

From: Sheneika Smith <sheneikasmith@avlcouncil.com>
Sent: 2/3/2021 5:02:04 PM
To: Alexis Wilson <aawilson2002@gmail.com>
Cc: Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>, Sandra Kilgore <sandrakilgore@avlcouncil.com>, S. Antanette Mosley <antanettesmosley@avlcouncil.com>, Kim Roney <kimroney@avlcouncil.com>, Sage Turner <sageturner@avlcouncil.com>, Gwen Wisler <gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com>
Subject: Re: Asheville City Schools Board Nominee

Alexus,

We don't hear from our youth very often, so thank you for reaching out! I admire the bravery of those who dare to share their truth. I hear you, Alexis, and appreciate your willingness to offer your experience.

Sincerely,

Sheneika Smith

On Wed, Feb 3, 2021 at 2:55 PM Alexis Wilson <aawilson2002@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear esteemed Asheville City Council members,

My name is Alexis Wilson. I am a senior at Asheville High School and have been a part of the Asheville City School district since elementary school. I am writing to you all as I have learned you will be voting for new members of the Asheville City School Board soon. I wanted to let you know about my experience with Pepi Acebo.

When I was in 5th grade at Hall Fletcher Elementary School, we had morning jobs. I helped out in the office and they had me stand outside the door to let kids know they were tardy. I would smile and point to the office that was behind me and simply say, "tardy". I would stand in front of the big glass windows to the office, and sometimes had the metal beams that held the window to lean against. One morning when I was working a man walked in with his little girl, and all I did was say "Tardy." And pointed at the office behind me.

This man reacted by getting in my face and yelling "I know that my daughter is tardy! You don't have to remind me!"

My back was against the metal beam and window. I was terrified of this man, so much that I didn't utter another word the entire time left in my office duties. All I did was point. When it was time for me to go to class, I was terrified to move as he'd gone down to the kindergarten hallway which was the hallway I needed to use to get to the stairs to my classroom.

Luckily a second grade assistant who knew me well walked towards the office, and when she said hello to me she could tell instantly that something was wrong. She asked me what had happened and right as I started to explain, the man turned the corner. When I saw him I immediately looked down at my feet to hide that I was crying and stopped speaking. The teacher assistant understood that he had something to do with how I was acting. She pulled me into the office, with the assistant principal, and school counselor. I told them what had happened and tried not to cry. They allowed me to sit in the School Resource Officers office as they tried to decide what they should do. The entire rest of the day, I kept looking over my shoulder and at the door to my classroom terrified that he would walk in and yell at me more. That man was Pepi Acebo.

The school and resource officer chose not to charge him but they did address the incident to him directly. My father also addressed the man the next morning and an apology was made to me. This man is a bully and our school district does not need him making decisions for our students and district. He bullies teachers and staff. He has done this in front of multiple people, to multiple people, and has never faced any real repercussions for his actions.

I really wanted you all to know what kind of man he is. I felt that this was my responsibility to let you all know what he did to me as a child. I'm afraid of what that would do to the schools or other children. I feel he would not be a good fit for the Asheville City School Board as it is clear that he has not cared much about how his actions affect others, especially young children. Even now to this day, his actions have caused me to be fearful of men I do not know. I now make sure to look for available exits everywhere I go. I really hope that you will all consider what I have said in the interests of both the schools, staff, and students.

Sincerely,

Alexus Wilson