

Comments Received Through CFAC Website as of 10/20/06

Submission	City	State	Zip	Children at WCPSS?	Comments	Comments Received
1	Cary	NC	27519	Yes	<p>I am asking that you please take MYR off the ballot. I will vote for any size bond that promotes traditional or choice. Currently I will not support the bond, and neither will many of my neighbors. What does this bond mean for my neighborhood? If you vote for MYR, than make it fair. Share it across the county and make the intire system MYR. At least our property values won't be the only ones to suffer. Massive reassignment (our neighborhood was just split into 4 nodes), decreased property value, family disruption, community disruption, and most important, a worse education. Have you talked to the teachers in schools being converted? I think it would be your duty. Chuck Delaney is wrong when he says that not many teachers will leave. Talk to the teachers! Many are planning on leaving at the end of the year. That is my biggest concern since my children's education is most affected by teachers. We are going to lose some great teachers! And our principals will only have a month to hire new teachers from end of school year until July when school will begin again. I would much prefer half day kindergarten or larger class sizes.</p> <p>Put an extra certified teacher in a class of 30 to save capacity. My mom was a teacher and taught 36 at a time. A few extra kids in a class room is far less disruptive to their education then MYR. Also, diversity is important, but not at the expense of splitting up families and communities. Don't make diversity the number one priority over the nuclear family. That's crazy. I keep reading quotes from the board. One reason for MYR is to promote diversity. They want us to choose to send our children from their base school to magnet schools far away. My children don't learn anything from being on a bus for hours. I chose my neighborhood so we could build friendships and community here. live in a diverse neighborhood that has low income housing to million dollar homes. When the school at Cary Park is built, I hope you choose to put our whole neighborhood in it. Maybe it would be a great promo to build diverse neighborhoods rather than bus kids for diversity. Then we could have diversity and neighborhood schools! A win win!</p> <p>We also need to change the way our board is elected. We need them to be elected at large. Please help change the legislature so we can make this happen. It is wrong when a board member can vote yes on MYR, when she has no MYR in her entire district. Thank you for your dedication to our schools. Do any of you have children in the district? Are any of them going MYR? Please respond.</p>	10/13/2006
2	Cary	NC	27519	Yes	<p>We need alternate sources of funding. We are growing at an absolutely uncontrolled rate, without any thought to infrastructure. I realize that the county can't impose impact fees yet, but that seems to be the only way to get ahold of this problem. It has been a problem since I moved here in 1992, and it is getting worse. PLEASE take this to the legislature or whoever makes the decision, and start imposing impact fees! Why should the established parts of the county keep paying for brand new schools in high growth areas? By the way, I live near Highcroft and bought a new house and feel partly responsible for the growth situation. Had there been an impact fee included in the price of the home, I would have been glad to pay it. Simply adding mobil units and converting schools to year round is not going to solve this problem. It is merely putting a band aid on it.</p>	10/13/2006
3	Cary	NC	27519	Yes	<p>1. If making some YR manditory make them all YR manditory I understand the need and support it however my property values are going down because they are selectively doing this. 2. Consider alternatives such as increasing class sizes (my daughter at Davis had 32 kids in the class it was fine - now they have 22 past three years at Highcroft). That class had the highest EOG scores in the school. It was all about the teacher she was great - not the number of children in the room. Also parents were encouraged to come into the classrooms and help. Today I don't see that in all the schools they do not want parent 'interference' in the classroom. This one teacher had centers (4th grade) and parents came and ran them - rotated the kids.</p> <p>3. Use trailers - my kids both have been in them (at Davis and HDE) neither minded, it was not an issue they actually liked having their own separate world. Then when demand drops in 6-10 years you can just remove the trailers instead of having a ton of empty schools. We had them in NY when I was growing up all of the electives were in trailers. Why don't they just put them in when they build the schools instead of having all the shuffling around each year putting people in closets? It would be cheaper to run the electric, water, etc. at one time when the building is being renovated/built then to do it y/y. Just admit we need them. Or another novel approach build schools with 2 floors. My elementar school had four floors - the schools in NY are always built with two floors I have no idea why they do nc do that here? It seems like a real waste when there is such limited land to build on (?). The younger kids were on the bottom floor, the older ones on the top floor.