

Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#896

I would like to provide: *

Written Public Comments

My public comments are related to: *

Equity

Topic *

Polk/PH overcrowding and equity dashboard

Full Name *

Nicole Radshaw

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

Dear Superintendent Kay–Wyatt and School Board Members,

Happy humid Virginia summer! I am a former Polk parent, exiting Hammond parent, and current HS parent. I also work as a support specialist for ACPS and have substituted across ACPS as well. In these roles, I am able to see different class sizes, different school facilities, and different student populations across the city. While I have not kept written observations, students' experiences across our city vary widely by elementary school. For example, I would take a sub job at Cora Kelly library any day. Classes are smaller and easier to manage. In my support role, there were 15–17 3rd graders per class learning how to ride bikes at Jefferson Houston. At Patrick Henry, there were 22–24 3rd graders in a class learning to ride. Moreover, people who live in one area of Alexandria frequently have no idea what the other parts are experiencing. Schools on the West End have a larger student population with more widespread challenges.

A tool that would be helpful to understand where we can make changes and share this data for all citizens would be a dashboard that contains real time information about student population, class sizes, ELL demographics, teacher retention, teacher and admin ratios, transfer numbers, quality of indoor classrooms and outdoor play space, and any other metrics. With this tool, we can have data–based information in order to have a clear and equitable and fair redistricting process and product. This tool does not just need to be used for redistricting, but it could inform staffing, funding, and other school operations. In particular, this tool would be excellent to show how to make some short term shifts in transfer

Clusters, not waiting for redistricting.. Polk, already a large school, continues to be the overflow destination for Cluster A schools. The cap sizes are already greater than they were 5 years ago. Polk and Cluster A schools are predominantly ELL and come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and have higher class sizes, while Cluster C are mostly white, native speakers, economically well-off, and have smaller class sizes. Move under-capacity Douglas MacArthur from Cluster C to in the transfer cluster with Polk to give Patrick Henry and Polk a break.

Thank you for your attention and looking forward to your action!
