

Date : 9/26/2017 6:19:14 PM
From : marcieannball@gmail.com
To : "april.dockery@ashevillecityschools.net"
Subject : Concerned Community Member
Dear Principal Dockery,

I have lived in Asheville my entire life and am proud of our city for, in many ways, serving as a place where people can feel more safe and equal than they might in other places.

I have served as a volunteer for Asheville City Schools and was a member of the committee which helped create the Parent Involvement Coordinator position.

I look forward to sending my daughter to Asheville City Schools. I am proud of Asheville City Schools and their commitment to creating spaces where children from all backgrounds have a shot at success.

I learned today that Bree Newsome, who bravely and peacefully removed a Confederate flag from the SC State House in 2015, has been dis-invited from a planned appearance at Asheville Middle School because she has been arrested.

By that standard, if they were alive today, Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks would not be allowed to speak to students at Asheville Middle.

It is essential that the adults caring for and educating our children understand that without civil disobedience, we would not have achieved the insufficient but crucial progress we have regarding equality for black Americans.

The children of Asheville Middle deserve the chance to hear from this hero and modern day civil rights activist who is coming to our city.

I and many others in our community care deeply about this and ask that you reverse your decision to dis-invite Bree Newsome to speak to your students.

Sincerely,
Marcie Ball
828.989.5096