

**From:** Teesha Johnson <teeshjohnson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 2/9/2021 4:41:18 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Please reject the Boards & Commissions recommendations for ACS Board members

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Dear City Council Members,

I amended another parent's letter, as her words speak strongly to my feelings.

I write to you as a parent of two current ACS students, an AMS 8th grader and a SILSA 11th grader, and two SILSA graduates. Over the years, I have advocated for a solid public education system in our city that serves all our students, been a parent volunteer at four schools, donated to various PTOs and am currently the parent representative on the SILSA School Improvement Team.

I have been an active ACS parent since my 21-year-old started kindergarten. It was when that child started I first realized how flawed the City School Board selection process is. That reality has only gotten worse over those many years. Nothing compares to the last five years of disastrous Superintendent choices. Throughout, our administrators, teachers, staff, and ACS families have had little support from Central Office, and CO has been able to work with zero transparency. My entire 16 year experience as an ACS parent has been witness to an ACS Board of Education that has worked with no accountability & no vision to create solutions to the serious issues ACS faces.

While we wait for the day when we can vote BOE members into office, all we can do is demand transparency and an open mindset from each of you as you consider appointments to these positions. Many community leaders stepped up and applied to serve on the Board, and yet if you accept the recommendations of the Boards & Commissions committee, you will not learn anything about many strong candidates that could help right the ship of ACS. The names left "on the table" include a good many candidates who have deep knowledge of the issues that ail our schools - having served as teachers, coaches, PTO board members and volunteers. Many of them have earned the trust of ACS parents and are credible advocates for all the children in our community. Specifically, Kate Fisher, Libby Kyles, and Pepi Acebo were not even submitted to Council for consideration. This is not acceptable.

Considering only 5 nominees for Board appointments will further alienate many of us in the community who have long demanded operational changes and improved outcomes from ACS. Further, including 3 current Board members in that limited roster of 5 would only serve to tell the community that our city council is satisfied with the way our public schools are run and happy to keep the current leadership in place.

I urge you to listen to the many voices in our community that are asking for change and reject the recommendations of the committee to only consider 5 candidates for appointment. Give all eligible candidates a fair chance and consider them on their strengths and their record of working on behalf of our kids. This would be a first step to acknowledging that our public schools are leaving too many of our kids behind, and letting the community know that you are listening to our concerns.

Respectfully,  
Teesha Holladay Johnson

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Sent from my iPhone