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Subject : our community

Dear Ms. Dockery and School Board Members,

As a parent of a 6th grader at AMS, I am extremely upset at the cancellation of Bree Newsome's appearance. Last year, in the process of transitioning to middle school my son saw at least half a dozen of his friend circle elect to go to private school. When my son questioned why he wasn't going with them, we explained that diversity and supporting the city community were extremely important to us. We even went so far as to attempt to persuade the parents of his friend circle not to abandon the community and public school system in light of the current political climate and emphasis on self interest.

It also saddens me that we I have only learned of the cancellation through Ashvegas/Facebook. I have been received many weekly update emails and reminders to dine out and such from AMS and you, Ms Dockery, so I am disappointed that this information was not given to us parents directly. This information is important to me, as is this speaker, for all the obvious reason for which she had been initially invited. From what I gather—again through indirect sources—Ms. Newsome has been disinvited due a school policy that prohibits arrestees from addressing students. I am sorry, but this is really a pitiable and questionable reason, especially in light of information going around (again, indirect sources) that other civil disobedience protest arrestee (Terry Van Duyn) has spoken at school events.

My best hope is that Ms. Newsome will be re-invited to speak at AMS. At the very least I wish for some sort of understanding of how she came to be invited, then disinvited at such short notice.

Thank you,
Jennie Liu.