</p> <p>4. In NY you could enroll your child in a school that was not your assignment - but you had to pay about \$5K a year and could be moved out based on demand. Maybe offer this as an alternative in magnets or something and use the revenue to repair those schools. The way it is going people will pay to have options and a superior education experience. Still use your lottery as well. Also increase the magnet school populations I hear many of them have half empty classrooms - not sure on that. Anyway just my thoughts. I am in favor of YR geeze we have to use resources to the best of our abilities - but making just a handful of schools YR is what has people freaking out. House values are already dropping and neighborhoods are advertising they have 'traditional school schedules'. Quite the selling point, eh? This is just not right.</p>	10/13/2006
4	Cary	NC	27519	Yes	<p>I am very happy with facilities that Wake county builds and maintains. My experience includes Washington Elementary (renovated old school building), Green Hope Elementary (recently built school) and brand new West regional library. I would like county to build nice facilities upfront and not skimp on quality. Thanks.</p>	10/13/2006

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5	Apex	NC	27502	Yes	Regarding the new elementary school in Cary/Apex on Laura Duncan Road (the former Bespak facility) ... this school location is right in the heart of the part of Western Wake County that is being forced to convert 5 elementary schools to a year-round, multi-track calendar. If the schedule to get this new school running could be accelerated & be ready for August 2007 instead of 2008, think of the impact it could have on this community! What a FANTASTIC opportunity for WCPSS, the Town of Cary (I think it's in Cary), the contractors, etc to all work TOGETHER to contribute to the real creation of more seats for students. Rather than say 'we can't,' I hope that someone says 'what would it take?!'	10/13/2006
6	Raleigh	NC	27603	No	I have a 3-year old who will be attending school in a few years. I hope Year around school is mandatory for all students by then. I think the county needs to focus on the classroom. I went to a high school with out a football stadium so I don't feel every school needs it own athethic complex. Especiall when the classrooms are needed and they will be used everyday of the week (and most likely every hour of the school day) where as sports facilities don't get used everyday of the week. Focus on the basics with the ability to expand in the future.	10/16/2006
7	apex	NC	27502	Yes	Mandatory year round schools will effect the local economy,neighborhoods, sports teams, property values and most importantly family structure in a negitive way. I have four children,two will be in HS and two in elementary. If my younger two don't get on track 4, our summers together as a family will no longer exist. This is a sad situation and I have not come in contact with anyone happy about it.	10/16/2006
8	Garner	NC	27529	Yes	When I click the icon for meeting notes the notes do not appear. Where can I view the meeting notes? Thanks	10/17/06
9	Cary	NC	27511	Yes	As long as the school bond resolution is tied to the conversion of 22 schools to multitrack year round, it is in jeopardy. I have always supported school construction bonds, but mandatory year round schools will put my children on different calendars, and create a hardship for my family. I will not support any bond referendum that creates such a hardship for my family.	10/17/06
10	Cary	NC	27519	Yes	Citizens Advisory Council, I am a mom of 4 Wake Co. kids; grades 4,6,8,10. Please, please consider the impact of families like ours when advising the school board to take mandatory year round off the bond. This is putting us in a horrible position of sacrificing our family values. We will have no choice but to move if we are not given a choice. Thank you	10/18/06
11	Apex	NC	27502	Yes	I am a concerned parent of 3 children in Wake County. This bond proposal would be something I would support and politic for if it did not tie in MYR conversions and forced attendance of MYR schools. I will have 2 children, potentially on different tracks, and one on a traditional schedule all in wake schools next year. Explain to me how we are supposed to vacation, visit family or even just take a break together? The MYR conversion and varied schedules will also make it impossible for my wife to maintain decent employment. Is the county going to subsidise my income to assist with the income I am going to lose? I feel very strong about the need to remove MYR from the bond referendum if you really want it to pass. I know I am not the only one feeling this crunch and I believe most of us would support a bond that does not tie in MYR forced attendance. I just don't see the justification of splitting apart my family. There are alternatives and no one seems to care. Thanks for listening	10/18/06
