

# Board of Education

## Vision

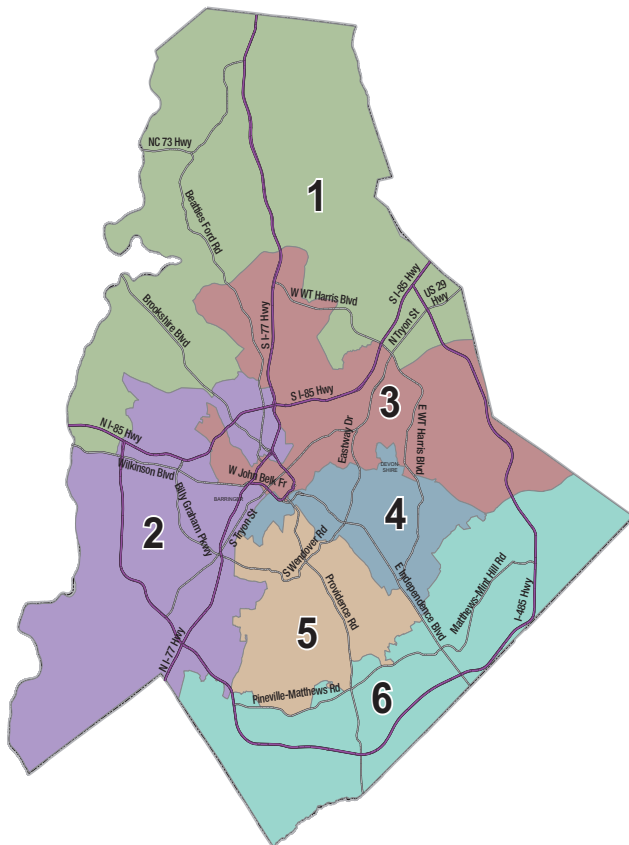
CMS provides all students the best education available anywhere, preparing every child to lead a rich and productive life.

## Mission

The mission of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools is to maximize academic achievement by every student in every school.

## Overview

The nine-member Board of Education is the governing body of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Non-partisan elections are held in November of odd-numbered years. The Board is comprised of three at-large members and six district representatives. The Board holds regularly scheduled meetings, open to the public, on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 6 p.m. at the Government Center (600 East Fourth Street). Live broadcasts of Board meetings air on CMS TV and re-air at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays. The chairperson's salary for serving on the Board is \$1,325.74 per month; all other Board members earn \$1,019.79.



## Eric C. Davis, District 5, Chairperson

Davis was elected to the Board of Education to represent District 5 in 2009. He holds a bachelor of science degree with honors from the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY. He is a professional engineer in North Carolina and has served on numerous boards and community groups. He has also served as chair of the Bond Oversight Committee, the CMS Superintendent's Standards Review Committee, and the City of Charlotte Privatization/Competition Advisory Committee. Davis is a Charlotte native who attended CMS schools and with his wife, Adrienne, a CMS parent with two daughters.



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## Tom Tate, District 4, Vice-Chairperson

Tate was elected to the Board of Education in 2005 and 2009. He serves as pastor of Plaza Presbyterian Church, a position which brought him to Charlotte in 1988. He is a graduate of Princeton University and received his doctor of ministry degree from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. He has served as co-chair of the CMS Interfaith Advisory Council. Tom has two daughters, both graduates of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.



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## Kaye Bernard McGarry, M.Ed., At-Large

McGarry was first elected as an at-large member of the Board of Education in 2003. She was elected vice-chairperson in 2008. McGarry earned a degree in secretarial science from Barry University, a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of South Florida and holds a master's degree in education, guidance and counseling from UNC Charlotte. A former high school and community college teacher, she has lived in Charlotte for 42 years. McGarry started her company, SIC Seminars in 1991 and in 1998 published her first book titled, "A New Beginning: A Survival Guide for Parents of College Freshmen." She has presented programs on various high school and college campuses. She has been on the board of trustees at Central Piedmont Community College for 12 years. She currently serves on the boards of United Family Services, Arts and Science Council, Planning Coordinating Committee, and German Language and Cultural Foundation Advisory Board. She and her husband, Dennis, have four children and four granddaughters. McGarry chairs the CMS Audit Committee.



