Wake Co. busing foes make mark at polls

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she said.

McHenry said the make-up of the new board will determine if the school system maintains its busing policy or returns to neighborhood schools.

McHenry said people who lived outside of her district, who don't have children or any business in the district financed a \$40,000 campaign for her opponent.

"People need to pay attention to what happened in our district," she said. "They will determine the priorities in our district. If they can do it in our district, they can do it in other districts."

McHenry said serious implications will result from this year's school board election.
Incumbent Bill Fletcher, of Cary, is another proponent of the busing policy, but he lost his

seat this time. A runoff between his opponents Eleanor Geottee and Curt Stangler will be held Nov. 8.

Fletcher served three terms on the school board

"The last 10 years we have made decisions on how to help our students make academic progress," he said.

He said decisions made on school construction, the recruitment and retainment of quality teachers and other important issues have all centered around the academic success of the students. "I hope that's what the new board will do."

Fletcher said academic success in Wake County can not be jeopardized by politically motivated decisions.

Other candidates in the race did not return phone calls by press time.

Wake schools sued in mouth-taping

By Cynthia Dean THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH—A lawsuit filed against the Wake County Public School System alleging three third-graders' mouths were taped shut to keep them from talking is still under way.

A recent hearing concluded that the case will proceed to trial.

The three students attended Millbrook Elementary when the incident took place March 14, 2002. One student complained that they had to wear the tape through their lunch period.

The initial lawsuit was filed three years ago by parents Charles J. Green Jr. and Maribel Vega. The parents of a third child, Dequincy and Vertara Mack, joined the lawsuit in July 2003.

Durham Attorney Larry Hall is representing one of the families in the suit - one parent settled out of court. Now the case is in the deposition and discovery stage.

Sara Richards, the third-

grade teacher who allegedly taped the students' mouths, was terminated shortly after the incident.

Principal Robert Lewis is also named in the suit. Lewis supposedly had an opportunity to resolve the issue when one of the students first reported the incident to his office.

The suit alleges that the

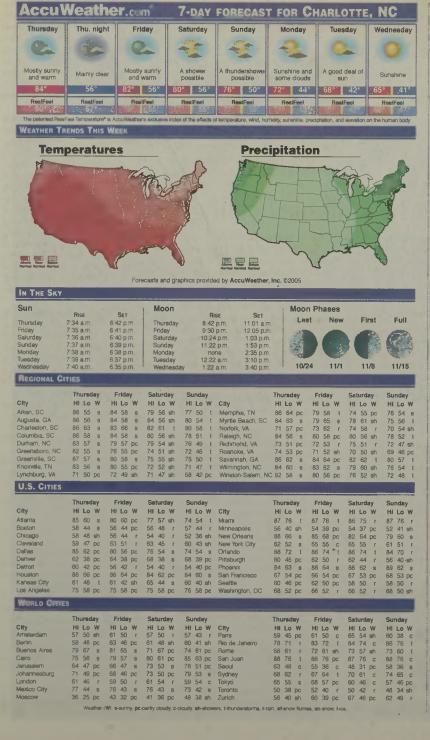
students were humiliated and suffered mental and emotional distress.

Hall said he requested a trial date for February 2006.

In a previous interview, Hall said he never brought up race as a factor in any of the cases. He said the matter is a violation of the students' constitutional and human rights.

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