12	Raleigh	NC	27613	Yes	Hello members of the Citizen Advisory Committee, The importance of this school construction bond passing cannot be stressed enough. I have never voted down a school bond - ever. However as long as this years bond is tied to the forced conversion to MYR of 22 schools I am afraid that I cannot vote in favor of it. The reason I will vote against it is because it will tear my family apart. I have two children in two different school (Leesville elementary and Leesville Middle) and I am appalled that the two schools - that are physically attached to one another - will be on two different schedules. Do you understand the hardship the two different schedules will place on my family? Your committee is a first step in the process of making the school board more responsive. Please consider at your Oct 24th meeting making a strong recommendation to the Board of Education that they take mandatory year round off of the table in order to ensure that this much needed bond passes the vote. Thank you for your oversight and leadership.	10/18/06
13	Cary	NC	27513	Yes	Your website states 'Your ideas are important to us'. I hope that is correct, because it doesn't seem to be that way in the rest of Wake County. Please urge the Board of Education to rescind their decision on mandatory year-round schools for at least the 3 middle schools on the list. Salem Middle School in particular is not overcrowded at this time. We could use trailers for the next few years to account for future growth until more schools are built. This is the best way to use our funds wisely. It would save a great deal in operating costs for our school vs. running it year-round which is not necessary. The BoE voted to convert Salem Middle because they converted Salem Elementary. Our families don't want to stay on a year-round schedule any longer than we have to! We want to get off the year-round schedule as fast as possible. The BoE needs to stop assuming what families want and to listen to what we are telling them. In addition, the BoE itself describes why it is not a good idea to convert middle schools to mandatory year-round in their Capital Improvement Plan. Why should we then spend the money to do That is negligence. My understanding is that you are charged with making sure our money is spent wisely when it comes to the schools. Please make the BoE aware that spending money to convert middle schools to year-round unnecessarily is not spending wisely, it is simply irresponsible. Please do the right thing and urge the BoE to be more fiscally responsible and take the middle schools off the year-round conversion list. Thank you for listening!!	10/18/06

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14	Apex	NC	27523	Yes	Has the CFAC taken a position regarding mandatory school scheduling? If so, what is it? Are you aware of the groundswell of opposition that oppose this and find this destroying any remaining good faith with the BoE and WCPSS? Regards,	10/18/06
15	Cary	NC	27519	No	Dear members of the Citizen Advisory Committee, I urge you to look more deeply in the mandatory year round decision the school board has attached to the November bond issue. At first I thought some parents were crazy for wanting to vote down a bond due to MYR. After some research, it became clear to me how ridiculous it is to jeopardize such an important bond with a bandaid solution that is a proven failure in so many other school districts. It will cost us money to implement it and to back out of it once it's clear it is not the panacea that the school board promises. Let's just put the money into building new schools now that we need. I myself have decided not to support the bond if MYR is still attached to it. I have many reasons, too long to list in this letter. I just want you to consider that there are many of us out there that would support the bond if MYR were not part of it. Thank you for your time.	10/18/06
16	cary	NC	27513	Yes	<p>Part of the duties of this committee are to evaluation the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) drafted by the Wake County Board of Education (BoE). I understand that the County is experiencing phenomenal growth (although I would argue that it is 'unexpected'). When making decisions on how best to deal with the growth, we need to keep in mind that we are dealing with the lives of children. We should not treat this like we are trying to pack boxes into warehouses. It is true that on paper, we can fit more children into schools that operate on a multi-track year-round schedule, but is that the best choice? There are many, many reasons why it is not (that go way beyond simply wanting family vacation time). I am hoping that you are familiar with these arguments, so I'm going to be brief:</p> <p>higher expenses to operate, decreased school morale (majority of families do not want to be there), teacher retention and attrition issues, schools have to eventually be built anyway at higher future costs, increase in latch-key kids (drug use and teen pregnancy), fragmenting community functions like