

Written Public Hearing Comments on FY25 Budget #733

I would like to provide: *

Written Public Comments

My public comments are related to: *

Budget

Topic *

Teacher appreciation

Full Name *

Sarah Heckenberg

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

As you are plowing through this budget process I ask you to think long and hard about each and every staff person who comes in contact with students.

Talk with them.

Listen. To. Them.

Ask them what they need from you. Let them be part of the solutions.

I urge you to:

STOP lecturing them about how “well paid” they are. STOP lecturing them about the “robust benefits package”. It is incredibly patronizing; these individuals have educated most of your children yet are being treated like they are too stupid to understand numbers. You wouldn’t need to convince people of such a thing IF IT WERE ACTUALLY TRUE. The truth is, ACPS cannot be compared to other divisions. For better, though more likely for worse, this school system is incredibly unique and challenging. Because of those challenges, our teachers need to be paid significantly higher than other districts. No other district is asking people to navigate a 5000 person high school, no other district is asking teachers to implement the reinvented under funded TAG program, no other district treated Encore teachers quite as badly as ACPS did last year, no other district is rolling out the high school project plans, yep, that falls on our teachers too. All of these

things make working at ACPS HARDER than other districts...compensation must be adjusted accordingly!

What is being asked of ACPS teachers right now is unfathomable... yet they go in everyday, remain loyal to the city, love and guide our children, break up fights, buy their own supplies, go to every meeting and/PD required, implement SEAL lessons...etc, etc, etc,.

Please, please ask the city council for the money you need to compensate teachers appropriately. Particularly those teachers who have hung with the school system year after year....The worst that can happen is they say No.

But, you will have tried, the teachers will see that. It will be a good first step.

Thank you for your attention.

Sarah Heckenberg

GM Parent
