**SAMPLE LETTER TO COUNCIL MEMBERS**

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district has made an offer on land near Fairview Park to use as the new building site for Ashley Elementary. This land is owned by the City of Winston-Salem.

**It is now up to the Winston-Salem City Council to sell the land to the district. Use the template below to write your Council Member and encourage them to sell the land for Ashley.**

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Dear Council Member ( ):

My name is ( ) and I have resided in (*identify ward*) for ( ) years. I am writing to ask you to support the sale of land near Fairview Park to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School District so that they can build a new Ashley Elementary.

*(Select up to 3 of the prompts below that resonate most with you to explain why you care about the issue, or write your own message):*

* As a parent of students in the district, it is important to me that all children are educated in a safe and healthy environment because the physical spaces where children are educated are an important resource that influence the learning and development of all students;
* As a concerned community member, I believe it is important that all children to have access to a quality education because, as the Supreme Court declared in *Brown v. Board of Education*, education “is a right which must be made available on equal terms;”
* As a tax-paying citizen, I want our elected officials to work together to improve educational opportunities for the city’s most vulnerable children and ensure that all Winston-Salem/Forsyth County students have equal access to educational resources such as safe and appropriate school buildings and facilities;
* WSFCS’s failure to quickly and fully address the poor facility conditions at Ashley has weighed significantly more heavily on one race than others because only 5.8% of Ashley’s student population is White, while the majority of students identify as Black (59.3%);
* Research has shown that the quality and condition of the physical spaces of a school are tied to student achievement and teacher retention;
* Studies have shown that schools with poor indoor air quality have lower daily attendance rates, and higher proportions of students failing to meet educational testing standards when compared to schools with acceptable indoor air quality;
* More than 50% of Ashley students tested “below grade level proficiency” in Math, English/Reading, and Science. Ashley also has the second lowest daily attendance percentage (92.5%) of all WSFCS elementary schools;
* Despite the influx of money from the 2016 bond that provided a significant amount of money for school improvements and repairs, the District did not prioritize a new building to end the immediate health crisis at Ashley;

For all of these reasons, I urge you to support the sale of land to the school district so that a new Ashley Elementary can be built.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Contact Information

**Council Members and Emails**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ward** | **Council Member** | **Email Address** |
| East | Annette Scippio | [annettes@cityofws.org](mailto:annettes@cityofws.org?subject=Web%20Question) |
| North | Denise D. Adams | [denisea@cityofws.org](mailto:denisea@cityofws.org?subject=Inquiry%20from%20Website) |
| Northeast | Vivian H. Burke | [vivianb@cityofws.org](mailto:vivianb@cityofws.org?subject=Inquiry%20From%20Website) |
| Northwest | Jeff MacIntosh | [jeffm@cityofws.org](mailto:jeffm@cityofws.org?subject=Inquiry%20from%20Website) |
| South | John C. Larson | [John.Larson@cityofws.org](mailto:John.Larson@cityofws.org?subject=Inquiry%20from%20Website) |
| Southeast | James Taylor Jr. | [jamestjr@cityofws.org](mailto:jamestjr@cityofws.org?subject=Inquiry%20from%20Website) |
| Southwest | Dan Besse | [danbesse@danbesse.org](mailto:danbesse@danbesse.org?subject=Inquiry%20from%20Website) |
| West | Robert C. Clark | [robertc@cityofws.org](mailto:robertc@cityofws.org?subject=Inquiry%20from%20Website) |
| Mayor | Allen Joines | [mayorsoffice@cityofws.org](mailto:mayorsoffice@cityofws.org) |

**Find your ward or email all Council Members at once here:** [www.cityofws.org/Departments/City-Council](http://www.cityofws.org/Departments/City-Council)

 