**Date : 9/28/2017 1:17:00 PM**
**From : "Matt Shepard"**
**To : "james.lee@ashevillecityschools.net"**
**Subject : Bree Newsome**

Hello,

First off I would like acknowledge the tragedy that ACS and AMS are dealing with at the moment, and while I did not know those involved, my heart aches nonetheless.

This email is to urge the school board to truly take an inventory and look inside your own thoughts and beliefs about why this situation with Bree Newsome came about. I think she would be a great resource to the students and a shining example of activism and standing up for what is right.

Citing her arrest record for civil disobedience as a disqualifying metric doesn't square with having Senator Van Duyn visiting and speaking with the students, as she has also had an arrest for civil disobedience. So if it is a rule or statute or something of the like, then apply it equally. I would say that something of that nature should not be used to disqualify someone from contributing to the growth and education of the students through a speaking engagement.

Thank you,

Matt Shepard
Asheville