Dear friends and supporters of the Asheville City Schools Foundation,

As you have heard, Kate Pett announced her departure from the Asheville City Schools Foundation in December. As a Board, we have been reflecting on the gifts that Kate brought as leader of the Foundation – her passion, curiosity, spirit of partnership, and integrity are top of mind.

There are many accomplishments to lift up from Kate’s leadership, such as:

* Shifting the Foundation’s focus to center racial equity in vision, goals and processes
* Launching the community vision that all middle school youth will have a safe, engaging space to spend afterschool time (In Real Life afterschool)
* Investing over $1.5 million in teacher-led projects
* Bringing arts into the classroom through TAPAS, impacting over 7,000 students with over 800 days of artists in residency

**We hope you will join us for a celebration of Kate’s many achievements during her eleven-year tenure at the Foundation. We will gather at Salvage Station (468 Riverside Drive, 28801) on May 5th from 4-6pm. Come be our guest with food and friendship to wish Kate best wishes as she begins the next chapter of her life of service.**

The Board strongly believes that the Asheville City Schools Foundation has a strong, stable staff and firm financial footing to ensure a smooth transition to the next leader. While Kate’s last full day with the Foundation was April 9, 2019, she will remain in a limited capacity until the end of April. George Sieburg is serving as interim Executive Director. George is a former educator and a third-year board member who has served as Board Chair and Treasurer and has been involved with the scholarship committee and in coordinating the Foundation’s community-listening projects. The search for the new leader is being led by an Executive Search Committee, which includes ACSF board members, ACSF staff members and a liaison to Asheville City Schools. The goal and plan is to have the new Executive Director in place on or before August 1, 2019.

Our Board’s commitment is to hire the next right leader for the Foundation to partner with Asheville City Schools district leadership, parents and youth, and community stakeholders to work toward realizing our community’s vision that all children graduate prepared and ready for life. The Foundation’s mission to implement bold strategies, fund big ideas and engage our community to increase excellence with equity for all children will continue with the next leader of the Foundation.  We are grateful for your support of our collective work, and we look forward to continuing this work with you.

In partnership,

Robin Payne

Board Chair, on behalf of Board of Directors

**2018-2019 Board of Directors**

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