Date : 9/26/2017 4:03:31 PM
From : "Allison Alcena"
To : "april.dockery@acsgmail.net"
Subject : Bree Newsome Visit

Good afternoon Principal Dockery,

My name is Allison AlcÃ©na and I am currently the Tzedek Social Justice Fellow for Youth and Young Adult Equity Education at UNC-Asheville. It has come to my attention that you have uninvited Bree Newsome, a well-known activist and artist, from visiting the school under the grounds that her previous arrest makes her an inappropriate guest for your students. I would strongly encourage you to reconsider that analysis.Â

My undergraduate research focused entirely on how we teach the American Civil Rights Movement, social justice, and activism to children. Ms. Newsome continues that legacy and shines a light onto the fact that the same injustices from decades ago are still alive and well today. How many of those former leaders faced arrest because of their necessary actions? Your students being refused the opportunity to meet a hero like Ms. Newsome is a disservice to their education. Who knows what cause she might inspire the students to take up? What change they will make in their communities after hearing her speak?Â

Please reconsider your decision to deny Ms. Newsome's invitation to Asheville Middle School. As I said, you are denying your students a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.Â

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Allison AlcÃ©na
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