

Date : 9/27/2017 10:45:10 AM

From : "Kim Roney"

To : "shaunda.sandford@ashevillecityschools.net" , "martha.geitner@ashevillecityschools.net" , "james.lee@ashevillecityschools.net" , "patricia.griffin@ashevillecityschools.net" , "joyce.brown@ashevillecityschools.net"

Subject : Request to reinstate Bree Newsome event at AMS

Shaunda, Martha, James, Patricia, and Joyce, thank you for your service on the Asheville Board of Education.

My name is Kim Roney, and I am a piano teacher that currently works with 38 students in 12 schools across Asheville and Buncombe County, including several at Asheville Middle School.Â

I first heard that Bree Newsome would be speaking at AMS because of the news that the event had been cancelled. I am writing today as a teacher, as an ally, and from my position of privilege to request that her speaking event be reinstated.Â

I grew up in South Carolina, and as a child, I remember seeing the confederate flag flying in front of the State House when we would visit Columbia. Bree Newsome's peaceful act of civil disobedience on June 27, 2015, lead to her arrest, which is what I understand to be the primary reason for her event being cancelled. Her action eventually led to the permanent removal of the flag, a historical symbol of hate and white supremacy.Â Â

I have been following Bree Newsome and her story, hearing her speak to some of the most challenging issues facing our country today. During this time of political uncertainty, our nation and our city are grappling with reconciliation of hate and trauma as we address institutional and structural racism, which is precisely why our students need brave, inspirational leaders. Bree Newsome is a North Carolinian and a true shero of our time. I join my community in naming similar leaders and (s)heroes that are upheld for our students: Martin Luther King Jr.,Â Rosa Parks, Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, and Susan B. Anthony.Â

I don't want to see this opportunity missed for the young people of Asheville to hear Bree Newsome speak. For my students and for the future of our beloved city, i implore you to please use your influence to reverse this decision.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kim

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Kim Roney - Piano Teacher
Asheville City Multi-Modal Transportation Commission & Transit Committee Member