

From: Susanna Cerrato <susanna.schell@gmail.com>
Sent: 2/25/2021 10:29:03 AM
To: Kim Roney <kimroney@avlcouncil.com>
Cc:
Subject: Re: Please reject the Boards & Commissions recommendations for ACS Board members

Dear Kim,

Thank you for your courage and leadership throughout this process and for using your voice to bring multiple perspectives and priorities to the discussions. As a public school teacher, I cannot begin to explain how much it means to me to feel there is someone in leadership who champions what's best for schools.

I'm hopeful that the City Council can find a way to include diverse voices on our Board of Education who represent multiple interests, perspective and cultures of our community.

~Susanna

On Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 7:11 PM Kim Roney <kimroney@avlcouncil.com> wrote:

Susanna, thank you so much for taking the time to reach out and for making your voice heard, and congratulations on recognition of your excellent work as an educator!

In last week's Council process, a number of former educators and parents did not advance to the next step of interviews, and as an update, Stephen Blount has withdrawn his application.

I hear and share your concerns. I have attached a copy of the questions I have asked in advance of the Asheville Primary School decision, which includes responses from the Asheville Board of Education. I'm currently pushing for a joint meeting of the Council, Commission, and Board of Education as we take next steps in our roles.

With Gratitude,
Kim

On Tue, Feb 9, 2021 at 4:31 PM Susanna Cerrato <susanna.schell@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear City Council Members,

I write to you today as both a 3rd grade teacher in Asheville City Schools and a parent of a kindergartener at Jones Elementary School. I am the Vice President of ACAE, as well as the ACS District Teacher of the Year and Western Regional Teacher of the Year. I have spent my years in this district working fiercely to advocate for a strong public education system that prioritizes the wealth and breadth of knowledge that our very own educators bring in order to lift up unheard voices and make sure all are included and represented.

I am writing today to strongly urge you to consider the applications and voices of the educators not included in the Boards & Commissions recommendations: Pepi Acebo, Libby Kyles and Karen Brewer Fisher, who have all worked for years, tirelessly, to advocate for transparency, accountability, and equity. They are parents, they are educators, and they understand our community. Their voices deserve to be heard.

There is a pervasive crisis of trust in our district, grounded in a lack of oversight, transparency and accountability. Not providing the grounds on which the decision was made today will further alienate constituents. No explanations were given as to why all applicants are not being considered, particularly those who have much vocal public support. While I understand the desire to narrow the number of applicants, I am very concerned that applicants with a strong background in advocating for our schools and public schools in general were not in the pool of recommendations.

Please make choices that show that our district has reason to believe the City Council, as well as district leadership, are prioritizing what is best for our students and families.

Sincerely,

Susanna Cerrato, MA Ed
3rd Grade Teacher
Ira B. Jones Elementary Schools
2021 Asheville City Schools District Teacher of the Year
2021 BWF Western Regional Teacher of the Year
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