

Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #153

I would like to provide: *

Written Public Comments

My public comments are related to: *

General Public Comments

Topic *

Julia Burgos's comments on renewal of ACPS and APD MOU

Full Name *

William Edward Olson

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

Upload a copy of your public comments or other supporting documents:



[commentsatimesv3.pdf](#) 7.36 KB .PDF

The attachment is included on the next page.

Public Comment of William E. Olson, October 9, 2020

I submit the following comment about the concerning statements of ACPS Chief of School Communications and Community Relations Julia Burgos reported in October 8, 2020 issue of the Alexandria Times regarding the School Board's deliberations about renewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ACPS and the Alexandria Police Department. Ms. Burgos suggested that she was speaking for the School Board about these deliberations while also offering comments on the substance of the renewal issue. Ms. Burgos's statement gave the misleading impression that she was offering the School Board's position on the MOU renewal.

Specifically, an article titled "School Board considers removing APD from schools" written by Lindsey Sullivan reported on statements made by Ms. Burgos. The article references a statement from Ms. Burgos disputing an argument presented in the MOU public hearing against renewal based on the disciplinary data for students of different races. This statement showed that Ms. Burgos was trying to negate public comments against the renewal.

The article later reported that Ms. Burgos "said the school board will continue to heed the community's concerns as they review the MOU." This comment suggests that Ms. Burgos was speaking on the School Board's behalf about the deliberations regarding the MOU renewal.

Ms. Burgos's comment giving the impression that she was speaking for the School Board when speaking about the substance of the public comments on the MOU renewal is troubling. Each individual School Board Member has a responsibility to consider and vote on the MOU renewal issue based on their best judgment and that vote has not yet occurred. I submit that the School Board should make clear that Ms. Burgos does not speak for the School Board about issues about which a vote has not been taken and direct her to refrain from such statements in the future.