

# Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#342

I would like to provide: \*

Written Public Comments

Select the meeting date: \*

September 23, 2021

My public comments are related to: \*

General Public Comments

Topic \*

Cross Country Busses

Full Name \*

Charles Kotuby

What is your relationship to ACPS? \*

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

I am writing as a parent of twin freshmen on the AC high school cross-country team. To call me irate right now would be a massive understatement.

The team was scheduled to leave the HS at 630am this morning for an invitational meet. The bus didn't arrive, and they didn't leave, until 730. What did that mean? It meant that they arrived at the race site at exactly 7:59, as the freshman race was starting. My son, in the first race of his life, had to leave the bus, sprint from the parking lot to the starting line, and begin 30 seconds \*after\* the starting gun. Among dozens of other schools and hundreds of other runners, the Titans were a laughing stock. My son is one of our top freshmen; he and others would have medaled in this race, but when he is running 1/4 mile longer than everyone else and giving the field a 30 second head start, he is being set up to fail.

Ask yourself, and then answer honestly: would you ever force the football team to run from their bus into the stadium to receive the opening kickoff? Would you force the basketball team to run from their bus to the tip-off? These kids work their butt off. They frequently run 40 miles per week. My son has been preparing for this race for months. And his experience was negatively affected by your incompetence. Shame on you. Shame on the district. We want these kids to be their very best; to prepare and to be accountable to themselves and their teammates; to represent all of us. They do their part, and then the adults fail them. Shameful.

These kids deserve an in-person apology from someone—not their coaches, who are not to blame here—and the assurance that it won't happen again.