

Court

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last April. Observers say in the likelihood that Senate Republicans stick to their promise to not even give President Obama's nominee a hearing, they would run a tremendous political risk of not only besmirching Attorney General Lynch two years in a row, but also angering the black Democratic voting base during a presidential election year.

Indeed, black female Democrats, the party's most active base, would certainly be fired up about supporting one of their own to again make history.

Given how business

tycoon Donald Trump is emerging as the likely GOP presidential nominee, observers say McConnell and Senate Republicans would not only run the risk of a black voter backlash when they could least afford it, but could also cripple their goal of holding onto their Senate majority in November, putting vulnerable GOP senators at risk in states where Obama won in 2008.

Even veteran SCOTUS watchers, like Tom Goldstein, who writes the widely read SCOTUSBlog.com, actually changed his earlier prediction of another likely Obama High Court candidate, and recently ruminat-

ed on the considerable political benefit a Loretta Lynch nomination would bring.

"The stakes could not be higher: the appointment could flip the Supreme Court's ideological balance for decades," Goldstein wrote recently. "Second, gain as much political benefit as possible and exact as heavy a political toll as possible on Republicans, particularly in the presidential election. Precisely because of the seat's importance, this is the rare time that a material number of voters may seriously think about the Court in deciding whether to vote at all and who to vote for."

Other observers believe

that while Lynch would certainly be the best known SCOTUS nominee President Obama could forward to the U.S. Senate, there are other black female judicial candidates whose stellar records of accomplishment would also produce an outstanding and history-making first African-American female associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

But given her exemplary record as U.S. Attorney General thus far, observers say Loretta Lynch would be the president's most powerful choice.

"The United States Supreme Court and our nation would be well served with a nomination

of Attorney General Loretta Lynch to replace Justice Scalia on that court," says attorney Irving Joyner, law professor at the North Carolina Central University School of Law in Durham. "Her credentials are outstanding and she has been an outstanding attorney general during the time that she has been in that position."

Born in Greensboro, Lynch was raised in Durham by retired pastor Rev. Lorenzo Lynch Sr. and his wife during the height of the civil rights movement. Lynch graduated Harvard Law School, and successfully served as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New

York for several years before being nominated to succeed U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder in 2014.

"Given her past outstanding service, her demonstrated knowledge of the law and excellent judicial temperament, she will make an outstanding Justice on the Supreme Court and be an intellectual force similar to the late Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall," continued Professor Joyner. "I would strongly urge President Obama to nominate this outstanding African-American for service on the U.S. Supreme Court."

Cook

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"We know replacing the staff is an issue for a number of people," she said. "That is why we are encouraging those teachers who have been committed to the students and this community to re-apply."

Since the initial meeting was held to announce the changes at Cook, the lines of communication between administrators and parents have been much improved. A number of open discussions have been held over the past weeks to get a feel for what the parents would like the new program at the school to look like.

During a meeting on Monday, Feb. 29, dozens of parents got into groups and made lists of what they would like to see changed or improved. While a number of parents called for an improved after-school program, more educational field trips, and improved parent outreach, increased community involvement is one that made its way onto every list.

"It takes a village to raise a child," said Vincent Neal, a parent and former student at Cook.

