

Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#393

I would like to provide: *

Written Public Comments

Select the meeting date:*

February 3, 2022

My public comments are related to: *

General Public Comments

Topic *

Budget for the Arts

Full Name *

Erin White

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

I'm writing to encourage budget reconsideration to increase arts education focus in our high school. Creativity is a foundational skill and in our diverse school there are many students who could benefit from more robust theatre programs and a dance program. As our school system works to offset the mental impact of the pandemic on our students, increasing and improving arts education could actually save many of our students. In such a diverse community and as we strive for more equitable education for all, many students are being left behind who could excel in theatre, dance and other arts programs. Our level of arts should match athletic programs and allow for students to explore areas that might lead to valuable scholarships. My 2019 graduate was involved in theatre from an early age and watched many of his peers at other schools enjoy much more robust programs. I have seen some of our high school students LEAVE ACPS for better arts programs. The valuable addition of a 9th grade theatre teacher in the pre-pandemic school year was wonderful but that position is now deleted. I particularly noticed during the 2018 and 2019 musicals that a large number of new to theatre students danced and learned complicated choreography and enjoyed every new challenge. My current 9th grader would love to take advantage of a full scope of arts offerings and the size of our school should be reflected in the size of the arts teaching staff. I see the ACPS lack of focus on theatre, drama and dance as a missed opportunity for our students. STEAM, not STEM should be our focus. Please consider increasing the FTE positions in our budget.