chairperson has been an at-large member, but the chair will go to the member gaining five or more votes. Both McGarry and White have expressed interest.

The current vice chairperson is District 4 member Louise Woods. The incumbent who often displays the most command of policy, planning and legal issues is District 6 incumbent Lee Kindberg.

Vote totals by district are on Page 3. They show incumbent Rembert with first-place finishes in heavily minority but low-turnout Districts 2, 3 and 4, combined with fifth- and sixth-place finishes in heavily white and high-turnout Districts 1, 5 and 6.

According to two of the candidates, the number of people attending campaign forums ranged as high as several hundred in a handful of cases, but at the vast majority of events the turnout was far lower. An "emergency" get-out-the-vote rally at an African-American church Sunday night drew fewer than 50 people.

In contrast, campaign workers for the successful candidates told success stories of canvassing suburban neighbors by e-mail, then following up with voting advice in personal phone calls.

On Tuesday night, as precinct numbers rolled across a screen at the Grady Cole Center, last-place finisher Nick Holley said he had learned two things from the race:

Candidates with money get more votes, he said. And partisan politics is very important, even in the nonpartisan school board race. He said his unaffiliated registration hurt him with voters.

The next board faces a tight budget, a clamoring in the center

Election summary

Turnout: 23%
(97,071 of 428,925)

Kaye McGarry	37,199
Joe White	31,314
Kit Cramer	30,955

Wilhelmenia Rembert	30,538
Mike Kasper	24,828
George Dunlap	22,601
Larry Bumgarner	14,863
Rachel Hall	9,513
Queen Thompson	5,852
Fred Marsh	5,045
Nick Holley	4,532

Source: Mecklenburg Board of Elections, unofficial returns, 100% of precincts

city for upgraded school facilities, a clamoring in the suburbs for less-crowded facilities, a teacher turnover rate that is still 34% higher than the state average (details, Page 1) and academic achievement scores that are not on track to meet the district's 2005 goals.

And the superintendent's home southeast of SouthPark mall is up for sale.

But there are contentious details for the current board to get through first.

Today at 5 p.m., the board is scheduled to renew its discussion of proposed changes in the student assignment plan. Few major changes have been on the table. The plan has left suburban schools overcrowded and a growing number of central city schools with high percentages of low-income children.

Supt. Jim Pughsley has said that those high-poverty schools are a threat to the achievement of the children assigned to them, but his proposed changes offered little expectation that the number of high-poverty schools would fall.

He has already withdrawn suggestions for transfers of some children out of heavily overcrowded schools – one of the issues that energized voters in the northern suburbs.

One insider insisted the election results were not a proxy on race relations, but a monument to indefatigable electioneering by McGarry and Cramer, and prudence in the spending of money and taking of positions by White.

– Steve Johnston

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Election results

District 1 (Gauvreau)

Candidate	Votes	% of dist. turnout	% of tot. Meck vote
McGarry	8,396	53	23
Cramer	7,559	47	24
Kasper	7,375	46	30
White	3,647	23	12
Rembert	3,596	23	12
Dunlap	2,582	16	11
Bumgarner	2,267	14	15
Hall	1,425	9	15
Thompson	828	5	14
Holley	759	5	17
Marsh	734	5	15

District 2 (Leake)

Candidate	Votes	% of dist. turnout	% of tot. Meck vote
Rembert	5,681	55	19
Dunlap	5,068	49	22
White	2,667	26	9
McGarry	1,771	17	5
Cramer	1,459	14	5
Bumgarner	1,277	12	9
Thompson	1,112	11	19
Kasper	960	9	4
Hall	913	9	10
Marsh	451	4	9
Holley	385	4	8

District 3 (Dunlap)

Candidate	Votes	% of dist. turnout	% of tot. Meck vote
Rembert	6,346	53	21
Dunlap	5,842	49	26
White	2,737	23	9
McGarry	2,140	18	6
Cramer	1,980	16	6
Thompson	1,461	12	25
Bumgarner	1,438	12	10
Kasper	1,271	11	5
Hall	1,088	9	11
Marsh	502	4	10
Holley	476	4	11

District 4 (Woods)

