

From: Jessica Bumgarner <jbumgarner@carolinapeds.com>
Sent: 2/1/2021 12:13:36 PM
To: Kim Roney
Cc:
Subject: Re: Asheville City Schools Counsel

Thank you for your response. I think your questions are very important and on the correct path. My experience working in the trenches of serving my black clients in the Asheville City Schools district leads to the fact that a disproportionate number of black students live in poverty as compared to their white peers. So when you look at the horrible numbers of inequity among black students in our district, look at racial disparities as well as economic disparities. I could care less where the Preschool Program is located, but to freeze enrollment or to move to a school where after-school care is not an option does not help parents who are working and will lead to fewer in-need students enrolling. The parents will then pull their children out for private daycares that accept vouchers with more accommodating hours for working parents. Such daycares generally do not have the educated and credentialed teachers and curriculum preparing students for Kindergarten like Asheville City Preschool. Meanwhile, affluent children in our district, including my own daughter at that age, are in private pay, highly educating preschool programs, placing them far ahead at the start of Kindergarten. This is where the achievement gap starts.

I have wished for a long time that Asheville City Schools would address the huge inequity of summer care for preschool and school aged children living in poverty. We underutilize the community centers in Pisgah View and Hillcrest in the summer in my opinion. I see my clients slide further and further behind in the summer without quality educational camps afforded their middle class peers. I really hope PODS can be utilized year round to address this preschool and school-age discrepancy. I can not tell you how many clients I have served who live in poverty in our low income housing, with no access to educational, language enriching summer programs only to start the next school year even farther behind their middle class peers. These students, preschool and school age, are our students year round and past 2:30.

Thank you so much for your time,
Jessica Bumgarner, MS CCC-SLP

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 1, 2021, at 10:38 AM, Kim Roney <kimroney@avlcouncil.com> wrote:

Jessica,

Thank you for taking the time to reach out regarding appointments to the Asheville Board of Education and to provide your recommendations on behalf of Libby, Kate, and Pepi. I appreciate your work and experience as a parent, and have attached a list of questions I have presented for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kim

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 9:48 AM Jessica Bumgarner <jbumgarner@carolinapeds.com> wrote:

Good morning,
I want to email you today to recommend appointing Pepi Acebo, Kate Brewer Fisher, and Libby Kyles to the three open seats on Asheville City School Council. I live in the Asheville City Schools district, have a daughter who attends Montford

North Star, and support many students in preschool as a Speech Language Pathologist who enter the Asheville City School district for Kindergarten. I also want to express my deepest concerns in closing the Asheville City Preschool Program on Haywood Rd. It is the only high quality preschool program for students living in poverty in the Asheville City Schools district with an after school care option. Closing this preschool will move Asheville City Schools in the opposite direction of closing our horrid inequitable achievement gap. Thank you,
Jessica Bumgarner, MS CCC-SLP

Sent from my iPhone

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Kim Roney (she/her/ella)

Asheville City Council

kimroney@avlcouncil.com

(828)771-6265

<Regarding APS Programming and Facilities.pdf>