Dear Guilford County Board of Education and Dr Contreras,

As a GCS parent and GC taxpayer I am writing you out of frustration and great concern. As it stands GCS families have very limited representation and no way of addressing concerns except email, which means we have no voice.

The limitations placed on how one can express a grievance is unacceptable. Emailing your Board of Education member is futile and a waste of time. There is simply no way every email can be read or responded to - that has been confirmed several times by Board members. Reassurance that all emails are important and read is no longer sufficient.  “As required by law the board shall serve as a judicial body to hear complaints, and appeals from administrative employees, pupil and or patrons” (Per the GCS By Laws, Article 2)

It also states the School Board is supposed to develop written governing policies… Not the Superintendent Nor does it state that the Superintendent should sit on this committee. It is the Board job to write policy and the Supers to follow.

Therefore, I implore you to vote NO on the only Guilford County School Board Policy Code: Budgeting and Fiscal Management. This policy eliminates the Boards duties and Change Orders that allow for checks and balances. No Superintendent in the State of North Caroline is able to spend this kind of money as many times as they like without the Boards approval and without submitting Change Orders. Even the North Carolina School Board Association suggested $50,000 and no more for both contracted and construction.

Decisions are being made about our children, policy is being changed, and policy created, financial decisions are being discussed that come right on the heels of a bond voted on by the public - all without public comment, which is in many cases against already written policy. As a parent and tax payer I am respectfully asking the Board of Education meetings be open to the public effective immediately to allow public input, questions, and or grievances to be made. Otherwise any new business conducted: ie. policy changes or new policy created, financial decisions or policy that is already written to allow public comment prior to a vote - should be halted and tabled until the meetings can be open.

Restrictions have been eased and or lifted in many cases. There is simply no reason to continue to stifle the public. Proper safety protocols can be exercised to ensure safety for all and many BOE meetings in other districts have been open. **I implore you to remember the oaths you took and your job duties. Do not be complicit to the demands of this Superintendent.**

We are watching.  The children of this community are watching.  God is watching