**Name as it appears on the ballot: Gary Lewis Campaign website:** [**http://gary4wake.com**](http://gary4wake.com) **Phone number: 919-694-1585**

**Email:** [**gary4wake@gmail.com**](mailto:gary4wake@gmail.com)

**Years lived in the district: 27 years**

**Questions:**

1. What inspired you to run for the Wake County Board of Education and if elected what do you want your legacy to be after you leave?

*After 16 years with IBM, my wife and I decided we needed to focus on the education of our two sons. So, 11 years ago, I decided to become a stay-at-home father. I joined the Board for our local PTA which led to my involvement with the Wake County PTA*

*Council. After 6 years with the Wake PTA (2 as the President), I was approached by friends and convinced to use my passion and experience working on behalf of the families and students of WCPSS toward running for this position.*

*I would hope to leave this position having been known by my peers and the families of*

*Wake County as a strong advocate for a quality education for ALL students, a person*

*who was willing to listen to the concerns and thoughts of all parents, and a Board member who helped WCPSS become a place where all families have the ability to enroll their children in a school that helps to develop and feed the passions of their students; a place where the best teachers, staff and school leaders want to come to pursue a career; a place where all students have the opportunity for academic growth every year; a place where all students graduate with the desire to be lifelong learners, ready to pursue further education or a rewarding career, and for all these students to develop into productive citizens here in Wake County or wherever their pursuits may take them.*

2. In your opinion what is the biggest issue on the minds of North Carolinians right now and how do you believe you could have the biggest impact? *Funding for public education is certainly one of many key issues across our state. In my past roles with the PTA, I have had the opportunity to learn a great deal about the State and Local systems in place for funding public education, and I have had the opportunity to spend time at the NC*

*General Assembly talking with its members. As a member of the Wake County Board of Education, I would have the opportunity to work toward solutions that best utilize the funds provided, while also having the chance to continue talking with our State and Local leaders about the funding needs of our district.*

3. What policy areas are the most important to you and if elected what changes would you make? *My top priority is the growth and success of ALL students in Wake County. To address this priority, I will focus on:*

* + *Academic growth for ALL students, recognizing that all students are capable of learning, but not all students learn the same way*
  + *Adequate funding and efficient planning for the growth of WCPSS, while maintaining assignment stability, calendar choice, and alternative school options for all families*
  + *Creation of more Pre-K seats across the county to meet the needs of the thousands of families on waiting lists*
  + *Ensuring all students are capable of passing 3rd grade Reading EOGs to ensure every student completes 3rd grade with the reading skills necessary to meet their future*
  + *success*
  + *Increased community and parental involvement*
  + *Increased cooperation between WCPSS and the leaders within Wake county and local municipalities to ensure the success of our district*

4. As a large community organization we don’t always agree with each other on the best way to accomplish many of our projects, but we always work together to get the job done. In what way do you believe you will be able to work together with members of the opposite party to work together?

*My background is as a computer scientist and a problem solver, not a politician. I have never been one to categorize people by their party affiliation. As a longtime PTA leader, I have learned (and taught) the importance of listening to everyone and considering all*

*viewpoints while working on any issue. Because of this, I have always maintained a firm belief that School Boards should remain non-partisan races.*

5. Just for fun: North Carolina doesn’t have an “official State dessert”, but if we did what

would you want it to be?

*My first thought would be Sweet Potato Pie because it is something I had never had until moving to North Carolina, but I would have to pick* ***Banana Pudding*** *as my final answer. Nothing goes better after a nice plate of BBQ, hush puppies, and beans.*