

Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#873

I would like to provide: *

Written Public Comments

My public comments are related to: *

General Public Comments

Topic *

Dismissal of JH admin

Full Name *

Miki W. Smith

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

Hello School Board members,

I want to register my disappointment and concern over the dismissal of Dr. McCain and Ms. Young in April and to ask that they be reinstated at Jefferson-Houston as soon as possible.

It's important to say that I don't dismiss the concerns and feelings of the family of the Pre-K student that left school grounds unattended, and I can't imagine how scary that must have been for the child and her family.

Since then, however, I would have hoped to have seen a full, transparent investigation into what happened. I am not confident that this is happening or will happen. ACPS's response to date seems excessively broad and has been disruptive to the Jefferson Houston community as a whole, and the lack of transparency and lack of public information about the investigation is glaring. The parents, guardians, and caregivers of all JH students as well as JH faculty and staff have a stake in the leadership of our school, and this process is failing us so far.

Additionally, I'm concerned that dismissing Dr. McCain and Ms. Young may not have been an appropriate step given that I understand they did what was expected of them after the incident, and it doesn't get at the root of the problem in terms of staffing in the pre-K/PLT program (or other under-resourced programs at JH). Most importantly, regardless of the policy or procedures that are guiding ACPS's response (which are themselves not clear), our experience as a family

with Dr. McCain and Ms. Young has been excellent overall, and they should be part of the solution to problems at JH.

From “Coffee with McCain” where parents and caregivers were invited to have a dialogue about their students (which he significantly calls “scholars”), to late evening PTA meetings where they participated with genuine interest in how the school community was doing, to their responsiveness when our family personally experienced security issues on campus, we have had a wonderful experience with them in the lead at our school. My son is confused about what happened, and he was startled when I said that Dr. McCain may not be returning to school.

Given your critical leadership roles, I

request your support in advocating for the reinstatement of our administrative team as soon as possible, while acknowledging that the investigation is ongoing. I also request your support in ensuring a transparent, fair process in this investigation going forward.

I appreciate your service to our schools and wish you all the best.

Thank you,

Miki Smith
