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Sent: 2/9/2021 2:25:51 PM
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Cc:
Subject: School board recommendations

Dear Asheville City Council,

I am writing to strongly urge you to reconsider the applications of Libby Kyles, Pepi Acebo, and Kate Brewer Fisher to the Asheville City Board of Education.

I know Ms. Kyles from her work at Isaac Dickson, and she is a staunch advocate for students, as well as an expert educator. As ACS parents and volunteers, Mr. Acebo and Ms. Brewer Fisher have worked tirelessly to bring accountability and transparency to Asheville City Schools. Frankly, it is baffling and disheartening that their applications have all been discounted.

I'm not sure you understand what a crisis of trust Asheville City Schools leadership is facing in the community right now. ACS families, the press, and the public have to fight for access to our own Board of Education's public meetings and financial records.

As parents, teachers, and taxpayers, we have no voice in the selection of our public schools' leadership. There is very much a perception that the Central Office chooses its own Board of Education, which leads to distrust and cynicism. The current BoE's opacity does nothing to dispel that cynicism, nor does the fact the three applicants with vocal public support were today discounted by Asheville City Council.

Regards,
Sharon Withrow
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