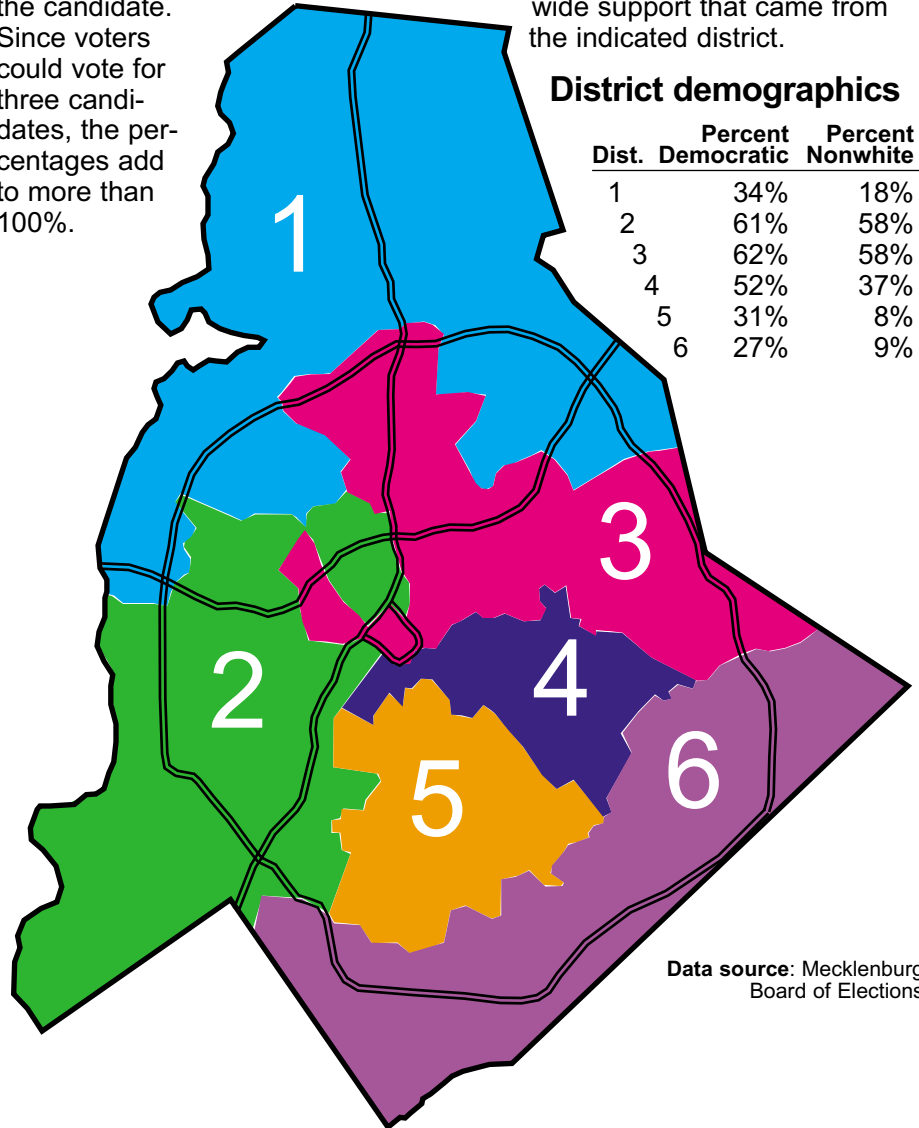
Candidate	Votes	% of dist. turnout	% of tot. Meck vote
Rembert	4,187	37	14
White	3,652	32	12
McGarry	3,161	28	9
Cramer	3,041	27	10
Dunlap	2,966	26	13
Bumgarner	1,772	16	12
Kasper	1,658	15	7
Hall	1,321	12	14
Thompson	949	8	16
Marsh	666	6	13
Holley	575	5	13

In the charts, “% of dist. turnout” indicates the percentage of those who voted in the district Tuesday who cast a vote for the candidate. Since voters could vote for three candidates, the percentages add to more than 100%.

Absentee and curbside ballots were included in the “% of tot. Meck vote,” which represents the portion of the candidate’s county-wide support that came from the indicated district.