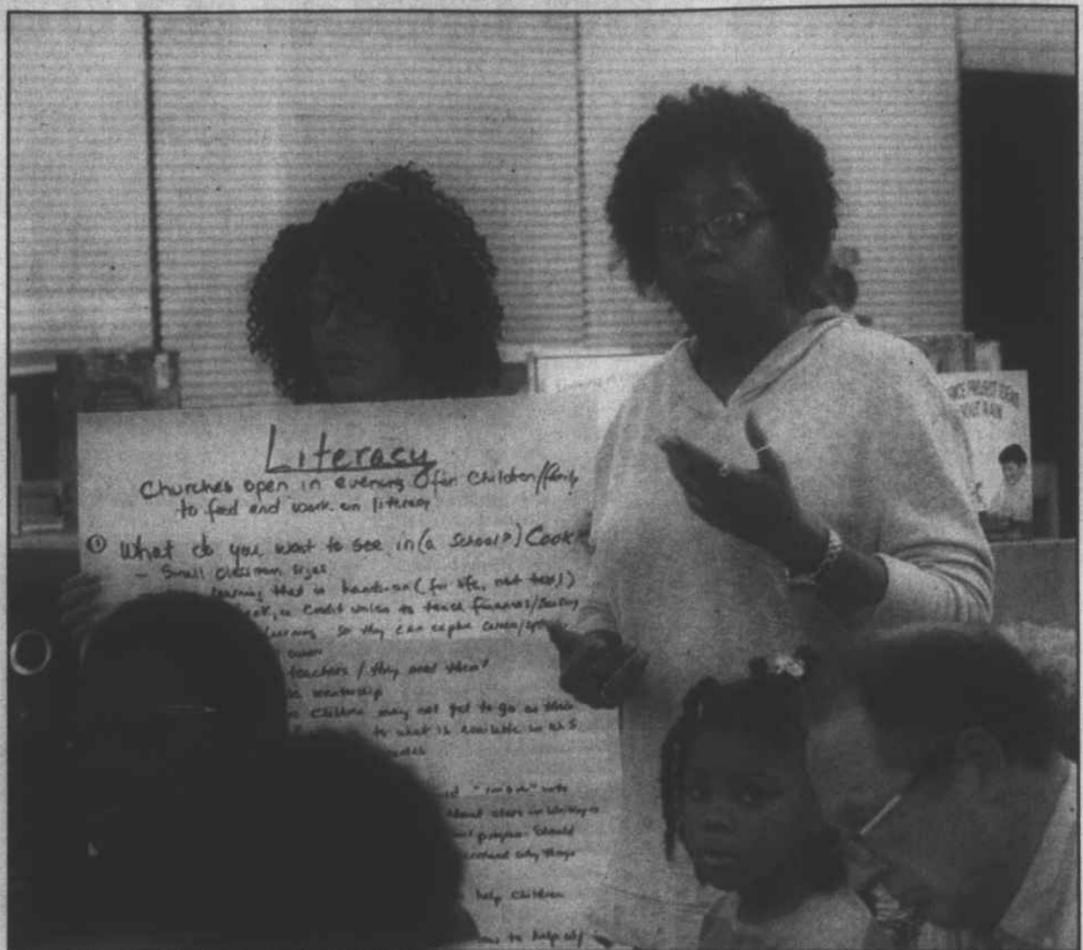
"Back when I went here, this was a great school and the community was a big part of that," he continued. "For Cook to succeed and continue to grow, we have to tap into the resources outside the walls of the school. I think that will make a big difference."

For the first time, parents will also have input about the new principal who will take over for interim principal/executive director Constance Hash, who came out of retirement late last year.

According to reports, a group composed of administrators, teachers and a parent will review the applicants for the position that is expected to be filled later this month.

Emory also mentioned a design team made up of 10 to 12 parents will also be set into place following the hiring of the new principal to ensure the voices of the parents continue to be heard.

"This is exactly what we envisioned when we decided to go with this model, parents and administrators working together," she said. "If we all believe and work together, I'm confident we can make this work."



Keisha Wisley discusses some changes she would like to be made at Cook Elementary during a meeting with members of the board of education on Monday, Feb. 29.

Photo by Terisa Stinson

Matthews

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(now Wake Forest University). On Feb. 23, 1960 11 black students and 10 white students were arrested for trespassing during a sit-in at the local Woolworth's lunch counter. Mayor Marshall Kurfees appointed a "Goodwill Committee" of 10 black and 10 white citizens to devise a way to end the protests, which resulted in a desegregation agreement for lunch counters in Winston-Salem.

On May 25, 1960 Matthews returned to the Kress lunch counter and was the first African-American served there. He said after he was finished, the waitress threw the glass he drank out of into a trashcan.

Former N.C. Rep. Larry Womble was also among the Winston-Salem Teachers College students in the sit-in. Womble, who was the Student Government Association president at the time, also knew Matthews from the neighborhood and got to know him more during the sit-ins. He said he considers him a local civil rights hero.

"He was always dedicated, very sincere, very committed to the cause and the plight of equality and trying to address discrimination and racism in this city," said Womble. "Without him, I doubt we would have made the success and the progress in the

speed in which we accomplished it. He was a fantastic person."

Matthews, a 2003 Chronicle Lifetime Achievement Award recipient,



Womble

ent, also led efforts to desegregate Greyhound buses and the city's courthouses. He was also active politically, registering a



Johnson

record number of black voters in the 1960s and leading the local campaign for Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American to run for president.

