

## Statement of Interest in Appointment to the Durham Public Schools Board of Education Consolidated District B Vacancy

In order to serve on the Board, a candidate must reside in school board consolidated district B, not be a convicted felon unless restored to the rights of citizenship, be a registered voter, be at least 21 years of age, and not be an employee of Durham Public Schools.

Additionally, all candidates should be prepared to fulfill responsibilities including participating in work sessions, monthly meetings, hearings, called meetings, school visits and regular communications with constituents.

Name: Chris A. Wilson

Address: 112 Nuttree Way  
Durham, NC 27713

Telephone: 919-280-8884 Email: chwilson@hrblock.com

I hereby declare my interest in filling the vacant Consolidated District B seat on the Durham Public Schools Board of Education through June 30, 2022. I have read the DPS Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for School Board Members (1106) and agree that if I am appointed to the vacant seat I will comply with the code and with all other policies governing the conduct of board members.

I certify that I reside within the boundaries of Consolidated District B and that I am eligible to vote in elections for the Consolidated District B seat on the Durham Public Schools Board of Education.

Chris A. Wilson July 28, 2020  
SIGNATURE DATE

*The completed form must be delivered to Nicole Smith, School Board Executive Assistant, by 5 p.m. on August 12, 2020. The form may be delivered to Ms. Smith by electronic mail at [Nicole.Smith@dpsnc.net](mailto:Nicole.Smith@dpsnc.net) or by letter carrier at Durham Public Schools, 511 Cleveland Street, Durham, NC, 27702.*

## **Chris Wilson Statement of Interest in the Durham Public School Board Open Seat**

### **Why do you want to serve on the Board?**

I am at a point in my life and career where I feel I can have an impact at the policy level as it relates to education. I have experience serving on and leading national boards during my career. I have worked continuously throughout my tenure in Durham supporting public schools. Education is critical to the success of Durham and its citizens. I especially want to ensure the right goals and objectives are set to meet the needs of all of Durham's students and work within the system to inspire all stake holders to be successful in fulfilling the goals and objectives.

To date much of my involvement in the public schools has been behind the scenes. I feel now is the right time to seek a higher profile position in the community as it relates to serving and to also serve as a role model especially for young black males! .

### **What experience do you have in the community, especially with public education?**

I have supported public schools in a number of ways over the years. I currently serve as treasurer of Crayons 2 Calculators, a nonprofit that provides free classroom supplies for teachers and students in Durham. My company has been the primary sponsor of the retired educator's annual luncheon held in concert with the first day of school for the past three years. I have served on the Board of Education's budget committee at the request of Omega Parker and Xavier Cason as both recognize my skills in the area of finance. My company has sponsored financial literacy education by way of a program called "The Reality Store". The program helps middle and high school students understand what it is like to be an adult with income and expenses. We also sponsored school supply drives this past January for Parkwood Elementary School which is near my place of business. I have experience successfully lobbying state and national law makers to advocate for business. This skill set is easily transferable to advocating for educational initiatives. My wife is a principal with DPS at Spring Valley Elementary School. Educational issues and concerns are a part of my daily life.

### **Quote by John Hope Bryant.**

"Basically, those who have access to capital, education, financial literacy and role models are going to win. Those who don't stay poor"

**3. The Board of Education has two regularly scheduled meetings per month – 1 work session and 1 main Board meeting, as well as additional meetings as necessary to fulfil the responsibilities of the Board. Meetings can occur during the day and the evenings. Please share how you will be able to fulfill the time commitment as a Board member.**

As an entrepreneur and CEO of locally based companies in the triangle, I have control of my schedule and can commit the time needed for board participation.



**CRAYONS**<sup>2</sup>  
CALCULATORS

July 29, 2020

On behalf of Crayons2Calculators, we are delighted to recommend Chris Wilson for the vacant seat of Consolidated District B for the Board of Durham Public Schools. Mr. Wilson has demonstrated impressive leadership capacity while in various roles supporting Durham Public Schools.

His past service includes serving as chair of the budget planning committee for DPS, which is comprised of several community members as well as DPS staff members. Determining the school district's budget is one of the most difficult tasks involved in the planning for the next school year. He has the ability to identify the academic and financial implications associated with issues such as special needs education, equal access, state-mandated educational requirements, and standardized testing assessment --- all components that fall under the purview of a school board member.

Having served as a leader of PTA groups and site-based committees at various schools, Mr. Wilson has an excellent working knowledge of the internal aspects of schools and the school district. He has been able to navigate the complex and challenging dynamics of a large multicultural community within Durham that also encompasses a wide socioeconomic disparity.

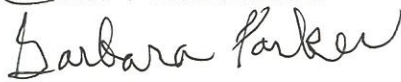
With the realization that our community is only as strong as our public schools, Mr. Wilson understands the interdependence between successful public schools and businesses. Effective partnering between schools and businesses is crucial for reaching the desired standards of living in our neighborhoods. He is viewed as an eager collaborator who is always prepared, informed, and willing to work hard in pursuit of appropriate educational experiences for our students, while keeping an eye on the secondary goal of enhancing the greater Durham community.

As a supporter and board member for Crayons2Calculators, the non-profit which provides schools supplies for the teachers in Durham Public Schools, we have found Mr. Wilson to be a forward-thinking individual who takes initiative to identify challenges, dive into research, and propose viable, real-world solutions that mesh with the current climate in education today. As an entrepreneur and owner of multiple local businesses, he has brought that business-minded

approach to our board and has led our board's review process and decision-making around key financial and operational issues.

Mr. Wilson asks difficult questions with a true interest in learning and makes decisions with integrity. He is genuine in his desire to support the students, educators, and leadership of our fabulous school district. We are grateful that Mr. Wilson has stepped forward as a candidate for the Board of Durham Public Schools. If elected, we believe he will be a true asset to the board and he will exemplify strong leadership for our city, our schools, and our families.

  
Dr. Eunice O'Neal Sanders

  
Barbara Parker

Co-Directors of Crayons2Calculators

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Crayons2Calculators  
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**Lori Jones Gibbs  
5 Caspian Court  
Durham, NC 27713**

July 28, 2020

Dear Durham Public Schools Board of Education Members,

I am writing to recommend Chris Wilson for appointment to Durham Public Schools Board of Education in the Consolidated B District seat.

I have known Chris for thirty years. I am writing, because like you, I want to see the students in our schools succeed. Chris is a businessman that has shared his time, talents and financial resources for benefit of Durham Public Schools (DPS) students and educators.

I have seen firsthand the powerful impact and commitment Chris's volunteer work has had on students' financial literacy acumen and success by educating students through his company's "Reality Store" program. Additionally, his company has served as lead sponsor of DPS retired educator's annual luncheon.

Chris is married to Gwen Wilson, a principal at Spring Valley Elementary School. Gwen, formerly a sixth-grade math teacher, taught our daughter. In doing so she helped our daughter realize that math although challenging can be fun. The Wilsons care about Durham and its future and both are committed to helping our children succeed and be prepared to compete in this global society.

Chris and I attend the same church and were co-leaders of the church's financial education ministry. We have also known each other as investment partners. Chris is a hardworking man of good character, intelligence, honesty, a bridge builder, and doer. He always fulfills any commitments he makes.

Based on our experience together, I can confidently recommend Chris Wilson for appointment to Durham Public Schools Board of Education in the Consolidated B District seat.

Sincerely,

  
Lori Jones Gibbs