District demographics

Dist.	Percent Democratic	Percent Nonwhite
1	34%	18%
2	61%	58%
3	62%	58%
4	52%	37%
5	31%	8%
6	27%	9%



Data source: Mecklenburg Board of Elections

District 5 (Griffin)

Candidate	Votes	% of dist. turnout	% of tot. Meck vote
McGarry	10,466	46	28
White	10,059	45	32
Cramer	8,809	39	28
Kasper	5,581	25	22
Rembert	5,258	23	17
Bumgarner	3,555	16	24
Dunlap	2,298	10	10
Hall	1,962	9	21
Marsh	1,238	5	25
Holley	959	4	21
Thompson	518	2	9

District 6 (Kindberg)

Candidate	Votes	% of dist. turnout	% of tot. Meck vote
McGarry	7,947	48	21
Kasper	5,999	36	24
Cramer	5,692	34	18
White	5,640	34	18
Bumgarner	3,232	20	22
Rembert	2,842	17	9
Dunlap	1,972	12	9
Hall	1,906	12	20
Holley	1,039	6	23
Marsh	996	6	20
Thompson	451	3	8

'The funding gap'

Education Trust finds some states still shorting low-income, minority students

North Carolina dodges most of the bullets in a new report on school finance problems – mostly because of a decision made in the Great Depression.

In the 1930s, as most N.C. school boards faced bankruptcy, North Carolina undertook to pay for salaries if local communities would pay the much smaller costs of providing buildings. That decision shifted education costs from the local property tax, and to this day (box, right)

the state's income and other taxes carry the brunt of the education load.

Local reliance on property taxes is at the root of the biggest disparities explored in "The Funding Gap," an Education Trust report available at www.edtrust.org. States whose urban and rural districts have few taxable resources tend to have lower per-pupil budgets. As a state, North Carolina ranks well, both in terms of disparities between high- and low-poverty schools and between high- and low-minority schools.

North Carolina is one of the states, however, involved

Equity & Adequacy

in a lawsuit over assuring adequate funding for all districts.

The eight-year court battle may take another turn this fall when the N.C. Supreme Court's next ruling in the case is expected.

The EdTrust study says many states, including North Carolina, have supplemented budgets of low-wealth districts to minimize disparities. But Carey notes:

"Unfair school funding is such a large, persistent problem – like smog, or bad network television – that it has acquired an unfortunate air

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State's share	
New Mexico	82.7%
Arkansas	81.5%
Vermont	77.1%
Delaware	72.2%
Michigan	69.3%
Washington	68.4%
North Carolina	67.3%
Alaska	66.9%
West Virginia	66.9%
Kentucky	66.7%
Idaho	66.7%
Alabama	66.0%
California	65.9%
Kansas	65.9%
Minnesota	64.8%
Nevada	63.7%
Utah	63.2%
Oklahoma	62.5%
Mississippi	62.4%
Oregon	61.1%
South Carolina	58.5%
Wisconsin	57.2%
Louisiana	55.1%
Wyoming	54.9%
New Hampshire	54.6%
Florida	54.0%
United States	53.7%
Montana	53.6%
Indiana	53.4%
Iowa	52.7%
Georgia	51.7%
Arizona	51.5%
Missouri	49.9%
New York	49.6%
Tennessee	49.5%
Maine	47.0%
Ohio	45.5%
Texas	45.1%
Virginia	45.1%
North Dakota	44.7%
Rhode Island	44.4%
Colorado	44.1%
Massachusetts	43.1%
New Jersey	42.2%
South Dakota	40.7%
Connecticut	40.0%
Illinois	39.8%
Pennsylvania	39.8%
Maryland	39.6%
Nebraska	37.8%

Source: Education Trust

Disparities by state

The Education Trust studied 2000-2001 local and state dollars spent by school districts. In the charts below, per-pupil expenditures are adjusted for cost-of-living issues and the higher costs of educating children with disabilities, but not for the higher costs of educating low-income students. In list at left, Illinois spends \$1,950 less per child in high-poverty districts than in low-poverty districts. Washington State spends about the same. Massachusetts spends \$1,302 more. The similar list at right explores disparities between high-minority and low-minority districts. Hawaii and D.C. have only one district and are not included.

