



Guilford County Association of Educators <gcaenc@gmail.com>

BOE Passes Reconciliation Budget!

1 message

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Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 8:04 AM

Reply-To: gcaenc@gmail.com

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October 18, 2023

Two Demands Down, One to Go!

GCAE members gathered yesterday to deliver a petition to the Guilford County Schools Board of Education, urging the board to prioritize increased funding for promised salary and wage increases in the local reconciliation budget. The reconciliation budget will balance the projected local budget with the state budget funding that the North Carolina General Assembly passed three months past its due date of July 1. The petition, signed by over 700 GCS employees so far, calls for a significant investment in our schools to ensure our children's #FreedomToLearn.



GCAE has been at the forefront of this initiative, tirelessly working to raise awareness about the critical need for adequate funding in our schools. Last spring, GCAE partnered with other

local organizations to advocate for local pay increases for public school staff to be reflected in the GCS budget. Guilford County Schools and the Guilford Board of County Commissioners committed to using local funds to bring public school workers' salary and wages closer to market rate.

"We are here today on behalf of all the Guilford County parents, teachers, and students who believe that every child in our community, regardless of race, class, or gender, deserves the #FreedomToLearn in safe and just public schools – no exceptions," said Joanna Pendleton, President of GCAE. "Our community understands that investing in education is an investment in the future of our children and their freedom to learn. We urge the Board of Education to listen to the voices of the community and allocate the necessary resources to ensure that every child receives a high-quality education."

The petition calls for a commitment to follow through on using local funding allocated for salary and wage increases as promised, even in the face of underfunding from the state. It also urges the board to adopt a resolution declaring a state of emergency for local public schools and asking the Board of County Commissioners to commit to keeping public funding in public schools.

Members of GCAE were warmly received by members of the Board of Education at meetings last week, who expressed their gratitude for the community's engagement and promised to carefully consider the petition's demands during the budget reconciliation process and in future meetings. **The board unanimously adopted an amendment to the interim budget resolution that met the budget demands of the petition.**

The delivery of the petition serves as a reminder that the strength of a community lies in its commitment to providing the best possible education for its children. As deliberations continue regarding the remaining petition demands, GCAE and its supporters remain vigilant, advocating for the interests of students and the future of the community.

How to Plug In & Build YOUR Union, GCAE:

Phase 2 of the #FreedomToLearn Campaign: Time to **RALLY!**

It's time for you and your coworkers to come out to the **#FreedomToLearn Rally** on November 7! Bring your community, bring your family, bring your students! The **#FreedomToLearn Rally** is our way of showing that our community will fight for our public schools -- we will fight to *protect our students' #FreedomToLearn!*

The [#FreedomToLearn Rally](#) will take place exactly one year before the 2024 elections and one week before the November Board of Education meeting. We want our community to know that we are here to fight for our public schools by every means necessary.

- We're here to win budget fights in the spring!
- We're here to elect pro-public education candidates in the fall!
- We're here to declare that public schools are facing a state of emergency, it's the North Carolina General Assembly's fault, and we will not stand for it!
- We're here to harness the transformative power of our shared commitment to defend the [#FreedomToLearn](#) that belongs to every public school student in this county.

SAT, OCT 28,

GCAE Organizing Bootcamp

[Register](#)

**9:00 am - 4:00 pm,
Greensboro**

This in-person 1-day organizing conversation bootcamp is open to all GCS staff who are NCAE members. It is especially encouraged for building team members ready to level up to organize their worksite.

TUES, NOV 7,

#FreedomToLearn Rally

[Register](#)

**time and place TBD,
Greensboro**

Let's unite to show our community that we are committed to our students and our public schools!

THURS, NOV 16,

November Mass Meeting

[Register](#)

**5:30-7:30 PM,
Smith HS**

Get some good food, and learn what we won this fall and how we're moving forward to win more this spring!

Ways to Plug In with NCAE:

GCAE is the local affiliate of our state union, NCAE. The following opportunities are available for all NCAE members ready to learn one more thing, take one more step, or dig just a little bit deeper.

- **Leading in Our Locals and Our Lives: What is (My) Leadership?**
 - Saturday, Oct 21, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Raleigh
 - Register: link.ncae.org/Landscape
- **Learning the Landscape: Why are They So Scared of Public Schools and Our Unions?**
 - Monday, Oct 23, 6:00-7:30 PM, virtual
 - Register

FREE Children's Books for NEA Members

As part of its year-round celebration of Read Across America, NEA is partnering with author Mary Pope Osborne, Random House Children's Books and First Book to help educators bring FREE books to children in Title 1 schools or programs that serve low-income families. Books are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Educators must sign up for a free account with First Book. Use promo code NEAMAGICTREEHOUSE to get \$75 worth in free Magic Tree House titles (approximately 25 books).

[Sign up](#)

Great Public School's Fund First PAC Drive!

NCAE's new Strategic Plan calls on us to "Restore the Promise of Public Schools & Our Democracy." As we launch the Great Public Schools Fund, we plan to fulfill our strategic goals by 1) putting education on the ballot, 2) by identifying education voters, and 3) by putting forth a vision for "What's Possible for Students." To accomplish all that, we must increase our PAC donations. [Please join today.](#)

To join the PAC Drive, running from NOW through October 31, 2023, you can:

SIGN-UP USING OUR DIGITAL PAC: If you sign up at a minimum of \$8 a month as a Great Public Schools Sustainer, you will receive an exclusive 'Created by Public Schools' shirt.

RECRUIT NEW PAC CONTRIBUTORS: When you recruit new contributors to the Great Public-School Fund you will receive 10% of the total dollar amount you raise. To receive your gift you must ensure new donors list your name in the 'Recruited By' field on the digital PAC sign-up.

[Join GCAE](#)

[GCAE Campaign
Central](#)

[GCAE on Facebook](#)

Sent via [ActionNetwork.org](https://actionnetwork.org). To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from Guilford County Association of Educators, please [click here](#).