

Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#501

I would like to provide: *

Written Public Comments

My public comments are related to: *

Budget

Topic *

Funding for Teachers at Brooks

Full Name *

Timothy A Doyle

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

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The ACPS FY 2024 Proposed Budget states that the average expenditure per student for FY 2024 is expected to be \$21,474. When I tell this to family members in the Midwest, they jokingly ask, "Do Alexandria schoolchildren live in dormitories?" They are astounded when I reply, "No, actually the district is dealing with overcrowding."

Let's break this down. Assume that the average expenditure for an elementary school student is HALF of the average expenditure for a middle or high school student. With a little more than half of the total projected enrollment expected to be elementary school students, this comes to an average expenditure of about \$14,000 per elementary student.

The budget states that 86.8 percent is spent on salaries and benefits: an average expenditure of about \$12,165 per elementary school student.

The 2021-2022 yearbook for Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School has photographs of 55 first graders, students who will be third graders in FY 2024.

So, 55 elementary students with an average expenditure of about \$12,165 per elementary school student comes to \$669,114 ostensibly available for salaries and benefits for professionals for this group of 55 students.

The yearbook also has photographs of a staff of 43 professionals, of which, by my count, 36 are teachers, instructional assistants, or the like. This yields a teacher-to-professional ratio of 83.7 percent: \$560,048 available for

salaries and benefits for teachers for this group of 55 students.

Let's recognize that some oversimplifications have gone into these calculations and reduce the current total by HALF: \$280,024 available for salaries and benefits for TEACHERS for this group of 55 students.

Based on these calculations, how can the budget NOT include a third teacher at Brooks for third graders for FY 2024?
