

Date : 9/28/2017 2:42:24 PM  
From : "Facebook"  
To : "Asheville Schools"  
Subject : Rik Lain Schell commented on Asheville City Schools's post.



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**Rik Lain Schell**

September 28 at 2:42pm

Bree Newsome, who took down South Carolina's Confederate flag (a symbol waved by the terrorist who took nine Black lives), was disinvited to speak to Asheville Middle School this week. Superintendent Patterson blamed Policy 3535, which states: "In no instance shall a speaker who advocates unconstitutional or illegal acts or procedures be permitted to address students." Policy 3535 ignores American history and discriminates against African Americans. Without civil disobedience—the intentional breaking of unjust laws—we would still have legal segregation. Which heroes of the Civil Rights Movement would be allowed to speak at an assembly? This policy seems tailor-made to prevent a certain kind of speaker—a certain color of speaker. In Asheville City Schools, my son learned about heroes like Harriet Tubman; Rosa Parks; Martin Luther King, Jr.; John Lewis. Policy 3535 bans all of them. Because segregation was the law of the land, James Ferguson, Charles Bates, James Burton, Jayne Burton, Marvin Chambers, Burnell Freeman, Patricia Geer, and the other heroes of ASCORE who put their own safety on the line to integrate our Asheville schools would be disinvited from speaking there. Students must learn that sometimes advocating illegal acts is the only reasonable thing to do.



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