

From: Ashley Thublin <ashley.thublin@acsgmail.net>
Sent: 12/13/2021 12:47:55 PM
To: Vanessa Albano
Cc: alfred.whitesides@buncombecounty.org, brownie.newman@buncombecounty.org, robert.pressley@buncombecounty.org, amanda.edwards@buncombecounty.org, jasmine.beach-ferrara@buncombecounty.org, parker.sloan@buncombecounty.org, terri.wells@buncombecounty.org, james.carter@acsgmail.net, george.sieburg@acsgmail.net, shaundi
Subject: Re: Keep Asheville Primary Open!

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

On Sun, Dec 12, 2021 at 4:02 PM Vanessa Albano <albanoenrichmentllc@gmail.com> wrote:
Just a few short months ago we were told that our school would continue to exist as a school *community* regardless of campus location, and that enrollment would be expanded up to fifth grade as stated below:

"May 24, 2021

Good Evening Asheville City Schools Students, Staff and Families. This is Dr. Gene, Superintendent of Asheville City Schools.

During tonight's meeting of the Asheville City Board of Education, important updates were made concerning our school community.

Following a presentation by district leadership, Board Chair James Carter made separate recommendations regarding our current students. Most importantly, please know the Board passed motions to:

1. Accept the [Asheville Primary School Study](#).
2. Leave Asheville Primary School where it is for the 2021-2022 school year. In the 2021-2022 school year, the Asheville City Board of Education will revisit the issue of the location of Asheville Primary School for the 2022-23 school year.
3. Expand Asheville Primary Montessori to 4th Grade for the 2021-2022 school year and expand to 5th Grade in the 2022-2023 school year.
4. Re-open enrollment for Asheville Primary Montessori Pre-K and Kindergarten students for the 2021-2022 school year.
5. Expand our Asheville Preschool Program into nine classrooms within our elementary schools. This includes classrooms at Asheville Primary School, Hall Fletcher Elementary School, Ira B. Jones Elementary School, Isaac Dickson Elementary School and Lucy S. Herring Elementary School. "

Many of us chose to remain in the school due to this motion being passed. Our family specifically because the Montessori method is how my child learns. With high functioning autism and social emotional challenges she excels with the Montessori program. She is not able to do well in a traditional school environment.

What will happen to Asheville City Schools if they lose this school community? Asheville City Schools, and specifically West Asheville, will experience a major brain drain and family support decrease as many of these parents will find other means of educating their children.

Charter schools, which we all know create inequity in education by attracting the most ambitious families in lower-income areas, will be happy to receive these students who already outperform their peers, leading to a brain drain of sorts in schools in Asheville. The children left behind in the public schools may have parents who might work multiple shifts, don't have such a commitment to education, or don't have time and money to fight for and support their schools.

We WANT to support Asheville City Schools. We chose to. If the school remains open, even if we have to relocate, we have no doubt that other parents will continue to support Asheville City Schools as well. Asheville City Schools should, in turn, support the families in their communities.

Please consider keeping Asheville Primary open. Even if it's through relocation. We need our school community, our teachers, our family. We need Montessori. And with open enrollment and a lack of the constant threat of being closed, the Montessori program will draw even greater numbers of families who are also in the position of helping Asheville City Schools. It will grow increasingly popular, bringing more children to our district, and more money from the state to aid in repairs and fix the holes in the budget.

Concerned parent,
Vanessa Albano

It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.

Audre Lorde

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Ashley-Michelle Thublin, APR
Asheville City Schools
Executive Director of Communications

Twitter: @amthublin
Cell: (828) 273-2123