

Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#502

I would like to provide: *

Written Public Comments

My public comments are related to: *

Budget

Topic *

Class Size / Pscychologist

Full Name *

Stephen Mulligan

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

I write regarding the large class sizes and lack of adequate mental health personnel at Naomi Brooks elementary in the proposed budget. My daughter is currently in 3rd grade. On her first two days of school, the class was so large and so chaotic that she literally did not know who the teacher was. Things have calmed since then, but only through use of a never-ending cycle of class room monitors. The monitors come and go, they often quit. Even though they give instruction and are the "teacher" for large portions of the day, they are not there long enough to build relationships. My daughter cannot even remember many of their names.

The proposed budget will result in classroom sizes in grades 3 and 5 at Naomi Brooks that exceed the 26 student capacity limit for these grades. This is too large. The proposed Brooks staffing budget should be changed to allow two additional homeroom teachers. There should be three homeroom teachers for each grade level at Brooks. Having two has caused chaos this year and should be remedied.

ACPS assumptions and projections have errors highlighted by other parents speaking at this meeting. The data is flawed, and I know from experience it is chaotic in the classrooms.

I also support the Brooks parent community push for a full-time pscychologist. The school pscychologist at Brooks is excellent. She help guide my daughter when I was diagnosed with cancer and our family was upended in 2021. But she is assigned to Brooks just three days a week. Brooks is one of the few elementary schools with no full-time pscychologist. This is a disservice to students. Brooks children have the same

struggles and needs as other schools. They should be given full-time support, especially after the trauma of the pandemic and disruptions.

Please consider fully staffing Brooks elementary with three teachers for each elementary grade and with a full-time psychologist.

Best regards,

Steve Mulligan
