City of Asheville

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Application Form

Applicants are strongly urged to attend several meetings of a board prior to applying

Name of board or commission: Asheville City School Board

Your name: Patricia Griffin Home Phone #: 8287124164

Street address: 7 Williams St City: Asheville Zip Code: 28803

Mailing address (if different): _____

Employer: Retired

Your position: _____ Office Phone #: _____

Resident of City Asheville County Buncombe Race Af-Am * Sex M____F ✓ * Age _____*

Are you a Homeowner or a Renter? * Homeowner

Residence location (check one): Central ____ North ✓ South _____ East _____ West _____

Are you aware of any potential conflicts of interest that may arise during your service on this board (i.e., property interest, business interest, etc.)? If so, please explain: _____
_____. Potential conflicts of interest do not preclude appointments.

Please indicate the area(s) of expertise that you can bring to the above board(s), and then in detail list education, experience, reasons for your interest, and other factors that support your interest in serving **Applicants are encouraged to provide a cover letter and/or a brief resume. Please use additional sheets if necessary.**

I have been a board member in good standing for four years. I worked in the Asheville City School system from 1971-2003, starting as a teacher assistant and retiring as a principal. I feel that having served as administrative coach for new administrators and filling in as interim principal at most of the schools provides me with the level of expertise to serve on the board. Please see the cover letter below and the attached resume.

Patricia Griffin Cover letter
I want to continue as a member of the Asheville City School Board, working to make our board an effective school board by continuing to adopt policies that give direction and provide strategies to achieve our goals and keep our nine schools on track. As a present board member, my interest and primary focus is to see that the vision and goals of the district are realized. I have always believed that each student can learn, will learn, and shall learn if provided equitable educational opportunities.
Having served at every level in the school system and working with students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community, I have witnessed discriminatory practices, prejudices, and beliefs. The dream and promise of public education is for every child to succeed in school and in life. To realize this dream, the board must see that every child is given resources, supports, and interventions based on their needs.

Return to:

Sarah Terwilliger, Deputy City Clerk
Post Office Box 7148
Asheville, N.C. 28802-7148

E-Mail: sterwilliger@ashevillenc.gov
Telephone: 259-5839
Fax #: 259-5499

Signed via SeamlessDocs.com
Patricia Griffin
Key: df76721a8e0d6f612aa1f407f0fc5678

Signature: _____

Date: 1/19/21

E-Mail: pptg4@msn.com

Fax #: 8287124164

* This information is requested for the sole purpose of assuring that a cross section of the community is appointed.

Patricia Griffin_Cover letter

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Board of Education Essay Questions

2021

1.Please describe specific experience you have had at a board of director's level and in oversight of a CEO, executive director, or organizational head. In doing so, please describe your views as to the roles and duties of board members versus senior staff.

In addition to the Asheville City School Board,I have served as a member of several boards in the city such as, The Arc of North Carolina West Protégé Review Committee, YMI Cultural Center, BRAVO Concerts, Stephens-Lee Alumni Association, and Asheville City Schools Foundation. My responsibilities as a board member included reviewing and approving budgets, attending board meetings, organizational planning and decision making activities, making sure the organization followed the law, approving all contracts, evaluating financial policies, approving budgets, reviewing financial reports and helping with fundraising.
The duties of a school board include governance, setting policy and procedure, hiring and firing the superintendent, and being the eyes and ears of the community. Senior staff, under the direction of the superintendent, are responsible for carrying out the directives of the board and handling the day to day operations necessary for a school system to function.

2.In what ways can Asheville City Schools effectively innovate?

