

# Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#450

I would like to provide: \*

In-Person Comments in the School Board Meeting Room

Select the meeting date:\* \*

June 16, 2022 6:30 p.m.

My public comments are related to: \*

Safety/Security

Topic \*

annual letters on secure firearm storage practices

Full Name \*

Bridget Shea Westfall

What is your relationship to ACPS? \*

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Good evening Dr. Hutchings, Chair Alderton and School Board Members Ms. Greene, Mr. Bailey, Dr. Rief, Mrs. Ignacio, Ms. Booz, Dr. Simpson Baird, Mr. El-Noubi and Mr. Harris,

My name is Bridget Shea Westfall and I am here tonight as a former Moms Demand Action Gun Sense candidate for ACPS school board and a volunteer with the Alexandria chapter of Moms Demand Action. My sons, Jameson and Patrick are students at Naomi L. Brooks elementary and we wore orange to bring awareness to gun violence prevention as part of ACPS' campaign to honor the lives lost to gun violence. Our family was proud of ACPS' commitment to the Wear Orange weekend and role as a community partner.

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

I know that the majority of you were also endorsed as Moms Demand Action Gun Sense candidates and are committed to the safety and security of ACPS students, teachers, staff and community. That is why I am asking you to pass the motion today, requiring an annual letter about safe firearm storage be sent home to all ACPS families and that ACPS add information about gun violence prevention on it's website.

I have worked in the field of youth violence prevention and positive youth development and mental health for the past 20 years on a micro level as a psychiatric, school and forensic social work and as a violence prevention advocate and deputy juvenile office and at the macro level in federal program administration. These simple steps can and do save lives.

I would also urge you to think of creative ways to attract, recruit and retain mental health professionals and use ESSER funding for mental health services for students, school based interventions and school based programs aimed at violence disruption and positive youth development. Our students, teachers and staffs lives depend on it. Please advocate for common sense gun violence prevention and resources for our students. Thank you!

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