Disparity by Poverty		Disparity by Ethnicity	
49 Illinois	\$1,950	48 Kansas	\$1,746
48 New York	\$1,672	47 Nebraska	\$1,738
47 Pennsylvania	\$1,063	46 New York	\$1,720
46 Maryland	\$1,027	45 North Dakota	\$1,716
45 Vermont	\$1,014	44 Montana	\$1,659
44 Arizona	\$989	43 Wyoming	\$1,553
43 Virginia	\$948	42 New Hampshire	\$1,459
42 New Hampshire	\$877	41 South Dakota	\$1,119
41 Louisiana	\$719	40 Illinois	\$1,079
40 Alabama	\$691	39 Texas	\$969
49 Michigan	\$592	38 Alabama	\$900
38 Texas	\$323	37 Vermont	\$825
37 Montana	\$255	36 Wisconsin	\$807
36 Maine	\$207	35 Maine	\$562
35 West Virginia	\$158	34 Pennsylvania	\$542
34 Colorado	\$137	33 Colorado	\$516
33 Iowa	\$72	32 Idaho	\$487
32 Wisconsin	\$71	31 Iowa	\$448
31 South Carolina	\$69	30 Louisiana	\$390
30 Ohio	\$66	29 Oklahoma	\$377
29 North Carolina	\$46	28 Utah	\$363
28 Rhode Island	\$21	27 Arizona	\$355
27 Washington	-\$1	26 California	\$269
26 California	-\$13	25 Maryland	\$244
25 Florida	-\$40	24 Washington	\$236
24 Arkansas	-\$46	23 South Carolina	\$200
23 Wyoming	-\$46	22 Connecticut	\$64
22 Nebraska	-\$134	21 New Mexico	\$61
21 Mississippi	-\$170	20 Nevada	-\$23
20 Oregon	-\$178	19 Virginia	-\$39
19 Idaho	-\$188	18 Delaware	-\$45
18 Kentucky	-\$230	17 Florida	-\$59
17 Connecticut	-\$234	16 Indiana	-\$82
16 Kansas	-\$248	15 North Carolina	-\$96
15 Oklahoma	-\$288	14 Ohio	-\$96
14 Nevada	-\$302	13 Michigan	-\$195
13 New Mexico	-\$319	12 Oregon	-\$248
12 Indiana	-\$321	11 Rhode Island	-\$265
11 Missouri	-\$356	10 Mississippi	-\$273
10 South Dakota	-\$558	9 Arkansas	-\$369
9 Utah	-\$630	8 West Virginia	-\$409
8 North Dakota	-\$631	7 Kentucky	-\$410
7 Georgia	-\$764	6 Minnesota	-\$767
6 Delaware	-\$831	5 New Jersey	-\$810
5 Tennessee	-\$844	4 Alaska	-\$905
4 New Jersey	-\$854	3 Georgia	-\$917
3 Minnesota	-\$1,110	2 Missouri	-\$1,182
2 Alaska	-\$1,166	1 Massachusetts	-\$1,633
1 Massachusetts	-\$1,302		(Tennessee – no data)

Source: Education Trust

Study sees state funding gaps

Continued from Page 4

of inevitability.... It's hard to summon any rationality to justify this sad state of affairs, so defenders of the status quo often substitute futility, meekly crying that it is 'politically impossible'.... All that means is that the people who benefit from the current system have a lot of influence over the process

that makes it what it is. Times change, people change, politics change, and the only way to make things better is to get started. It will take political courage and true leadership to make the needed changes, but it absolutely can be done...."

Carey notes that schools with experienced staffs cost more to run than schools with lower-paid rookies. He suggests equalizing the dollars so that kids wouldn't pay the price, but have extra support and their new teachers would get the training they need.

The charts below refigure gaps by taking into account a key assumption built into No Child Left

Behind – that states should be spending 40% more on low-income students. Most are not. The results

alter some of the states' rankings from the actual spending data used in the charts on Page 7.