Asheville City Schools is using innovative methods to better serve students and to teach them about the benefits of innovative thinking. To date ACS has partnered with a number of community based organizations to support POSITIVE OPPORTUNITIES DEVELOP SUCCESS (PODS) which offers an alternative way of delivering education to ensure equity for all ACS children. This is in addition to providing internet access to all residents of the Asheville Housing Authority communities. Other innovations include a 21st Century grant to pilot a Hall Fletcher afterschool program integrating reading, math and SEL (Social Emotional Learning) with music and art. ACS will hold after school virtual reading camps. ACS is placing pre-k classrooms in housing communities allowing us to reach the students most impacted by the achievement gap. This will eliminate the transportation

barrier and provide full day childcare. We have purchased and are utilizing GEODES, which are supplemental books rooted in the belief that children are capable of reading to learn while learning to read. We are moving forward with our new superintendent and other community organizations to recognize and call out the systemic racism that has so long been a part of our culture.

3. What is your capacity for understanding and guiding on financial oversight, real estate assets, facility maintenance, and long range planning?

I have served as principal at four of the system's schools and director of the preschool. I was responsible for administering all aspects of the school's operations. The link between instruction and financial planning was critical to effective budgeting of the total operation of the school. The budget included funding for resources: literacy, math and science materials, technology, and any other school supplies and equipment as well as programming, tutoring, after school programs, or social-emotional learning curriculum. As a principal, I was aware of how to best use the school facilities. I was also aware that building cleanliness and maintenance impacted student learning and behavior. Each of the schools where I served as principal were required to develop a School Improvement Plan for long range planning. As principal I was responsible for seeing that the plan was completed and implemented. As an ACS board member for 4 years, I have been intimately aware and part of the discussions as to how best ACS can and should move forward. Working with the superintendent, the board is aware of the need to take a closer look at finances, programs, initiatives, personnel, etc. going forward. While the system is not experiencing great financial difficulty as reported, we are working to ensure that the resources of ACS are being used equitably and appropriately in order to continue to be good stewards of the community resources.

4. Many school districts face continuity of leadership, especially at the level of superintendency. What would you do to promote

continuity of leadership? And what do you see as your role working with the superintendent to build a strong partnership?

A superintendent is hired by the board to carry out the educational needs and objectives of the community. The role of the school board is to govern, set policy, oversee budget, hire and fire the superintendent AND be the eyes and ears of the community. Sometimes boards assume the role of micromanagers and this is not their role. Superintendents must be given the freedom and support to accomplish those objectives for which he/she has been hired. For continuity of leadership, I really believe there must be clear definitions of each one's duties and responsibilities. Confusion over roles sometimes may be due to board members overstepping their boundaries by meddling in administrative affairs. I believe school boards must act as a single voice rather than specific members becoming "lone rangers" (so to speak) who want to appeal to special interest groups rather than the public at large. Also, for continuity, the board and superintendent should communicate in and out of board meetings to self-evaluate as well as check up on the superintendent. We sometimes need those difficult adult conversations in order to build a strong partnership. I believe my role in working with the superintendent is to actively work to build trust and respect between the board and the superintendent. I believe it is necessary to maintain a relationship and develop an atmosphere necessary to maintain continuity of leadership.

5. In your opinion, as a school board member, what is your role in representing our community when making a decision that would be unpopular with a large number of your constituents?

Some school districts feel if they have more conservative school board members, it will result in a more effective school board. In my opinion, school boards have the responsibility to lead their school system in partnership with the community to share a commitment to ensure that every child has equitable resources, support and opportunities to be successful academically and socially. Making decisions that are unpopular with a number of vocal constituents is a situation that every board member, no matter what board will face when trying to achieve equity. We have had a period of time in which a very passionate and vocal segment of our community has brought forth questions and concerns utilizing various avenues of communication. Oftentimes, those concerns are not grounded in fact but must nevertheless be addressed. Emails, phone calls and social

media are, of course, our normal route to communication. Personal face to face contact occurs regularly between the Board and community. I believe that IF we are making decisions that are RIGHT for all of our kids, and not just for a few, we are doing the right thing for ALL. Dialogue and debate helps us move forward. We welcome our community to bring ideas, concerns, and issues to us in order to learn going forward for the good of our entire community.