**2016 North Carolina General Election Candidate Questionnaire**

**Name as it appears on the ballot:** Sheila Ellis **Campaign website:** www.sheilaellisforschoolboard.com **Phone number:** 919-901-9893 **Email:** coachmaze11@yahoo.com **Years lived in the district:** 40

**Questions:**

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

I was inspired to run for school board for several reasons. I was a teacher in Wake County Schools for about 20 years so I know many employees/parents in my area. I understand how the decisions that are made affect the teachers, parents and students. I want to give teachers/employees a way to provide feedback to the school system and retaining quality teachers. I think that is one aspect that needs improvement as well as promoting parent/community involvement. I have two kids in the school system so I want to work alongside the current board members to make our school system one of the best in the state. I would want my legacy to be a person that cared about kids and schools rather than politics. I hope to improve the facilities and give teachers a voice in their school system.

1. 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?

I think a lot of people are focused on the elections both local, state and national elections.

I think we have become a little sidetracked from what is important for our state due to some controversy related to bills passed this year like HB2. That is important but should it be our focus this year? In my opinion, the focus should have been to continue to improve education and improving the economy in North Carolina. The people want to see politicians working together instead of being so divided. I would like to be elected to the school board to help locally and I have always supported the organizations that work downtown to improve our schools in North Carolina.

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

I believe in keeping students close to their community for school and not having long bus rides. I also would feel that parents would like more school choice options which we need in Eastern Wake County such as charter schools or updated facilities. Perhaps we need to find out why charter schools are so popular in the state and the methods they are using in the classrooms. All around the county we need to examine why some schools have too many students while others have decreased enrollments. I think that the teachers/staff would like improved training sessions, more freedom to be creative, less testing and better discipline in the schools. My last concern is what was the purpose to eliminating valedictorians at high school graduations.

1. 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?

I believe that politics really has no place on the school board because a few years ago every decision was divided by party lines and it made it difficult to improve things at that time. I am a good listener and I’m flexible in my approach to solving problems. I know that in the beginning I will need to learn how things are accomplished and I want to work together with other members yet I will give my opinion and think for myself in some matters. I want what is best for the students and teachers.

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

Banana pudding or peach cobbler