Poverty gaps, 2001

	Per-student funding in districts with:		Gap
	Lowest poverty	Highest poverty	
50 Illinois	\$7,945	\$5,561	\$2,384
49 New York	\$9,539	\$7,274	\$2,265
48 Pennsylvania	\$7,991	\$6,472	\$1,519
47 Arizona	\$6,281	\$4,832	\$1,449
46 Vermont	\$11,068	\$9,632	\$1,436
45 Virginia	\$7,670	\$6,391	\$1,279
44 United States	\$7,510	\$6,254	\$1,256
43 Maryland	\$7,877	\$6,659	\$1,218
42 Michigan	\$7,868	\$6,756	\$1,112
41 New Hampshire	\$7,124	\$6,043	\$1,081
40 Alabama	\$6,362	\$5,342	\$1,020
39 Louisiana	\$5,917	\$4,947	\$970
38 Texas	\$6,773	\$5,897	\$876
37 Rhode Island	\$7,276	\$6,614	\$662
36 Ohio	\$7,621	\$6,979	\$642
35 Montana	\$6,629	\$5,990	\$639
34 Maine	\$7,626	\$7,038	\$588
33 California	\$6,244	\$5,758	\$486
32 Colorado	\$6,549	\$6,063	\$486
31 Wisconsin	\$8,378	\$7,899	\$479
30 West Virginia	\$6,648	\$6,217	\$431
29 South Carolina	\$7,089	\$6,707	\$382
28 Connecticut	\$8,298	\$7,920	\$378
27 North Carolina	\$6,543	\$6,212	\$331
26 Iowa	\$7,760	\$7,444	\$316
25 Washington	\$6,362	\$6,051	\$311
24 Arkansas	\$5,796	\$5,505	\$291
23 Missouri	\$6,734	\$6,540	\$194
22 Nebraska	\$6,918	\$6,732	\$186
21 Mississippi	\$4,585	\$4,403	\$182
20 Wyoming	\$8,050	\$7,878	\$172
19 Florida	\$6,046	\$5,887	\$159
18 Kentucky	\$5,937	\$5,790	\$147
17 Kansas	\$6,836	\$6,691	\$145
16 Oregon	\$6,484	\$6,409	\$75
15 Oklahoma	\$5,309	\$5,235	\$74
14 Indiana	\$8,015	\$7,954	\$61
13 Idaho	\$5,692	\$5,637	\$55
12 New Mexico	\$5,396	\$5,357	\$39
11 New Jersey	\$10,038	\$10,026	\$12
10 South Dakota	\$6,322	\$6,481	-\$159
9 Georgia	\$7,166	\$7,329	-\$163
8 Nevada	\$5,902	\$6,143	-\$241
7 North Dakota	\$6,202	\$6,511	-\$309
6 Utah	\$4,906	\$5,338	-\$432
5 Massachusetts	\$7,221	\$7,754	-\$533
4 Tennessee	\$4,853	\$5,387	-\$534
3 Delaware	\$7,409	\$8,021	-\$612
2 Minnesota	\$7,395	\$8,069	-\$674
1 Alaska	\$6,189	\$7,030	-\$841

Source: Education Trust

Minority district gaps, 2001

	Per-student funding in districts with:		Gap
	Fewest minorities	Most minorities	
49 New York	\$9,283	\$7,210	\$2,073
48 Kansas	\$7,845	\$6,033	\$1,812
47 Nebraska	\$8,030	\$6,254	\$1,776
46 Montana	\$7,197	\$5,498	\$1,699
45 North Dakota	\$7,411	\$5,733	\$1,678
44 Wyoming	\$8,313	\$6,745	\$1,568
43 New Hampshire	\$7,232	\$5,751	\$1,481
42 Texas	\$6,993	\$5,639	\$1,354
41 Illinois	\$6,946	\$5,594	\$1,352
40 South Dakota	\$6,872	\$5,615	\$1,257
39 Alabama	\$6,150	\$5,078	\$1,072
38 Wisconsin	\$8,602	\$7,557	\$1,045
37 United States	\$7,312	\$6,282	\$1,030
36 Vermont	\$10,704	\$9,917	\$787
35 Arizona	\$5,875	\$5,113	\$762
34 Pennsylvania	\$7,238	\$6,482	\$756
33 Colorado	\$6,561	\$5,834	\$727
32 Maine	\$7,630	\$6,997	\$633
31 Connecticut	\$8,684	\$8,070	\$614
30 California	\$6,233	\$5,652	\$581
29 Oklahoma	\$5,618	\$5,040	\$578
28 Louisiana	\$5,826	\$5,277	\$549
27 Idaho	\$5,740	\$5,218	\$522
26 Iowa	\$7,787	\$7,290	\$497
25 Utah	\$5,085	\$4,631	\$454
24 Rhode Island	\$7,223	\$6,787	\$436
23 South Carolina	\$6,959	\$6,535	\$424
22 Maryland	\$7,017	\$6,628	\$389
21 Washington	\$6,330	\$5,946	\$384
20 New Mexico	\$5,677	\$5,384	\$293
19 Ohio	\$7,099	\$6,904	\$195
18 Michigan	\$7,098	\$6,941	\$157
17 Virginia	\$6,794	\$6,667	\$127
16 Indiana	\$7,879	\$7,803	\$76
15 Florida	\$6,141	\$6,102	\$39
14 Mississippi	\$4,575	\$4,543	\$32
13 North Carolina	\$6,552	\$6,528	\$24
12 Nevada	\$6,084	\$6,077	\$7
11 Delaware	\$7,833	\$7,833	\$0
10 New Jersey	\$9,808	\$9,891	-\$83
9 Arkansas	\$5,634	\$5,807	-\$173
8 Oregon	\$6,547	\$6,731	-\$184
7 West Virginia	\$6,198	\$6,650	-\$452
6 Kentucky	\$5,746	\$6,279	-\$533
5 Minnesota	\$7,473	\$8,017	-\$544
4 Georgia	\$6,980	\$7,544	-\$564
3 Alaska	\$5,068	\$5,889	-\$821
2 Massachusetts	\$7,028	\$7,970	-\$942
1 Missouri	\$6,101	\$7,086	-\$985

