

## CHCAE ENDORSES BARRETT, BROUN, TALIKOFF, AND WOLF FOR SCHOOL BOARD

When it comes to selecting a majority of the next Chapel Hill Carrboro City School Board, education professionals in the district are united: experience matters.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Association of Educators ([chcae.net](http://chcae.net)), which represents administrators, teachers, and staff members employed in the district, and is affiliated with the North Carolina Association of Educators and the National Association of Educators, has decided to endorse James Barrett, Joal Broun, Kim Talikoff and Mary Ann Wolf because we believe each candidate has the requisite amount of experience necessary to carry out effectively the largely shared goals of those running for school board this term.

As incumbents, Chairman James Barrett and member Joal Broun have earned the opportunity to continue serving the community because time again both have been strong advocates for children, teachers, and public educators in this district. With the selection of Dr. Baldwin as the new superintendent and the development of a new equity plan, to the passing of a teacher free speech resolution and implementing local career status protection, Barrett and Broun have taken courageous steps towards changing the culture of Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools in the last four years. We believe it is right to support candidates who have done right by teachers, staff and administrators. And we look forward to supporting Barrett and Broun in their quests for greater budget transparency, affordable housing, higher educator salaries and living wage for all CHCCS employees, as well as their efforts to transform school disciplinary procedures, achieve greater access to preK, close the achievement gap, and foster a sense a community where all are welcome in our schools.

Likewise, as an elementary teacher in the Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools until just last year, Kim Talikoff will add a fresh and much needed perspective to the board. Although she joined the race late, her demonstrated knowledge of the issues and care and concern for her now former students and colleagues both impressed us and impressed upon us the need for a teacher's voice on the board to continue to give rise and support to the issues - like overabundance of testing and better bidirectional communication between the board and educators - that matter to students and teachers most. Mary Ann Wolf garnered our final endorsement based on her body of work to date in the field of education. Certainly, her calls for greater teacher professionalism - including the ability to work from home on inclement weather and teacher workdays, paid sick and parental leave, and appreciation for better utilization of teacher time - struck a positive chord. Her main platform piece, personalized learning, however, does give us pause, especially given the current and interrelated problems with technology and equity our district already faces. If personalized learning becomes one more exercise in hoop jumping for students and staff alike and a sop to the education companies looking to feed on public dollars then we know we have made the wrong choice. If, instead, it achieves what Wolf claims it can - growing all students, while freeing up teacher time - then we will be rewarded for supporting a candidate who is willing innovate our classrooms.

As for the other challengers, we want to thank Ryan Brummond for his service to his country, as well as both Calvin Deutschbein and Amy Fowler for their contributions to this race. Deutschbein, with his single minded focus on equity, has not only kept the other candidates honest in their assessments of the continued lack of progress on the host of related issues that encompass this imperative topic but has also opened up the realm of possible solutions beyond the cliched technocratic fixes that unfortunately continue to dominate the accepted circles of education discourse. Fowler, in turn, has done a great job passionately advocating for the inclusion of the arts as an integral part of 21st century learning as well as championing the needs of special education students. Her years of service on the district Special Needs Advisory Counsel has not gone unnoticed and led us to strongly consider endorsing her.

Should either win a seat, CHCCS will surely be in good hands. However, in both cases, outside their particular areas of focus, we believe Duetschbein and Fowler have not sufficiently displayed the depth and breadth necessary to warrant a position this go around. Instead Duetschbein and Fowler are aptly suited to keep serving as advocates for their beliefs as community members while honing their knowledge and gaining valuable experience that would benefit them should they decide to run again in two years time.

If you're interested in learning more about what the candidates had to say about the issues educators in this district care about, please go to [chcae.net](http://chcae.net) and check out the video of the public forum we hosted as well as review their answers to the questionnaire we gave them.