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**Sent:** 3/23/2021 8:28:50 AM  
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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** School Board Appointments and Education Equity Audit

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Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Councilwomen,

Today you have the very important responsibility of appointing members to the school board. I fully supported your recent vote in favor of a hybrid or fully elected school board, as the appointed board has been unable to adequately address the opportunity gap in the school system and operates with a glaring lack of accountability and transparency. I have sent many emails to both the superintendent and members of the school board and have not received a single response in return.

I urge you to do what you can to make immediate changes to the Board of Education while we wait on the NC legislature, by considering all members of the original applicant pool and then appointing the recommendations from the Asheville teacher's association Libby Kiles, Pepe Acebo and Jacquelyn Carr McHargue.

As a parent at Isaac Dickson, I witnessed firsthand the dedication, experience and passion Libby brings to education and specifically to the education of black and brown children. As the CEO of the YWCA, she has also gained budgeting and systems experience and through working within Asheville's underserved communities has developed the relationships and knowledge of the unmet needs of children within these communities.

My children have also all benefitted from the tireless work of Pepi Acebo, first at Isaac Dickson and now at MNSA. He is a fierce advocate for parents, teachers and all students within this school system. He takes a systemic approach and views problems through an equity lens.

At the last city council meeting, I appreciated the presentation given by the Equity and Inclusion group within the city. It was encouraging to hear that they were ready to create new action steps to move forward with addressing, hopefully at a systemic level, the gross inequities within all areas. However, I was disappointed to hear that staff members were not being retained and that the budget had been dramatically cut. I urge you to fully support this work and to use the team to conduct an equity audit of Asheville City Schools. I believe the findings would be enlightening and helpful in addressing the huge issues facing this school system.

I urge you to support these recommendations and the hope for lasting, much needed change within Asheville City Schools.

Thank you,  
Katy Estrada