

# Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#505

I would like to provide: \*

Written Public Comments

My public comments are related to: \*

Budget

Topic \*

Naomi Brooks Class Size

Full Name \*

Bryanne Cordeiro Reynolds

What is your relationship to ACPS? \*

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

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. The proposed Brooks staffing budget should be changed to assign two additional homeroom teachers to Naomi L. Brooks Elementary, so that Brooks has three homeroom teachers at each grade level in FY'24.

The ACPS budget allots only two homeroom teachers for grades 3 and 5, relying on projections that assume enrollment in these grades will be lower than it has been for the last two years. This assumption is contingent on several current students not returning next year. It also requires that the capacity transfers students out of Brooks, who were not permitted to enroll at Brooks because their grades were full, will not be NOT enrolling in their neighborhood school in the next school year.

For FY'23, ACPS allotted only two homeroom teachers to each of grades 3, 4, and 5. By the fall of 2023, these grades were either at or over capacity, and new students who should have been able to attend Brooks were turned away and forced to attend schools outside their neighborhood. In the fall, Brooks parents engaged with several board members and ACPS staff members about the negative impact of these large class sizes on our students and teachers. ACPS hired instructional aides for Brooks, with the intention of hiring additional teachers next year. But that process understandably took several months, and has not been successful as one of the aides has stopped coming to work. The students are in the same position as they were before and many are frustrated and feel the classrooms are too noisy and crowded for them to

concentrate. With so many students in the room, it is difficult for all students to get the individual help they need.

Keeping in mind that all of our children have been impacted by learning loss due to Covid closures, now is not the time to cut classes. Now is the time to ensure small classes so our students can make up for the learning losses of the last few years.

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