

From: Courtney <courtneymegan1@gmail.com>
Sent: 2/5/2021 10:03:50 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Cc:
Subject: ACS Board of Education

Dear Councilmembers,

I'm writing today in regards to the Asheville City Schools Board of Education. I am increasingly concerned about the lack of transparency and open communication between the board and the community. The most recent meeting on Monday February 1 only deepened my concerns. It seems clear that this school district has longstanding problems with management of both budget and general operations, and I feel it is time for a change.

I am asking you to commit to appointing new members to the Board when the current terms expire. Pepi Acebo, Libby Kyles, and Kate Brewer Fisher are members of our community who prove themselves time and again to be informed, concerned, and dedicated to fighting for decisions that are in the best interest of our children, and I believe this is exactly who we need now to begin to correct the course the ACS district has been on.

I also encourage you to consider making a move to these being elected positions in the future. When Board members feel accountable to the community, they have more incentive to act in the interests of the community.

As a parent of a child at Asheville Primary School, these issues are becoming apparent to me as plans to close and dissolve both of the successful, vital schools housed on the Haywood Rd property progress. Both the Board and the Superintendent continue to evade questions, obscure information, and misrepresent not only the school community, but also the communication which they have had with us. And it all comes from a decision to sacrifice a school (two schools!) to close a financial gap caused by chronic mismanagement of funds; a problem of the Board itself.

What we have now isn't working. Our city, our community, and our children deserve better. I encourage you to carefully consider your appointments to the board, and help make the bold changes we need to move our schools forward with the best interest of our students in mind.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,
Courtney Sullivan