

From: esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>
Sent: 12/18/2020 2:45:11 PM
To: 'Sharon Withrow' <sharon.b.withrow@gmail.com>, 'Shaunda Sandford' <shaunda.sandford@acsgmail.net>, 'Martha Geitner' <martha.geitner@acsgmail.net>, 'Joyce Brown' <joyce.brown@acsgmail.net>, 'James Carter' <james.carter@acsgmail.net>, 'Patricia Griffin' <patricia.griffin@acsgmail.net>
Cc: sheneikasmith@avlcouncil.com, sandrakilgore@avlcouncil.com, antanettetemosley@avlcouncil.com, kimroney@avlcouncil.com, sageturner@avlcouncil.com, gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com, 'Debra Campbell' <dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov>, 'Pepi Acebo' <unitblocks@gmail.com>, 'Gene Freeman' <gene.freeman@acsgmail.net>, 'Jasmine Beach-Ferr
Subject: RE: Asheville City Preschool and Asheville Primary School
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Ms. Withrow æ” I appreciate you reaching out to the board and city council. I had an opportunity to meet with Dr. Gene this week along with the county manager and a couple of the county commissioners. It was a good conversation and we learned more about the long-term goals of the city school system and offering quality pre-k. The county commissioners were able to share their goals around county-wide universal pre-k. We agreed to meet again in a month with a larger group to talk more about how to strategize around these shared goals.

I want to work to support the school system and the school board in their efforts. The tasks before them are pretty monumental and I hope to find more ways for us to work together to achieve these goals. This collaborative effort requires all of us, including parents, teachers, students, faculty and elected and nonelected officials. I

I hope the discussion around APS will ultimately lead to the stronger relationships we need to draw on to make sure all students have access to pre-k.

Thank you,
Esther



Esther Manheimer
Mayor, City of Asheville
P.O. Box 7148
Asheville, NC 28802
phone 828.259.5604
esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com

From: Sharon Withrow <sharon.b.withrow@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 10:32 AM
To: Shaunda Sandford <shaunda.sandford@acsgmail.net>; Martha Geitner <martha.geitner@acsgmail.net>; Joyce Brown <joyce.brown@acsgmail.net>; James Carter <james.carter@acsgmail.net>; Patricia Griffin <patricia.griffin@acsgmail.net>
Cc: esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com; sheneikasmith@avlcouncil.com; sandrakilgore@avlcouncil.com; antanettetemosley@avlcouncil.com; kimroney@avlcouncil.com; sageturner@avlcouncil.com; gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com
Subject: Asheville City Preschool and Asheville Primary School

Dear Asheville City Board of Education and City Council,

I, like many in our city, was shocked and dismayed to hear the Board of Education recommend closing Asheville City Preschool and Asheville Primary School. We know, and have known for decades, that early childhood education is vital. Anyone who has raised young children in Asheville also knows that high-quality, affordable preschool is very difficult to find. For the Board of Education to recommend closing a successful and thriving public preschool and primary school that support our most vulnerable community members is jaw-dropping.

I understand that there are problems with the facility on Haywood Road. However, to displace our youngest students and sell public property to a private developer is wrong. Our existing schools are already at capacity. We need more school buildings, not fewer. Rather than selling our schools so that high-end shops or condos can be built in their place, why hasn't the Board of Education explored alternative funding sources or requested a school bond for the next election?

For the Board of Education to make this recommendation in a specially called meeting, held in the middle of a workday when most people cannot attend, with no community notification or input AND during a public health crisis, frankly, stinks to high heaven. If the Board of Education is going to make such a drastic decision, the community they serve deserves an open, honest, and public conversation about the pros and cons and alternative options, seeking input from parents, teachers, and community members, not just a decision handed down by an unelected board and superintendent.

Regards,
Sharon Withrow
37 Yale Street
Asheville, NC 28806