Written Public Hearing Comments on FY25 Budget #735

I would like to provide: *	Written Public Comments
My public comments are related to: *	Budget
Topic *	COLA and Step Pay for teachers
Full Name *	Robin Benatti
What is your relationship to ACPS? *	Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student
Enter your comments here OR upload below:	I am a current parent of an 8th and 6th grader at Francis C Hammond. I am an ACPS Alumnus, and the daughter and sister of two former ACPS teachers. I am appalled that the proposed budget only accounts for step increases and not a COLA. This poor decision is going to hurt our students, and further damage our reputation. Teachers in ACPS deserve to make reasonable compensation. This proposal falls short, big time. The struggle to hire qualified teachers for our extremely dense school district will only intensify if you don't also include a COLA. Be bold. Be aggressive in your position to show the community that you believe in investing in our educational talent. Be a leader in the DMV area, and in the nation, by doing what's right by our woefully under– appreciated teaching body. Parents and our students want this. Show us that you are listening.