(Tennessee – no data)

Source: Education Trust

Teacher turnover rates by N.C. school district

In the chart below, districts are listed in descending order of their teacher turnover rate last year. Districts that experienced a net

increase in rate in the two-year period ending last year are marked to the left of the name with a plus sign (+). Other data on N.C. dis-

tricts and teacher turnover is at www.ncpublicschools.org, the Department of Public Instruction's Web site. Story, Page 1.

District	'00-'01	'01-'02	'02-'03	District	'00-'01	'01-'02	'02-'03
+ Hoke	23.55%	23.43%	27.59%	+ Washington	11.27%	15.34%	11.64%
+ Tyrrell	20.34%	12.07%	24.56%	+ Rockingham	10.09%	14.16%	11.57%
+ Franklin	21.23%	17.61%	21.53%	Iredell-Statesville	13.91%	10.71%	11.50%
+ Thomasville	18.52%	18.18%	21.14%	New Hanover	11.68%	13.50%	11.50%
+ Vance	20.00%	13.60%	21.04%	Pamlico	11.80%	11.46%	11.46%
+ Shelby	16.41%	17.57%	20.48%	Polk	16.98%	13.77%	11.35%
+ Duplin	15.47%	13.22%	20.38%	Mount Airy	19.08%	13.01%	11.02%
+ Nash-RockyMount	18.24%	13.76%	20.34%	Lincoln	14.36%	10.10%	11.01%
+ Lenoir	15.14%	17.89%	20.13%	+ Haywood	6.16%	9.78%	11.00%
+ Durham	18.12%	14.21%	18.76%	Clinton	12.50%	11.73%	10.95%
+ Hertford	15.64%	30.57%	18.75%	Alexander	13.48%	17.65%	10.93%
Pasquotank	19.03%	9.39%	18.57%	Beaufort	13.57%	12.95%	10.83%
+ Harnett	14.08%	16.37%	18.34%	Pender	11.84%	9.63%	10.65%
Edgecombe	23.36%	20.04%	18.33%	Moore	13.74%	14.39%	10.53%
Weldon	20.45%	22.34%	18.28%	+ Whiteville	9.09%	11.27%	10.47%
Montgomery	19.44%	16.67%	18.05%	Richmond	13.52%	16.12%	10.44%
Warren	30.46%	13.27%	17.21%	Elkin	13.48%	14.77%	10.23%
+ Lee	14.89%	15.36%	17.12%	+ Wake	9.20%	9.48%	10.22%
Newton-Conover	17.27%	17.59%	16.81%	Anson	13.68%	13.27%	10.14%
Northampton	17.33%	24.71%	16.78%	+ Scotland	9.90%	7.75%	10.13%
Mecklenburg	21.77%	19.31%	16.73%	Union	17.62%	11.12%	10.08%
+ Chapel Hill-Carr.	12.38%	14.51%	16.43%	Gaston	10.53%	9.04%	10.03%
+ Davie	12.98%	13.53%	16.10%	Jones	22.05%	18.11%	10.00%
Johnston	17.41%	11.90%	15.81%	+ Guilford	9.77%	10.06%	9.95%
Chatham	17.48%	16.09%	15.71%	Stanly	13.46%	12.38%	9.86%
+ Jackson	9.09%	14.40%	15.69%	Cumberland	11.36%	9.71%	9.81%
Alamance-Burlington	16.43%	16.19%	15.11%	Forsyth	13.47%	10.19%	9.73%
+ Surry	13.04%	10.24%	14.83%	Stokes	13.30%	10.28%	9.69%
+ Burke	14.33%	13.63%	14.73%	+ Ashe	9.13%	3.54%	9.62%
+ Hyde	12.00%	12.16%	14.47%	Mooresville	15.81%	11.50%	9.38%
+ Brunswick	12.25%	13.18%	14.45%	Buncombe	9.95%	8.57%	9.32%
Caswell	16.30%	13.89%	14.34%	+ Mitchell	6.92%	5.63%	9.20%
Hickory	19.00%	16.62%	14.24%	Watauga	11.50%	12.73%	9.15%
Robeson	16.18%	13.41%	13.97%	Davidson	11.03%	9.22%	9.11%
Edenton-Chowan	13.89%	13.89%	13.89%	+ Alleghany	5.60%	2.99%	9.09%
