

**From:** Lara Lustig <lalalustig@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 8/24/2021 3:16:40 PM  
**To:** Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>, Sheneika Smith <sheneikasmith@avlcouncil.com>, sandrakilgore@avlcouncil.com, S. Antanette Mosley <antanettesmosley@avlcouncil.com>, Kim Roney <kimroney@avlcouncil.com>, sageturner@avlcouncil.com, gwenwisla  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Re: Please hold an open process for appointing Jackie McHargue's replacement to ACS Board

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Apologies--I just realized that I mistyped. Let me clarify that Shane Cassida is an Assistant \*Superintendent\* at Asheville City Schools who acted ethically in the face of misconduct of other district administrators.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Lara Lustig

On Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 3:14 PM Lara Lustig <lalalustig@gmail.com> wrote:  
Dear Council Members,

I respectfully request that you reject the Boards and Commissions Committee's recommendation of appointing a new ACS school board member without process, review, or input from the community.

The current state of Asheville City Schools central office is alarming. Excellent, highly qualified, student-focused administrators and teachers have been leaving the district due to its current mismanagement and toxic workplace environment. In the past year, I have had a number of teachers tell me directly that they will not speak up to advocate for changes that would benefit our students because they fear retribution and retaliation from central office administrators.

Read this article from June (<https://mountainx.com/news/acs-administration-blocked-staff-from-following-state-rules-on-meal-programs/>), and please note that Shane Cassida, the Assistant Principal who acted ethically in the Federal Nutrition situation, is now resigning. We have also lost Dana Ayres for similar reasons. Good people in Central Office are not being allowed to do their jobs with quality and integrity.

It is not at all hyperbole to say that the next person you choose to appoint will have a strong hand in determining the fate of Asheville City Schools as a district.

PLEASE have an open process to choose a replacement school board appointee with the benefit of community input. It would be an excellent opportunity to include the input of the Asheville City Association of Educators, which was, for some reason, not considered in the last appointment process.

As before, I would strongly support Libby Kyles or Pepi Acebo, as previously recommended by our ACAE.

Thank you very much.  
Lara Lustig  
ACS Parent  
West Asheville