

**Election**

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Deputy BOE Director Lamar Joyner, who also attended the meeting, said that the program had been used in several past elections, but the "overwhelming" amount of provisional ballots made the amount of errors much higher.

The provisional ballots in question were cast when a voter either wanted a ballot different than their registered party or were voting out of precinct. There were also nearly 200 provisional ballots with no

signature for unregistered voters, but those wouldn't have counted even with signatures. Hall said that voters who think they're registered to vote in their county but actually aren't is a statewide issue. Democracy NC is suing both the N.C. DMV and the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, which the group says is doing a poor job addressing problems with registering their clients and customers to vote.



Member of the Cleveland Avenue Transformation Team Marquita Wisley talks about the major differences between thriving and non-thriving schools during the Transforming Education Community Roundtable on Friday, April 16.



Senior Reggie Hines makes a point about the importance of students giving back during the Transforming Education Community Roundtable on Friday, April 15 at Winston-Salem State University.

Photos by Tevin Stinson

**WSSU**

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Roundtable Two touched on a number of topics including how schools should go about connecting with the community, keeping students interested, early childhood education and selecting the right teachers for minority students, among a host of other things.

Retired Principal Nora Baker said the people making the policies don't understand what they are up against. Baker, who worked in the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School System for 31 years before retiring last year, noted that those who are making the decision on our school haven't been inside a classroom in a number of years.

"They don't really understand what our educators are up against."

Baker also mentioned schools with a large minority population should look to hire teachers who are willing to connect with students and parents outside the school.

"Back when I was in school, my teachers and principals would make visits to home to ensure parents knew what areas students should work on," said Baker. "Parents have to be involved to make this work. This has to be a team effort."

The final discussion of the day raised the question: what are thriving schools and what are they doing to set themselves apart? For an example, panelists were asked to consider the differences between Whitaker Elementary, one of the county's most highly regarded schools, and Cook Elementary.

Next year, the school with a majority-minority student population will become Cook Literacy Model School in August as part of a federal government's restart model. Community activist Marquita Wisley said funding and the lack of exposure are two major things that set schools apart.

"The majority of students at thriving [schools] are exposed to a lot more at an early age, which allows them to think outside the

box," she said.

"In low-income neighborhoods, students aren't exposed to a lot of things," said Wisley. "We have to start showing our kids that they can be better than what they see."

According to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools director of alternative education, Dr. Gwendolyn Johnson-Green, more community schools would be the answer for closing the gap between thriving and non-thriving or low-performing schools in the area.

Johnson-Green mentioned community schools would provide the wrap-around services needed in minority schools.

"Community schools involve all the stakeholders in the community," she said. "Thriving schools bring together the resources of the school, faculty and community. With community schools, we will be able to take different approaches."

WSSU Provost Dr. Brenda A. Allen said the roundtable addressed the most important issues badgering the African-American community.

"It's important that we have this conversation, especially in a city where we aren't doing as well as we should be," she said. "Having this conversation here today will greatly help in the ways we think about reforms and making the changes that we need to make."

**Local ministers group responds to release of body camera footage**

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

Earlier this week, The Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity (MCWSV) held a press conference to respond to the release of body camera footage of the incident that led to Travis Page dying while in the custody of four officers with the Winston-Salem Police Department.

According to a police report, on Dec. 9 Corporal Robert Fenimore, Officer Christopher Doub, Officer Austin Conrad and Officer Jacob Tuttle responded to a reported discharge of firearm on Old Rural Hall Road. Upon arrival officers attempted to detain 31-year-old Page, who matched the description of the reported gunman.

After a brief struggle with Page, one of the officers used pepper spray in order to gain control. At that time, Page became unresponsive. Officers performed lifesaving efforts, but were unsuccessful.

For months, MCWSV and a number of other community organizations urged District Attorney Jim O'Neil to release body camera footage obtained from the officers present during Page's death. During the press conference held at Emmanuel Baptist Church, MCWSV president Bishop Todd Fulton said, after viewing the videotapes that were released last month, the Ministers' Conference feels that the officers involved followed professional standards.

"We are proud to say that this is not Ferguson," said Fulton. "This is not like so many trends that we have seen transpire across

America."

Fulton also mentioned the Forsyth County District Attorney's office released the footage in a timely manner. He noted that we have seen some cases where it takes more than a year for footage to be released.

According to representatives from the district attorney's office, footage could not be made public until an internal investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation was complete.

"We were pushing for solidarity in our community. The only way we are going to get that is through transparency," Fulton continued. "We are working to build a stronger community."

City Council member and public safety chairman James Taylor said, although the loss of life is always a tragic event, following the death of Page, everyone involved did their job. As he stood at the podium on Tuesday afternoon, Taylor said, "Although the community has had issues with the police department and district attorney's office in the past, moving toward the future we have nothing to worry about."

"I think we have the some of the best citizens, officers, elected officials

and community in this entire country," he said. "When it comes to protecting this community, I don't think we have anything to worry about."

Mayor Allen Joines said he has every confidence in Chief Barry Rountree and the training that officers receive. Joines also said he was grateful for the body cameras that were worn by officers during the incident.

"Thank goodness that we had body cameras. I think that was a great investment made by the City of Winston-Salem."

Although satisfied with the handling of the Travis Page footage, Fulton said the Ministers' Conference still has a number of issues and concerns with state legislation policies in regard to releasing body camera footage.

Under House Bill 713, discretion to release recordings would be decided by law enforcement agencies. The bill would restrict all public access by treating police body camera footage as pieces of evidence in criminal investigations.

"We definitely have concerns with that bill," he said. "That is one of our major concerns right now, making sure that bill is not passed and transparency remains."



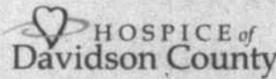
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