

Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#774

I would like to provide: *

In-Person Comments in the School Board Meeting Room

Select the meeting date: *

March 7, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

My public comments are related to: *

School Board Policies

Topic *

Collective Bargaining

Full Name *

Deveita Grose

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Staff Member

Transportation Issues

We feel we should get more money for the following reasons:

1. We are the first point of contact and the MVP's of the school system without us there is no school or little to no work for teachers. If we are late due to a shortage of drivers it causes a major disruption to schools and the classrooms

2. We deserve higher pay because we worked hard to get licensed, certifications and are constantly having to take training classes to get more certifications. In most businesses your pay is reflective of your degrees, licenses and certifications (ours are not)

3. Drivers and Monitors cannot afford to pay rent, utilities , or eat without getting a second job, spousal/partner support or government assistance. Yet we are a trained, licensed professional with multiple certifications our pay doesn't say that.

4. Often times we play the role of nurse and janitor on the bus due to sick kids or kids bleeding- which can put our health and life at risk as they are airborne pathogens, viruses and other infectious diseases. (COVID, RSV, COLD, FLU, HIV and etc. to name a few) We have cleaning supplies but often times not enough time to thoroughly clean between routes. This

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leaves students, drivers and monitors at risk. The sanitation of buses should be out sourced to ensure proper sanitation

5. We witness fights, guns, knives, sexual acts and brutal gang violence and have no control over stopping it, other than calling cops. This plays heavily on our mental psyche. We are being mentally, emotionally and physically abused. (Again, pay is not enough)

6. We get cursed out by students and parents. We've had parents come on the buses and threaten students and drivers, We've had family members with guns threaten drivers because we don't know who they are, and we're doing our job to ensure the safety of a child. Often times these people aren't held accountable for their actions/behaviors. Where's OUR safety? (Not enough pay to go through this)

7. For those of us who do special education. We should get a higher pay because there is a lot more work and knowledge involved in the caring of the students. We have to follow proper protocol for their IEPs. We have to be able to recognize and prevent triggers in certain students, deal with violent random outburst. Straps students in car seats, prevent students from injuring or harming others and themselves, etc.

8. Students are aware that we are unable to defend ourselves without incurring some type of infraction or consequence, but they seem to think it's OK for them to be able to act out towards us. We need more support and consequences when students and or parents act out. We are constantly reminded that we can't do certain things and are often blamed for our actions because students acted out. Students know that they are catered to so they go above and beyond to act out and antagonize drivers. However, drivers are always held accountable

9. We also need to have a standard guideline for students catching the bus. home. We shouldn't be called back to school to pick up students because they're playing beyond their scheduled bus time and miss buses on purpose. Students should be on the bus by their scheduled pick up times, or run the risk of missing the bus. We have other duties and or want to go home too.

10. Confidentiality has been an issue within transportation. Administrators have formed friendships with the employees and the employees' personal information is being shared throughout transportation.

11. Employees feel under-appreciated as there's no sense of appreciation like Bonuses, office Christmas parties—UNLESS—“we” pay for it ourselves—which we don't want to do. On appreciation day, we get nothing! Not even a cake and bottle water.

12. On top of ALL of this, we have to drive, monitor the kids, discipline kids, Pay attention to the stops, make sure we have the correct kids, make sure the correct people are picking up the kids, count the kids, greet the kids, make the kids sit down, call parents for pick up, pay attention to the kids behaviors to see if they are abnormal, comfort the kids when sick or scared and recognize their unusual behaviors, report abuse and neglect and clean up after the kids AND... Deal with disrespectful drivers who run our bus STOP sign regularly nearly hitting students on a daily basis. Some of this is done in front of police who DO NOTHING because either they don't care or are in a rush to get home. We NEED bus ticketing cameras in place before it's too late. If dealing with all of this doesn't deserve more pay, we implore you to tell us what does.