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## Primary Responsibilities

- Hire/terminate superintendent
- Establish policy
- Determine annual operating and capital budgets
- Approve student-assignment boundaries
- Oversee the management of the school district's major systems

# Board of Education, *continued*

## **Trent Merchant, At-Large**

Merchant was appointed by unanimous vote to the Board of Education in 2006 and was elected in 2007 to serve as an at-large member. Merchant is a partner with Coleman Lew & Associates, a retained executive search firm based in Charlotte. Previously he enjoyed a career in education where he served as assistant director of admissions, director of summer programs, and a teacher for two independent schools in Georgia. Merchant graduated from Washington and Lee University with a bachelor's degree in African and Asian history, and from Wake Forest University with a master's degree in American history. He and his wife have two young daughters and a son. Merchant serves on the CMS Policy Committee, having previously served on the Audit Committee and the Planning Liaison Committee, and chaired the Legislative Committee.



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## **'Coach' Joe I. White, Jr., At-Large**

White was first elected as an at-large member of the Board of Education in 2003. He served five years as chair. White has more than 45 years of experience working with and for students and parents in public schools. He began his career in Wilson, NC, before going on to teach and coach at North Mecklenburg High. He also served as the first football coach and athletic director at Olympic High. In addition, White worked as a CMS administrator for 16 years and served two terms on the Charlotte City Council. He earned a bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University, a master's degree from East Carolina University, an Ed.S. from Appalachian State University and is a graduate of the United States Army War College. White is on the board of directors of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and a member of the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame. He is president of the North Carolina School Boards Association. White and his wife, Bobbie, who is retired from CMS, have four children and 13 grandchildren.



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## **Rhonda Lennon, District 1**

Lennon was elected to the Board of Education in 2009 to represent District 1. A graduate of South Mecklenburg High, she holds an associate degree in nursing from Central Piedmont Community College and a bachelor of arts in business administration from UNC Charlotte. Lennon is a registered nurse and also sells real estate in the Lake Norman area. She started Families United for North Mecklenburg Education (FUME) in 2003 and has served on several education-related committees and the board of Charlotte Advocates for Education. She has lived in Mecklenburg County since 1978 and has two children attending CMS and her older daughter is a CMS graduate.



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## **Richard A. McElrath, Sr., District 2**

McElrath was elected to the Board of Education in 2009 to represent District 2. A graduate of Winston-Salem State University, he also holds a master's degree in education administration. He received a master-teacher certificate from the University of North Carolina Charlotte. He has worked in CMS for more than 35 years, teaching math, shop and drama, and coaching. McElrath and his wife, Jacqueline, a retired CMS teacher, have two children who are graduates of CMS schools and two grandchildren enrolled in CMS.



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## **Dr. Joyce Davis Waddell, District 3**

Waddell was elected to the Board of Education in 2009. She is a graduate of South Carolina State University and holds master's degrees from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, North Carolina A & T State University and Appalachian State University. She earned her doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She has served on more than 15 boards and community organizations, many serving children, in appointed and elected capacities. Waddell has three decades of experience in education, including 21 years in CMS as a teacher and administrator.



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## **Timothy S. Morgan, District 6**

Morgan was elected to the Board of Education in November 2009 to represent District 6. He holds a bachelor's degree from Appalachian State University and a master's degree in public administration from UNC-Chapel Hill. Morgan has lived in the Charlotte area since 1971 and is a graduate of Independence High School. He has almost 20 years of experience in public affairs. A former vice chair of the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Commission, he also served on the Citizens Capital Budget Advisory Committee and the School Building Solutions Committee. Morgan and his wife, Janet, have three children.



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## **Board of Education Office**

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If you would like to speak at a public hearing, please call the Board Office at 980-343-5139.

Visit us on the Web at [www.cms.k12.nc.us](http://www.cms.k12.nc.us). Click on the Board of Education tab.

CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS

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*In compliance with federal law, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools administers all education programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination against any person on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability.*

REACH FURTHER. **Global competitiveness starts here.**