

**Date : 9/27/2017 8:44:56 AM**  
**From : marcieannball@gmail.com**  
**To : "patricia.griffin@ashevillecityschools.net"**  
**Subject : Concerned Community Member**  
Dear Ms. Griffin,

First, thank you for all of the work you do on the Board of Education. I am excited and proud that my daughter will attend Asheville City Schools when she is old enough in a few years. I am proud of Asheville City Schools and their commitment to creating spaces where children from all backgrounds have a shot at success.

I have lived in Asheville my entire life and am proud of our city for, in many ways, serving as a place where people can feel more safe and equal than they might in other places.

I have served as a volunteer for Asheville City Schools and was a member of the committee which helped create the Parent Involvement Coordinator position.

I learned that Bree Newsome, who bravely and peacefully removed a Confederate flag from the SC State House in 2015, has been dis-invited from a planned appearance at Asheville Middle School because she has been arrested and the principal feels that she would be an inappropriate guest.

By that standard, if they were alive today, Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks would not be allowed to speak to students at Asheville Middle.

Additionally, State Senator Terry Van Duyn was welcomed to Asheville Middle School after her arrest for her brave act of civil disobedience. There are pictures online of her visiting.

It is essential that those caring for and educating our children understand that without civil disobedience, we would not have achieved the insufficient but crucial progress we have regarding equality for black Americans.

The children of Asheville Middle deserve the chance to hear from this hero and modern day civil rights activist who is coming to our city.

I and many others in our community care deeply about this and ask that Asheville Middle School welcome Bree Newsome to speak to your students at her previously-planned appearance.

Sincerely,  
Marcie Ball  
[828.989.5096](tel:828.989.5096)