AAP Host Karim Allah Sharif, who interviewed Matthews on his show for

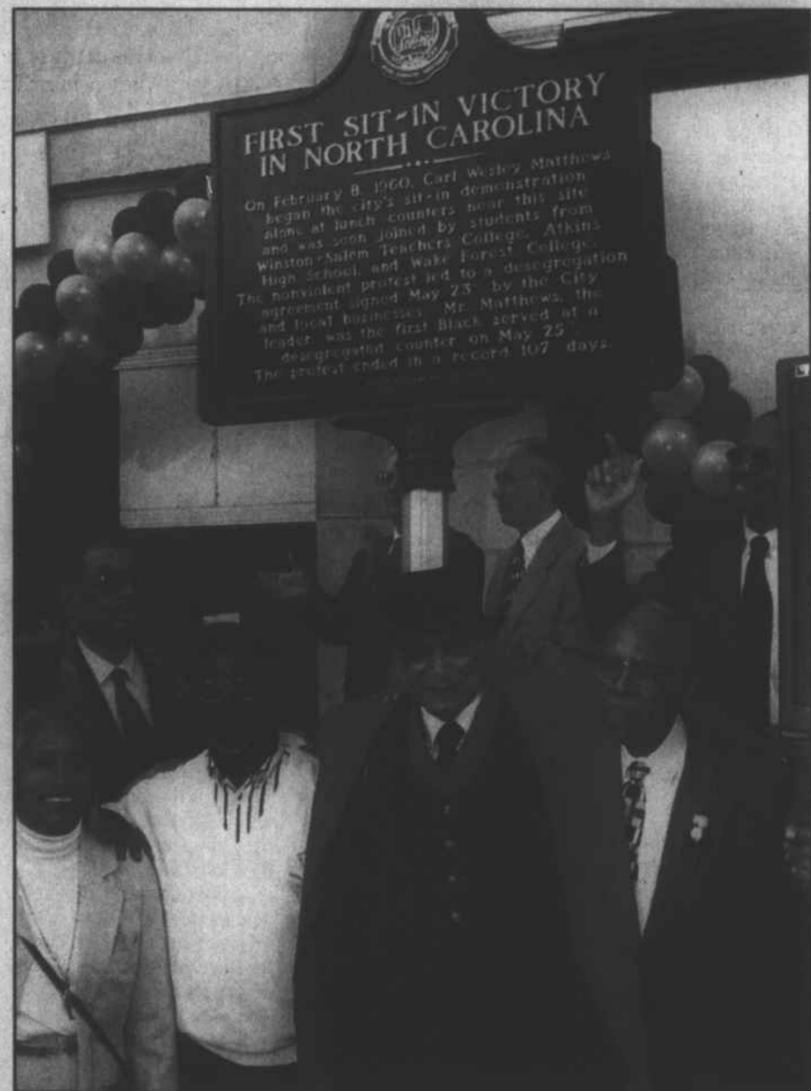
eight weeks in 1996, said that the historic sit-in victory became a "scale model" for the national civil rights movement. Despite that, he said Matthews got little recognition for it in the decades following the sit-in. Sharif said he was among those who successfully advocated for a state historic marker for the sit-in. On Feb. 23, 2000, Matthews attended a dedication of the state historic marker and other events held for the 40th anniversary of the sit-ins.

"He was a great man," said Sharif. "Not too many are going to make the sacrifices that he made ... for someone to make the sacrifices he made at the age he made them, that's what makes a great human being."

Womble, who chaired the sit-in anniversary, said he had talked with Matthews in recent weeks about getting a statue or bust of him erected, which he still hopes to do.

Matthews had three daughters, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. His grandson Kali Webster said his family would miss him greatly and that they're sorry that he passed before he achieved his dream of getting national recognition for his sit-in accomplishments like the Greensboro Four and other civil rights icons.

"That was his dream, and that wasn't realized in his lifetime, but hopefully one day it will be realized,"



Chronicle file photo Carl Matthews, center, with other sit-in participants at the state historic marker for the sit-in. SEE REMEMBRANCE ON PAGE A7.

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Exerts of the AAP interviews with Carl Matthews can be found on YouTube on the AAPmagazineonline channel. Part of the interviews can also be checked out at the Malloy Jordan East Winston Heritage Center for viewing inside the library. All eight weeks of the interview can purchased in its entirety by contacting Sharif at 749-0355.

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