

**From:** Brittany Wager <brittanywager@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 3/8/2021 8:59:14 PM  
**To:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** ACS School Board

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Hello,

I would like to voice my support for an elected school board for Asheville City Schools.

My children are just beginning their time at ACS, one is a current second grader and the other one starts kindergarten next year. They attend Asheville Primary School for elementary and PreK. I am just beginning to learn about the history and intricacies of the Asheville School District.

I have written to you previously about the school board, but also about the short-sighted closure of the Asheville Primary Campus. The latter email went to every City Council member, every Buncombe County Commissioner, the school board, and the superintendent. *I did not get a single response from anyone at the Central Office* from that email, so I can only assume that it has fallen on deaf ears. This issue is near and dear to my heart, and because of it I have been closely following the School Board meetings. I am appalled at what I am seeing. Superintendent Gene Freeman is unprofessional at best, and rude and divisive at worst. He uses language that pits parents against one another. He is dismissive of our concerns and spouts lies and false statements in board meetings, statements that are contradicted by statements he has made in previous board meetings. I have watched him refuse to even look at parents expressing concerns about the way things are being handled at the Central Office in board meetings. I guess I should consider myself lucky that I did not get a response to my email, as other APS families shared the response they received from Dr. Freeman and it was incredibly insulting and dismissive.

I have witnessed board members ask completely clueless questions about the most basic procedures at our schools. They have asked how many elementary schools there are, expressed concerns about lunches being brought from home kept in shared refrigeration (this does not happen, even pre-Covid), questioned whether Asheville Primary is currently a school, and just generally seem completely out of touch.

It is long past time for the Asheville City School Board to represent the residents of Asheville. I understand that an elected school board does not happen quickly, so **I would also like to ask that City Council appoint three board candidates endorsed by the ACAE - Asheville City Association of Educators, Libby Kyles, Jackie Carr MacHargue, and Pepi Acebo.**

Thank you for your consideration on this issue.  
My best,  
Brittany Wager