

Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#532

I would like to provide: *

Written Public Comments

My public comments are related to: *

Budget

Topic *

Number of Teachers at Naomi Brooks

Full Name *

Sarah Levin

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

I strongly urge the School Board to include in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Budget three teachers for the third and fifth grade classes in Naomi Brooks Elementary, instead of the two teachers in these grades as described in the proposed budget. These elementary school students need the staff resources to flourish in their education. In earlier grades, the students had three classes, instead of two, because the number of students required those resources. This is the time for more investment in students, not less. Students are still making up missed learning time from the COVID-19 pandemic. Test scores at Naomi Brooks are still below those scores prior to the pandemic, and the equity gap has increased. Removing teachers, resources, and increasing class size is precisely the opposite of what the students need to close the education and equity gap. Research shows that big shifts in class sizes, like moving from three to two classes, affect students' learning, and particularly exacerbate inequities. Now is the time to invest in the students who struggled to learn during virtual learning and during the shutdown, while the children are young and are more easily able to make up the gap. Now is the time to invest in our children to support their learning, not disinvest resources leaving children to further fall behind. I am concerned that ACPS is falsely assuming that there will be an unexpected change of enrollment, or that students will thrive with fewer resources and less attention. I urge the School Board to fund three teachers in each grade at Brooks, instead of the two teachers slated for third and fifth grades in the current proposed budget to support Brooks students and to create the environment they need to learn.