Date : 9/27/2017 7:39:20 AM
From : "Natalie de Gorter"
To : "april.dockery@ashevillecityschools.net"
Subject : Bee Newsom

Greetings.
I am a mother of thee young children who may one day be students at Asheville Middle School. I am extremely disappointed to find out that Bree Newsome has been disinvited to speak to your students this week. I have heard that the rational behind the decision is that she has an arrest record. Surely this is untrue. I was a middle school student the first time I read Dr. Martin Luther King's letter from Birmingham jail. An arrest record is a badge of revolutionary honor when it is dealing with Civil Rights issues.
I would hope that Bree's arrest record would not impede her talking to and encouraging young people, even if it was a petty crime charge. Surly you understand that some of your students are going to grow up and get arrested. Some will spend time in prison. I'm sure you still push hard the myth of meritocracy, but in America, you will not get far on your merits alone. Myriad privileges and old networks of power and influence are everything when it comes to social mobility.
You should re invite Bree Newsome as a guest of honor. If you do not, you may regret this decision for many years to come. If you want to stop the school to prison pipeline, you must empower your student to be agents for positive change as we so clearly need it.
Thank you for reading this and have a good day.
Sincerely,
Natalie deGorter