

From: Susanna Cerrato <susanna.schell@gmail.com>
Sent: 2/9/2021 4:33:15 PM
To: sagerturner@avlouncil.com
Cc:
Subject: Please reject the Boards & Commissions recommendations for ACS Board member Applicants

Susanna Cerrato <susanna.schell@gmail.com>

4:31 PM(0 minutes ago)

to: Esther Manheimer, Asheneika Smith, Sandra Kilgore, Antanette Mosley, Kim Roney, Safet Turner, Gwen Wisler

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