vacation bible school, the fact that the BoE explained why it is bad for middle schools in their CIP, lower property values, and the fact that California is reversing all year-round schools due to a lawsuit. I could go on, but those reasons alone are enough. In most businesses, you are asked to consider a cost/benefit analysis before making a decision. The costs, and/or risks associated with mandating year round schools far outweigh the single benefit of packing more children in a school. I would be fired in my job for making a decision of this magnitude without considering all sides of the issue, particularly the impact to human beings and the community. I do not want the BoE to get away with this level of negligence and irresponsibility. Please advise them to seek other ways to address this issue that are not so harmful to everyone in the County.</p>	10/18/06
17	Cary	NC	27519	Yes	Dear members of the Citizen Advisory Committee, Please use your persuasion to get mandatory year round (MYR) taken off the table for Wake County Public Schools. If this is taken out of the equation, everyone that I know would be willing to vote for the current school bond. We want to support more money going towards our schools but don't feel we should be forced into mandatory year round - for many reasons. Please consider at your Oct 24th meeting making a strong recommendation to the Board of Education that they take FORCED mandatory year round off of the table in order to ensure that this much needed bond passes the vote. Thank you for your time, commitment to our children & your leadership.	10/18/06
18	Cary	NC	27519	Yes	Hello members of the Citizen Advisory Committee, The importance of this school construction bond passing cannot be stressed enough, however I believe the bond will fail. Unfortunately, over half of the school bond finances mandatory year round schools. 22 schools are being converted to mandatory year round and all new schools will open as mandatory year round. The school board has mobilized a huge group of parents who would normally happily vote for a bond, to vote against it. I am sad to say that I am one of those parents. I am prepared to vote against the bond because of the hardship Mandatory Year Round will place on many families in Wake County, including teachers. Your committee is a first step in the process of making the school board more responsive. Please consider at your Oct 24th meeting making a strong recommendation to the Board of Education that they take mandatory year round off of the table in order to ensure that this much needed bond passes the vote. Thank you for your oversight and leadership.	10/18/06
19	Cary	NC	27519	Yes	Dear members of the Citizen Advisory Committee, Please use your persuasion to get mandatory year round (MYR) taken off the table for Wake County Public Schools. If this is taken out of the equation, everyone that I know would be willing to vote for the current school bond. We want to support more money going towards our schools but don't feel we should be forced into mandatory year round - for many reasons. Please consider at your Oct 24th meeting making a strong recommendation to the Board of Education that they take FORCED mandatory year round off of the table in order to ensure that this much needed bond passes the vote. Thank you for your time, commitment to our children & your leadership.	10/18/06

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20	cary	NC	27519	Yes	I am very supportive of passing a bond to bring more money to our schools. However, I cannot support this bond with it's current MYR priorities of close to \$500million dollars. I urge this committee to listen to the parents who have real, legitimate reasons why this year-round schedule will not work for our families. My biggest concern is the impact that it will have on my daughter's special education classes and the major disruption that comes with changes 4 times every year and stretching our specialists way too thin. Please keep providing us with excellent education options that allow us all to choose the schedule that works best for our situation. Thank you.	10/18/06
21	Cary	NC	27519	No	My son will begin kindergarten in the '07/08 school year. As a resident of Cary Park in Western Wake County, I am well aware of the crowding at schools and the need for new school construction and renovations. I wholeheartedly support such construction through the proposed bond with the EXCEPTION of the conversion of so many schools to a forced year round schedule and construction of schools only under this model. Where is the choice???? Please give serious consideration at the October 24 meeting with the Board of Education that this bond will fail unless the language and provision for the year round schools are removed. Thank you for seeking public input. It is a shame that bureaucracy has delayed the building of Cary Park Elementary, as just one example, which could be housing students right now.	10/18/06
