**Name as it appears on the ballot: Lindsay Mahaffey**

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**Years lived in the district: +1**

**Questions:**

1. What inspired you to run for Wake County Board of Education District 8 and if elected what do you want your legacy to be after you leave?

I have been an educator for over 10 years, as a teacher that focuses on world language, culture & social studies I like to look into the ‘why’ of an issue. While experiencing student assignment issues with two of my daughters, I began to dig into the history of Wake County Schools, and how our large and diverse district came to be back in 1977. In addition to my healthy respect as to why WCPSS was created, I want to bring a lens

to the board that reflects today’s education standards, and the innovation that is seen at the classroom level. Our standards and policies need to be focused and intentional so

that our teachers can do what they do best, create authentic learning experiences that resonate with our children.

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?

The biggest issue in education on the minds of North Carolinians is teacher retention. As a state we have to make this a focus in all fields, but especially in the field of Special Education. Bringing back the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program & incentive programs or pay bumps for our teachers to earn Master’s Degrees and National Board Certification would go a long way in addition to teacher pay increases.

3. What policy areas are the most important to you and if elected what changes would you make?

My biggest areas for policy would be increasing the graduation rate & reducing student suspensions. I believe taking the time to be proactive and increase social emotional skills in students can prevent time taken away to discipline students after an incident. Also an increase in Head Start programs for our students who do not have the opportunity to attend private preschools, and making sure our students start on equal footing when they walk into our schools for Kindergarten.

In pursuance with providing an equal education for all students, we have to acknowledge that each individual carries their own strengths and continue to pursue not only college readiness, but also career readiness. CTE programs like those at Vernon Malone are something WCPSS should continue to not only pursue but also develop.

We need more transparency in our student assignment. I think WCPSS is moving forward on this, but we still can work towards keep our parents & taxpayers in the loop on school caps and assignment plans.

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?

As a classroom teacher, I always found it beneficial to let my students not only know the objective of a lesson, but also why this objective is important and how it can affect them as a learner, and a person. These are tenants that are key in any policy debate, for any position. Collaboration and transparency is always key in any community, as well as the ability to listen to the positions of others, whether or not they agree with you. Empathy is not only a quality for our students to learn, but one that a board member should possess. We are not just dealing with budgets; we are dealing with the education of our future.

5. Just for fun: North Carolina doesn’t have an “official State dessert”, but if we did what would you want it to be?

Chess pie