

**From:** Kristin Marsh Shepard <kristinlmarsh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 3/3/2021 12:36:10 PM  
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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Asheville City School Board

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Dear Mayor Manheimer and Members of Asheville City Council,

First, I'd like to thank councilmember Roney for advocating that all applications be reviewed for the Asheville City School board. The reasoning for limiting to seven applicants is unclear and casts doubt over the whole selection process.Â

The Asheville City Association of Educators has recommended two candidatesÂ that the rest of you voted last week to exclude--Libby Kyles and Pepi Acebo. Since most of you ran as democrats, it seems odd to ask you to value our teachers as competent professionals and to be willing to include their perspective in this process. But here I am.Â

I volunteered at Hall FletcherÂ Elementary for five years, and was temporarilyÂ employed there when there was need for additional support. Our teachers are in the best position to assess and advocate for what is best to serve Asheville's children andÂ families. Not only are they astuteÂ professionals, many of them are so dedicated that they invest their own money in addition to their time. Please listen to them, and give due consideration to the three candidates they support.Â

We desperately need accountability over the administration of our city schools, and within the current system that is in your hands. The status quo is failing our families--we need a change now with new board members and new policies to foster transparency and accountability, be it a process for the public to elect board members or for council to have more oversight of their appointees.Â

Sincerely,  
Kristin Marsh Shepard  
90 Swannanoa Ave  
Asheville 28806

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I don't want a happy ending, I want more story. -- Frances Hardinge