22	Apex	NC	27502	Yes	<p>I have 3 children 2 in elementary & 1 in HS. I beleive in yr.round it creates better educated children the; don't need 2 1/2 months off they wind up having to make it up the first 2 months of the following yr of school. HOWEVER, I am opposed to the idea that you are making the situation mandatory. People have adapted their lives to traditional schooling and this has been the way of life for the U.S. there is no yr round for HS & I am forced along with a lot of other families, not to have family time off together. With everything going on in the world today, taking away family time creates more havic and family values disapear. I would think that you would want families to have more family time. In the Olive Chapel elem. area in which I live and have lived for 10 yrs. also owning my own business in this area I will tell you that this area (town) regards family as a precious commodity by making our elementary school Mandatory yr rnd. you are changing family life. We deserve to have a choice. There have been other remedies to look at and the committee has turned their heads. I know now that you are stuck with a situation and somewhat no where to turn</p> <p>but you do have 4 schools in this area that I know of. (apex,baucom,oce & turner) Apex is called a magnet school, why not make it a regular school w/magnet program in the school? The same with the other schools I don't think that any of you put a lot of thought in to what you could do with the existing schools that we already have. All I know is that the Bond is not going to pass and it is because of the forced mandatory situation. Too bad because originally I would have voted for this bond to pass now I am not so sure and I know that a lot of people think this way, you too. I can not beleive that you have looked down all the avenues to avoid this situation. The planning board needs help here. Someone wa: not thinking of the future. Try harder to figure out a better way. Its never too late.</p>	10/19/06
23	Apex	NC	27502	Yes	As an advisory council, I would like to discuss my thoughts on the upcoming bond referendum. I am concerned that the scheduled bond will not pass. The following is from a letter that I forwarded to WCPSS. This letter includes my thoughts on MYR, but for the purposes of your duties, I want to emphasize my thoughts on the bond and how to get it passed... Here's what I wrote: "I don't think the bond has a good chance of passing for two reasons: 1. There is a significant population of non-stakeholders (no elementary or middle school children) who oppose ANY type of property tax increases, and 2. The majority of parents affected by MYR (based on seeing 650 people at Apex community center last Sunday), I believe, will vote it down. Here's why I don't support MYR: My kids are staggered by age, and I will have them in different levels almost every year. Placing Olive Chapel, Apex Middle and Apex HS on different schedules will not be conducive to a good environment for raising our family as a strong unit with good internal structure.	10/19/06
23 continued					Along with a few lesser reasons, I can only support the referendum if it does not include Mandatory YR or (less preferred) if it requires 100% MYR for the whole county... on all levels. The irony of this is that i the bond fails, I understand that a 100% conversion plan may be required, due to funding issues. Here is one example of a YR system that I have: My employer is based in Florida, where they have had overcrowding issues. The feeling there, according to my co-workers, is positive on YR education, but with one stipulation... ALL levels of school (elementary, middle, and high school) are on YR education. This system still provides families with a significant amount of time together, the way family life has always been structured. As a stay at home mom, my wife has provided a great deal of volunteer hours at Olive Chapel Elementary school; as room mom, activity assistant, and she has had many other roles. Suffice it to say, we feel strongly about our kids', and other kids future success. We feel that along with the excellent teaching staff we have had at	

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					<p>OCE, parents such as us will continue to be an integral part in our children's success. Our voices should be heard. OK, here's my idea on how to get the bond passed: Now that WCPSS has attracted the attention of thousands of affected families, if the 2007 - 2009 Capital Improvement Plan building cost is revised upward (possibly to 1.3B?) "to avoid MYR", you could actually have thousands of "ANTI-MYR" people fighting WITH WCPSS to override the "don't raise my taxes" crowd and actually get the bond passed. In the interim, Lets add a few trailers, expand voluntary YR, temporarily bend the rules/request an exception on class size, and do what it takes to keep traditional schools for the next two years 'til the funded schools are built! If you need justification for making this revision, can you hire the John Locke Foundation to do a follow up poll specifically on the desires of the families who will be converted to MYR? Thanks for your time, and please keep the values of Apex residents - the parents and our kids - at the forefront of your decisions. " Thank You,</p>	