

# Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#850

I would like to provide: \*

Written Public Comments

My public comments are related to: \*

General Public Comments

Topic \*

Concern over dismissal of J-H admin team

Full Name \*

Miki Smith

What is your relationship to ACPS? \*

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

I want to register my concern about the dismissal of Dr. McCain and Ms. Young after the very unfortunate event in March where a pre-K student left school grounds unattended. This incident was very concerning, particularly as a parent of a 2nd grader at the school, and a full investigation into what happened and changes to prevent similar lapses in the future are critically needed.

However, I'm concerned that dismissing Dr. McCain and Ms. Young may not have been an appropriate step given that I understand they did what was expected of them after the incident, and it doesn't get at the root of the problem in terms of staffing in the pre-K/PLT program and other under-resourced programs at JH. Most importantly, regardless of the policy or procedures that are guiding ACPS's response, our experience with Dr. McCain and Ms. Young has been excellent, and they should be part of the solution to problems at JH.

To support this, I wanted to recount one personal experience in particular that inspired my confidence in them as our admin team. Last spring, when I was picking up my JH student from his Campagna aftercare program with my two year old in tow, I headed back to the parking lot and witnessed several older children in the parking lot brandishing guns. I was terrified. I strapped my kids into their car seats, drove away as quickly as possible, called 911 from the road, and emailed Dr. McCain and Ms. Young. They got back to me quickly, noted that they had already contacted the ACPS Office of Security, and asked me to be sure to let them know if other such incidents

occurred. I appreciated their responsiveness in the face of such a stressful incident for me and my family.

For all of these reasons, I request the school board's support in ensuring a transparent, fair process in this investigation, and particularly one in which our trusted admin team can play a part.

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