

Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#858

I would like to provide: *

Written Public Comments

My public comments are related to: *

Equity

Topic *

Equity for west end schools

Full Name *

Lesley McLaughlin Lewis

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

I'm a James K Polk parent and lifetime Alexandria resident waiting for the city to act on the obvious equity issue with west end schools. Grateful for the time school board and central office officials have spent visiting our PTA but now it's time for action, movement not more talking and deliberating. We are watching schoolboard kick authority to ACPS central office and vice versa.

There's a glaring equity issue in application of the ACPS board designed policies across different contexts in different neighborhoods. Our city is not big enough for you all to not be aware that our neighborhoods operate with the majority of the city's lower income housing, multifamily housing and multiple families living in a single leased home. How does it make sense to not handle these schools differently? At a certain point your protection of capacity and class size in higher income neighborhoods is obvious and troubling. Parents, staff have made you endlessly aware of an issue and we are now choosing not to address it at this point. If equity is your ethos how are these points being addressed?

- How is capacity in a title 1 schools where students come in requiring more support being addressed with an equity lens versus non Title 1 schools? What differentiated accommodations are offered to these schools? Are classroom caps smaller?

- When will policies about capacity transfers and any policies that add to already overfilled classrooms be re-examined to not make Polk the first stop for capacity transfers and rather

redirect to the under capacity NEW building in MacArthur or other less full schools?

- What is the projection formula for elementaries in ACPS?

Surely it is not the same formula for all neighborhoods correct? Multiple families in single leases on the west end are factored in?

- What is average class size at non Title 1 schools and why isn't that public information?
