

Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#384

I would like to provide: *

Written Public Comments

Select the meeting date:* *

February 3, 2022

My public comments are related to: *

COVID-19

Topic *

contact tracing

Full Name *

Zion Bezu

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

Dear School Board,

I write to you in disappointment...

When ACPS announced they had contact tracing I was reassured but now not so much, The opposite in fact. I feel as though they put our kids in danger and put me in a really bad position.

Shortly before the break, my daughter was exposed to covid due to a student getting a positive covid test, the student and my daughter had spent a considerable amount of time together, but I never got a letter or a phone call from the school. If the student had not told us directly, we would have never known or would have gotten tested.

There was another instance, we got a letter on January 19th, saying "Your child" got exposed on January 10th and needed to get tested on January 15th. Other than the obvious fact that the timing of the letter was completely off and irritating, there is also another thing wrong with the letter. I have two children that attend ACHS, they both commute from the Minnie Howard to the King Street campus on a regular basis. The letter never specified which child got exposed.

A couple hours later, I got another letter on the same day saying "Your child" was exposed on January 14th, again never telling me which child. So I emailed twice asking for more

information so I can act accordingly. I never got a name. I cc'd the school board chairperson and vice chairperson and still never got names.

I have children that are high-risks, and I am very displeased. I received more than 5 phone calls from other parents saying they had the same experience. I had conversations with a lot of incensed parents, and I noticed that the parents had children with distinct names that reflect their ethnicity. Whether or not this is intentional, it is worrisome. This is putting our children safety and health at risk. No one is playing around, and we are not going to let you wait until a child dies for the system to take action.

I need this to be heard and need the school board to know that we are sincere when we mean that the actions that are taken in regard to this matter will be watched, questioned and discussed among our communities constantly. If nothing is done there is a very real chance that there is going to be legal action taken.

I want this letter saved and if anything happens to a single child, ACPS will be held responsible. "Equity for all" or equity for some? We find ourselves asking this question a lot in the past year and if "Equity for all" is something that is going to be achieved anytime soon then there needs to be teamwork and communication, between staff, students, parents, teachers and everyone that make up ACPS. I need there to be less one-way conversations. Thank you in advance for taking swift action in this matter.
