

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Campaign for Racial Equity in Our Schools**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Campaign for Racial Equity Endorses George Griffin, Riza Jenkins and Mike Sharp for School Board Election**

As the campaign season draws to a close, the Campaign for Racial Equity in Our Schools (CFRE) strongly endorses George Griffin, Riza Jenkins and Mike Sharp as the best candidates to fill the three open seats on the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS) Board of Education.

CFRE, a community-based organization that promotes education and advocacy toward creating a school system where race is no longer a determinant of access and outcomes, has closely followed this important race. Our school district has long been recognized as excellent by many, yet also has the second highest achievement gap in the country and among the highest discipline disparities in the state.

CFRE has not endorsed candidates in the past, but in this election three candidates clearly rise to the top as excellent choices to help lead our schools in the upcoming challenging years.

Griffin, Jenkins, and Sharp have all highlighted racial equity as an impetus for their candidacy, an issue that will be a central focus of their deliberations and leadership if elected. Impressively all three of these candidates have extensive experience in our schools, not only as parents, but as school leaders. Griffin has had a 46-year career as a teacher and administrator, including teaching Special Education in the CHCCS. Sharp taught in our district for 16 years and was selected elementary school Teacher of the Year in 2014. Jenkins has served on School Improvement Teams and in PTA leadership (most recently as president). Because these three candidates have worked in the system, they have knowledge of the dynamics and structures that maintain disparities in opportunity and outcome. More importantly they have concrete ideas about how to work with current leaders, students, parents, and our community to build a better system that creates a challenging and exciting educational environment for all our students.