

Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#853

I would like to provide: *

Written Public Comments

My public comments are related to: *

General Public Comments

Topic *

Jefferson Houston Administration

Full Name *

Yael Mangum

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

I have been an involved Jefferson Houston parent for eight years, and was disheartened earlier this month when ACPS put many of our school's key leaders on administrative leave. During my time at JH, we've had three different principals, and each change in leadership comes with a new learning curve and a lot of adjustment. Dr. McCain and Ms. Young have worked to understand our school's complexities and have been responsive, committed, and supportive leaders.

I recognize that the child who left the school grounds and the child's family have experienced something traumatic, and I do not want to dismiss their concerns. An investigation into what happened is clearly necessary, and procedures need to be improved to reduce the chance of this happening again. However, ACPS's response seems excessively broad and has been disruptive to the Jefferson Houston community as a whole.

There has been little explanation from ACPS regarding:

- the timeline for the investigation
- details of anything that our administrators did not do correctly that would warrant being placed on leave
- who is directly responsible for this particular SPED PreK program that is housed at the school

The timing of ACPS's response, which came weeks after the event took place, was especially unsettling because it

appeared to coincide with breaking news coverage related to the event. One might think that ACPS was responding to poor publicity with a drastic, knee-jerk response.

I hope that Dr. McCain, Ms. Young, and other key administrative personnel will be reinstated soon so that families can end the school year with them. Of course, this assumes that they will be willing to return -- which likely depends on whether ACPS chooses to show them support or decides to treat them adversarially. Regardless, I wish Dr. McCain and Ms. Young the best, and I implore ACPS to be clear, forthcoming, and honest with our school community.
