

From: Tom Dessereau <tomdessereau@gmail.com>
Sent: 8/25/2021 10:50:06 AM
To: Kim Roney <kimroney@avlcouncil.com>
Cc:
Subject: Re: Asheville School Board Nominations

Thank you Kim for standing up for the process and integrity of the Council.
I am following the State legislation closely.
Also, I am sending the email below to each of your colleagues and a version to the Citizen-Times.

On the night of Tuesday, August 24, at a time when trust in our political leadership and transparency from that leadership are critically important, our City Council provided neither. In fact, they took a big step backward in the march to establish faith in good governance.

Registration for public comment for Tuesday's meeting ended at 9am. There was nothing on the agenda regarding a vacancy on the Board of Education. At 10am, the Committee on Boards and Commissions met and voted to fill a vacancy created by the eventual resignation of Jackie Carr McHargue. It was not clear if this resignation would be effective in mid-November or sometime sooner. The Committee voted 2-1 to fill the potential vacancy with George Seiberg.

Magically, the City Council agenda was amended to include this nomination for a final vote. The Council knew there were several viable candidates to consider for this position, yet they found it necessary to ram this nomination through without public comment.

Regardless of the qualifications of Mr. Seiberg, this lack of transparency and absence of public comment undermine his credibility as well as the credibility of the Asheville City Council and the Asheville Board of Education.

Tom Dessereau
Asheville NC

On Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 11:47 AM Kim Roney <kimroney@avlcouncil.com> wrote:
Tom,

Thank you for reaching out and for sharing your endorsements.

Tuesday night the City Council amended the agenda just before the vote in order to appoint George Sieburg to the not yet vacated seat occupied by Jackie McHargue. George's term will begin upon Jackie's resignation, which is anticipated in November with a move out of district.

During the Board & Commissions Committee meeting Tuesday morning, and during tonight's Council meeting, I expressed concern about the process. Tonight, I voted against the agenda amendment and the appointment, not because I do not appreciate George's willingness to serve, but because I do not think the process supports our stated goals around equity and inclusion, much less trust and public engagement.

Today, the NC Senate is scheduled to take up a local bill to allow our Board of Education to be elected, which may include an expansion to a 7-member board. If it passes, candidates will be filing for the election the 1st Tuesday in December, so just a couple months away. Stay tuned for updates.

With Shared Concern,
Kim

On Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 5:24 PM Tom Dessereau <tomdessereau@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Council Members:

I was appalled earlier today by the rush to appoint George Seiberg to fill the vacancy created by Jackie Carr McHargue.

I urge you to open up nominations again and to consider other candidates such as Libby Kyles and Pepi Acebo, who were recommended by the Asheville City Association of Educators, as well as Kate Brewer Fischer.

We deserve representation on the School Board of those who promote the interests of parents, students and staff. And not the continued protection of the Central Office.

Thank you
Tom Dessereau

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