

From: Molly Peeples <mhpeeples@gmail.com>
Sent: 2/9/2021 5:40:48 PM
To: Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>
Cc:
Subject: Fwd: School Board Appointees

Madame Mayor-

I have taught in Asheville City Schools for 9 years and lived in Asheville for 20. I have two children who have attended Asheville City Schools for 11 years. I am now an Instructional Coach at one of our elementary schools. I have watched numerous superintendents come and go, I have been through upheaval after upheaval, and never, in all of my time here have I seen our school system as dysfunctional as it is now.

There is a lack of transparency with major decisions. Teacher voices are shut out of decision making conversations on a regular basis. I was so hopeful when I saw that Libby Kyles, Kate Fisher, and Pepi Acebo had applied for school board positions. I finally felt like these parents and teachers would speak truth to power and represent the parents and teachers well who work so hard for ACS. And then I find out today that these three people, the only people in my opinion who have any chance of reforming our broken system are not even on the docket for nomination. I am speechless.

There is a palpable culture of fear at ACS. Teachers are afraid to speak out against central office staff for fear of retribution. These three candidates are brave, knowledgeable, and competent people. They are not "yes" men. All three of these candidates understand the struggles our district is up against and want to hold our school system accountable for its actions. I trust these three people.

Please reconsider your decision to not include these three on your final decision-making list. You have a chance to gain immense public trust with the appointment of these candidates. By striking them from the final list this early in the process, you are telling teachers and parents in the system that you do not care about their opinions. I have no confidence in our current Superintendent, but I do have confidence in these candidates.

Please do the right thing and reconsider.

Sincerely-

Molly Peeples