

**From:** Karen MacNeil <karenskyli@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 3/17/2021 3:23:08 PM  
**To:** sandrakilgore@avlcouncil.com  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Appointees

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Hello Councilwoman Kilgore,

I hope you are enjoying the beginnings of Spring! I know you have a lot on your plate, I just wanted to quickly share my 2 cents on this Asheville Board of Education situation with you.

Education and equity are deeply connected. According to the United Way of Asheville Buncombe County, Asheville City Schools has the fifth largest racial achievement gap in the nation (2021). Talk of moving, downsizing, and potentially eliminating successful sources of early education at Asheville Primary School have prompted me to join others and seek action for necessary changes to our currently broken system.

Kebede and Lutz of the Population and Development Review state that literacy and education "enhance the synaptic density in relevant parts of our brains and thus makes us physiologically different for the rest of our lives". Education and literacy are also associated with improved executive functioning, cognitive abilities, abstract thinking, time preference, and capacity to plan for the future (2018). More and more research is coming forward that education, not economic status is the key social determinant of health. We need to protect the education of Asheville's youngest and most vulnerable residents for the sake of their future health and well-being.

**ACAE is the largest professional association of teachers, administrators, and other staff of Asheville City Schools and their insights should be highly valued in this important decision making process.**

**Please respond to your community's outcry on behalf of Asheville's youngest residents and appoint experienced, knowledgeable, thoughtful, caring, and responsive people to the Asheville City Board of Education. Please appoint Libby Kiles, Jacquelyn Harr McHargue, and Pepi Acebo to the Asheville Board of Education as soon as possible.**

Many thanks for your service to our community,  
Karen MacNeil

This is a great article:

Lutz, W. & Kebede, E. (2018). Education and Health: Redrawing the Preston Curve. Population and Development Review, 44(2), 343-361. Retrieved March 15, 2021, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/26622915>