

**From:** Ashley Thublin <ashley.thublin@acsgmail.net>  
**Sent:** 12/13/2021 12:48:59 PM  
**To:** Julie Little  
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**Subject:** Re: Keep Asheville Primary Open

Thank you for sharing your feedback, Ms. Little. I will make sure the Asheville City Board of Education receives it. I

On Sun, Dec 12, 2021 at 4:41 PM Julie Little <[handymom4ever@gmail.com](mailto:handymom4ever@gmail.com)> wrote:  
High-quality pre-K has been proven to improve academic outcomes and reduce the achievement gap for our BIPOC and lower-income neighbors. Montessori, in particular, has been research-proven to have even more significant gains for BIPOC and lower-income students (see below, and a quick Google of how pre-k or Montessori closes achievement gaps will net you a swath of the research out there). Because Asheville is predominately white, because there's a baby boom in Buncombe County, because half the state of Florida seems to be moving here we need an equity lens as the Asheville City School Board weighs closing down Asheville Primary School (rather than the equality lens of closing APS to create equal spending across the district) and losing the space for 14 pre-K and Montessori classrooms forever not to mention that the land APS is on is likely big enough to put these 14 classrooms into modulars until the district can update the building.

Please consider, whatever you're able to do in your capacity, having an equity lens to keep these 14 classrooms open and to additionally be putting resources in to recruit and retain BIPOC and lower-income families and staff into our community's pre-k offerings - I know universal pre-k in Buncombe County has been a priority. I'm happy to support your efforts however I can.

Thank you for reading.  
Research:

- [https://www.montessoripublic.org/2017/11/new-study-public-montessori-raises-achievement-closes-gaps/?fbclid=IwAR2D4ODAm77Of1ZE6dk7rqY3oMDB23z\\_mS\\_T2aQ1Nyrv91Y8GIBD4RzhkKc](https://www.montessoripublic.org/2017/11/new-study-public-montessori-raises-achievement-closes-gaps/?fbclid=IwAR2D4ODAm77Of1ZE6dk7rqY3oMDB23z_mS_T2aQ1Nyrv91Y8GIBD4RzhkKc)
- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/emilylanghorne/2019/03/27/the-montessori-comeback/?fbclid=IwAR2yyNI0HX91OzLIr4NWTnXcLrAq0RFHPDW08zn3CmyuLgSs7Iq9IIt45kg&sh=64709c5c4648>
- [https://www.k12dive.com/news/project-to-measure-public-montessori-programs-impact-on-low-income-student/519770/?fbclid=IwAR1zNxH\\_HCpNdcw7uL1Br4wuD29cDVog\\_S4vPn9FskkT9Ua9d4iOD7ynSVs](https://www.k12dive.com/news/project-to-measure-public-montessori-programs-impact-on-low-income-student/519770/?fbclid=IwAR1zNxH_HCpNdcw7uL1Br4wuD29cDVog_S4vPn9FskkT9Ua9d4iOD7ynSVs)
- [https://www.edutopia.org/article/public-school-makes-case-montessori-all?fbclid=IwAR1r37bGDHOO9\\_syD4dSc4lyn2HsbeEbTlu8qSRdlh5Sk\\_\\_LvtWdKmKNVlk](https://www.edutopia.org/article/public-school-makes-case-montessori-all?fbclid=IwAR1r37bGDHOO9_syD4dSc4lyn2HsbeEbTlu8qSRdlh5Sk__LvtWdKmKNVlk)
- [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320721221\\_Montessori\\_Preschool\\_Elevates\\_and\\_Equalizes\\_Child\\_Outcomes\\_A\\_Longitudinal\\_Study](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320721221_Montessori_Preschool_Elevates_and_Equalizes_Child_Outcomes_A_Longitudinal_Study)
- [https://www.montessori-ami.org/sites/default/files/downloads/handouts/PolymakerOutreachEnglish.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2OBLgLO6TILpteht9f17eiKMbw-h1NcRAq+MkE3FBK96ozW\\_huSkJyM2w](https://www.montessori-ami.org/sites/default/files/downloads/handouts/PolymakerOutreachEnglish.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2OBLgLO6TILpteht9f17eiKMbw-h1NcRAq+MkE3FBK96ozW_huSkJyM2w)
- [https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/EquitableAccessMontessoriReport\\_ChildTrends\\_March2021.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0yd49w-LBhBIMv7Md8HxAniyCiTmR-LurOKcVipyShqzrjtZtX23PSFB8](https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/EquitableAccessMontessoriReport_ChildTrends_March2021.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0yd49w-LBhBIMv7Md8HxAniyCiTmR-LurOKcVipyShqzrjtZtX23PSFB8)

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