Date : 9/29/2017 8:49:29 AM
From : "Lauren Rosenfeld"
To : "shaunda.sandford@ashevillecityschools.net" , "denise.patterson@ashevillecityschools.net"
Subject : Bree Newsome
Dear Dr. Patterson and Ms. Sanford,

I am writing to ask that Asheville City Schools reconsider their decision to disallow Bree Newsome from speaking at Asheville Middle School and ultimately reconsider the policy that would bar her from speaking at any of Asheville's schools.Â

Though Asheville City Schools' official policy bars speakers from advocating the breaking of laws, certainly there needs to be a reconsideration of the unequivocal language with which that policy is written, so that the policy would make an exception for acts of civil disobedience, the aim of which is to draw attention to unjust laws that reinforce oppressive systems.Â

Ms. Newsome took down the flag at the South Carolina Statehouse fully prepared to be arrested and in doing so, she stands on the shoulders of civil rights giants. It should also be noted that her disobeying the law in the name of justice led to the legal removal of that flag. She is a hero and a role model.

I believe it is important for our students to realize that being engaged citizens of our world, our country, our state, and our city means not only showing up at the voting booth, it means taking a stand for justice -- especially when the injustice is being perpetrated by the very government that was established to serve and protect us all equally.Â

Thank you for taking the time to listen and I hope that this issue will be reconsidered for future speakers, who, like Ms. Newsome, represent the courage it takes to move our society in the direction of true justice and equality.

Most sincerely,
Lauren Rosenfeld
(Mother of four children who have proudly gratefully attended Asheville City Schools)