REPOWER OUR SCHOOLS

Neal Middle School
EM Academy of Engineering and Design

Date: 02/15/2016

To: Durham Elected Officials,

I will help lead the way to a renewable energy future. It is time to advance the education and health of our students and local community.

I ask that you continue energy efficiency improvements district-wide for Durham Public Schools, and design all new school buildings to be net-zero or net-positive, starting with the schools in the 2016 bond, to save even more money.

We can start now by investing in a solar array to power a group of schools. I want my school to be among the first to be able to participate in this kind of project. By achieving economies of scale, several commercial-scale projects could power multiple DPS schools with 100% solar electricity and save the district money today. By developing a strategic energy management plan for our long-term energy management, we will be better equipped to implement cost-saving measures effectively. It will take strong school board leadership, and my staff and I support you. Solar saves money, protects our children's health, and prepares students for jobs in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), so I thank you for your leadership in taking these opportunities to create the schools our children deserve.

With these cost-saving measures I believe these investments will reap fiscal benefits to sustain continual improvements over the years to come. My hope is that these extra funds be allocated to our students, teachers, and families.

Lastly, I hope to see the Durham Public Schools' strategic energy management plan set a goal to reduce the district's energy use by 25% and a plan for a solar pilot project.

Thank you,
Principal