Catawba	18.17%	12.52%	13.58%	Roanoke Rapids	12.62%	11.42%	8.87%
Randolph	15.12%	12.92%	13.58%	Dare	11.11%	9.09%	8.79%
Wilson	22.79%	16.56%	13.57%	Rutherford	8.61%	6.46%	8.56%
Orange	15.32%	12.31%	13.55%	Pitt	9.24%	8.58%	8.54%
Asheville	16.58%	13.54%	13.38%	McDowell	13.57%	13.46%	8.39%
Greene	18.45%	12.90%	13.30%	+ Macon	4.73%	9.43%	8.31%
Onslow	15.60%	14.62%	13.29%	Perquimans	10.34%	8.28%	8.28%
+ Bladen	11.04%	19.80%	13.26%	Columbus	8.58%	6.49%	8.13%
Lexington	18.72%	16.25%	13.25%	Swain	9.56%	5.96%	8.12%
Sampson	14.77%	15.21%	13.04%	Bertie	14.98%	20.34%	7.69%
+ Martin	12.89%	13.61%	13.03%	Carteret	13.17%	6.97%	7.50%
Person	21.26%	20.96%	12.97%	Gates	10.26%	5.99%	7.10%
+ Madison	9.22%	9.36%	12.96%	Camden	15.22%	6.25%	7.00%
+ Wilkes	9.63%	15.43%	12.95%	Craven	11.46%	7.89%	6.74%
Halifax	19.78%	13.93%	12.81%	Henderson	11.27%	8.76%	6.32%
+ Rowan-Salisbury	14.41%	14.04%	12.81%	Avery	5.03%	7.55%	6.22%
Asheboro	15.61%	9.84%	12.78%	+ Yancey	2.22%	2.63%	6.12%
Caldwell	14.89%	7.56%	12.66%	Kings Mtn.	10.44%	11.41%	5.84%
Transylvania	14.12%	8.27%	12.64%	+ Cherokee	4.59%	9.67%	5.35%
Cleveland	12.92%	14.07%	12.59%	+ Graham	1.60%	3.92%	5.32%
Kannapolis	18.30%	14.20%	12.57%	Currituck	15.07%	14.29%	5.08%
Cabarrus	13.52%	12.04%	12.14%	Wayne	12.89%	7.46%	3.57%
Granville	17.45%	12.17%	12.05%	Clay	5.00%	3.16%	3.16%
+ Yadkin	10.44%	9.62%	11.73%				

Source: N.C. Dept of Public Instruction

Briefs

After Grutter: Public school districts are still groping for an understanding of legal requirements for desegregation after the Grutter Supreme Court rulings last summer, Education Week reported. Those rulings supported the idea that states had a constitutional interest in maintaining integrated schools. The question is how. New Orleans is considering dropping race from magnet admissions, but using socioeconomic status and academic achievement. Boston is talking about curbing its current busing to allow more children to stay closer to home.

www.edweek.org

Just teaching: A Sacramento middle school teacher caused a sensation by announcing to his middle school history students that they would henceforth be charged \$1 for hall passes and \$10 rent for their desks, the Bee reported. The principal even signed a cover letter saying the rules would "help alleviate district funds." Turns out the teacher was hoping for outrage – so he could have students understand the American colonists' outrage over taxation without representation.

www.sacbee.com

Honored: Wake schools Supt. Bill McNeal was named superintendent of the year by the N.C. Association of School Administrators. The 56-year-old's entire education career, since 1974, has been served in Wake County.



