

**From:** Tiece Ruffin <tiecemruffin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 2/9/2021 6:43:45 PM  
**To:** Kim Roney <kimroney@avlouncil.com>  
**Cc:** AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov  
**Subject:** Re: Appoint Pepi Acebo to the ACS School board

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Councilwoman Kim Roney,

Thank you.

Tiece

On Tue, 9 Feb 2021 at 3:41 PM, Kim Roney <[kimroney@avlouncil.com](mailto:kimroney@avlouncil.com)> wrote:  
Tiece, thank you for recommending Pepi and for naming your why.

I am copying the full Council here with the intention to elevate your request.

Kim

On Tue, Feb 9, 2021 at 8:11 AM Tiece Ruffin <[tiecemruffin@gmail.com](mailto:tiecemruffin@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Dear Asheville City Council:

Please appoint Pepi Acebo, a Latinx person of color, to the Asheville City School board! Pepi is dedicated to equity, inclusion and justice, and he is not afraid to ask difficult questions, suss out facts from fraud, and center our children first. His orientation of advocacy is well-suited for the school board, where bold, courageous and justice-based decisions are necessary for transforming our inequitable school system to a more just and equitable system with student success as the priority for ALL children.

Further, now is the time to appoint community members from diverse racial backgrounds, with diverse perspectives. According to the latest [Racial Equity Report Card](#), Hispanic/LatinX students comprise 8.5% of the student population; however, the ACS board does not represent the racial/ethnic diversity of its students. Representation matters at all levels. Pepi is a Latinx person of color and parent of a child at Montford NorthStar Academy and I have known him for two years as the Co-President of the Montford NorthStar Parent Teacher Organization. He is organized, consistent in equity-based actions, cooperative, and collaborative with the intentionality of supporting all children to thrive, especially those pushed to the margins. He has a history of doing so, a proven record, of supporting students, teachers, families, and Asheville City Schools.

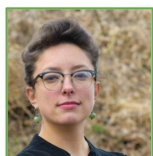
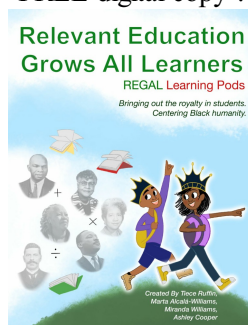
Please appoint him to the Asheville City Schools Board of Education, we need changmakers now, more than ever.

Thanks,

Tiece M Ruffin  
Parent of a student at Montford NorthStar Academy & SILSA  
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[Tiece M. Ruffin, Ph.D.](#) (she/her/hers)  
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***Relevant Education Grows all Learners (REGAL): Bringing out the royalty in students, centering Black humanity*** is a 42-page guidebook with appendices that highlight approaches, tools, and research. It is a collaborative effort of a veteran Teacher Educator (Tiece Ruffin), Co-founder of Marvelous Math Club & Asheville City Schools Executive Director of Equity/ Community Engagement (Marta Alcala Williams), an Asheville City Schools High School Student Racial Equity Ambassador Program Mentor & AVID Ambassador (Miranda Williams), and educator and community organizer for equity (Ashley Cooper). The booklet is funded in part by the Dogwood Health Trust and cover art is by Jasmine Washington, Asheville High graduate and current UNC Asheville Black Student Association President. Email [regalpodauthors@gmail.com](mailto:regalpodauthors@gmail.com) for a FREE digital copy !



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