

Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#874

I would like to provide: *

Written Public Comments

My public comments are related to: *

School Board Policies

Topic *

Latin Curriculum at ACHS

Full Name *

Jill Erber

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

Dear Members of the School Board and Superintendent Kay-Wyatt,

I am writing as the parent of a current Latin 4 Junior at ACHS. In addition, we have another daughter, a rising Freshman, who plans on taking one of the higher level Latin courses starting this Fall. We just learned that all in-person Latin instruction at ACHS has been cancelled due to low registration and low interest. This low attendance and low interest are due in part to students being told not to take these classes by school administrators. For example, our daughter was told by a counselor, when selecting classes for next year, that she shouldn't bother selecting Latin and should choose another elective. If all existing and future Latin students are being told this, there could be no hope for enough students to justify a Latin curriculum.

There are two main issues here:

1) The elimination of the Latin curriculum was achieved by quietly and non-transparently convincing otherwise-interested students to drop out of Latin. Registration was intentionally discouraged, then low numbers were used as evidence of lack of interest. Parents of Latin students were not told. I must receive 10 emails a day from ACHS, but never once did anyone email me, as a parent of a currently-enrolled Latin student, that this program was being eliminated so late in the game. We only found out by informal communication from her teacher.

2) There is a gifted teacher available to lead these classes. He is already on-staff and wants to teach them. Why not allow this? Our older daughter has taken Latin with Mr. Redpath for three years and considers him and his curriculum to be highlights in her academic experience at ACHS — and she has been eagerly anticipating her Senior year Latin work. We are excited that our second daughter will also have the opportunity to learn with Mr. Redpath, while continuing an area of study that she has already been focusing on for five years.

Please let me know how we can help to ensure that there will be a Latin curriculum going forward, both for new and returning students. It is such a special offering and it would be a true loss if eliminated. One of the things that makes ACHS special is the breadth of programming for so many student needs and interests. We hope that this program is given the same consideration as so many others offered by the school.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Jill & Jeff Erber