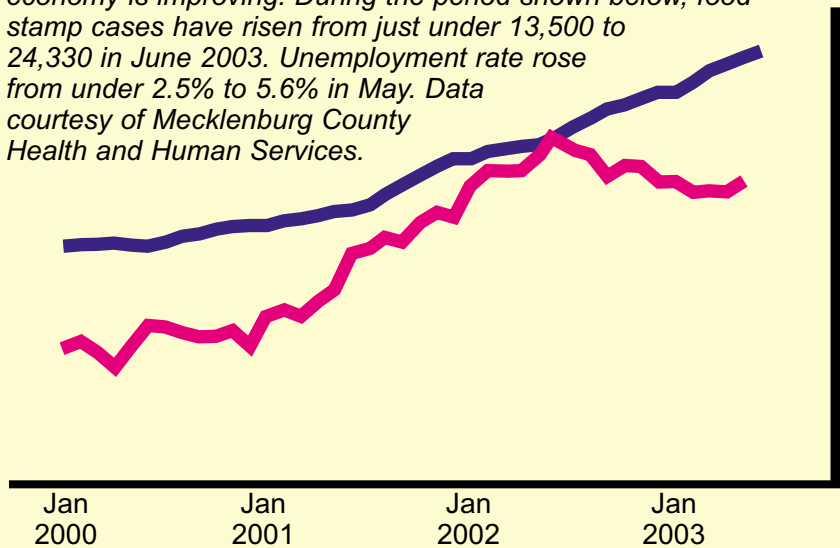
McNeal

www.wcpss.net

Seeking small: An Oregon non-profit armed with \$25 million from the Gates Foundation will begin seeking proposals from

Food stamps and unemployment

Mecklenburg food stamp caseload (top line) does not fall immediately when the unemployment rate (bottom line) suggests that the economy is improving. During the period shown below, food stamp cases have risen from just under 13,500 to 24,330 in June 2003. Unemployment rate rose from under 2.5% to 5.6% in May. Data courtesy of Mecklenburg County Health and Human Services.



about 20 high schools willing to break themselves up into units of no more than 400 students, the Oregonian reported. Autonomous schools might share sports and music programs.

www.oregonlife.com

Business decision: Dallas-area schools are dropping the every-other-day class routine known as block scheduling to save money, the News reported. The Dallas district saved \$12 million by switching back to traditional schedule, in which teachers teach more classes daily, and therefore can teach more students. Educators say there is little absolute proof that one schedule is more academically sound.

www.dallasnews.com

Skeptical: A smaller crowd with fewer dollars in their pockets gathered for the recent Technology+Learning conference in California, eSchoolNews reported. Interest was strong both in public-private partnerships, and in resolving security issues. Some states are in the throes of adjusting to No Child testing. N.C. testing began in the 1990s.

www.eschoolnews.com

Calendar

NOVEMBER

- 6 Education Budget Advisory Committee, 7:30 a.m., Government Center.
- 7 Equity Committee, 8 a.m., Board Room.
- 8 Education Fair, exhibits by area nonpublic, charter and public schools, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Merchandise Mart. Free admission.
- 11 School board meets, 6 p.m., Board Room, Education Center.
- 18 Bond Oversight Committee, 7:30 a.m., Building Services, 3301 Stafford Drive.
- 18 Policy Committee, 3:15 p.m., Room 414, Education Center.
- 19 "Getting to Know a Community Partner: UNC Charlotte's Efforts to Prepare a Highly Qualified Teaching Force," 8 a.m., UNCC Cone Center Room 111. Sponsor: CMS Partners for School Reform. Call 704-378-1301 for free reservation.
- 20 Finance, Capital & Facilities Committee, 4 p.m., Board Conference Room.
- 25 Curriculum Committee, 3 p.m., Board Conference Room.
- 25 School board meets, 6 p.m., Board Room, Education Center.