

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Sep. 24, 20 -- 8:42: AM	Gabrielle	Harris	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>Hello, My name is Gabrielle Harris and I am currently a student at Glen Allen High School. I'm writing this comment in support of the Diversify Our Narrative petition. Diversify Our Narrative is a national student-led grassroots organization working to diversify high school education primarily through English curriculum. We have obtained over 700 signatures from HCPS parents, students, teachers, and alumni. Along with requesting a more diverse English curriculum, we are also asking that a Cultural Sensitivity Training Course be implemented for all Henrico County Middle and High School students. We hope we have your support in our efforts in making Henrico County a place of inclusivity where all students are represented in their education. I stand in support of this because in my high school English classes, I've never been taught a book by an author of color or a book that centers a story of a person of color. As a young Black woman in predominantly white schools, I've always looked to stories by Black authors to find people (characters) that I can relate to. In school, I've always had to seek those stories out because I was never taught them. In English classes, I made to read stories by white authors that center stories of white characters and find universal themes in them. It's not only important for me to have the opportunity to find universal truths in books by people of color which characters of color but for all students to. All students should have the opportunity to see themselves reflected in the literature taught in their English classes. For these reasons, I urge you to take action and support this petition in mandating these requests.</p>
Sep. 24, 20 -- 11:30: AM	Christine	Williams	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>Please - our kids need to go back to school in person. We just want that option. Those who want to stay virtual can, but please give us the option of sending our kids back in person. Almost every other school district in the state is moving in that direction, except for Henrico. Our kids deserve better and our taxes pay for in person learning. Please give us a CHOICE.</p>

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Sep. 24, 20 -- 2:11: PM	Martha	Jamieson	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I am reaching out to you today as a last resort. I have a 3rd grader at Tuckahoe Elementary and a 6th grader at Tuckahoe Middle. We entered into virtual learning with our heads held high, desks organized, supplies available, and positive attitudes. I am an involved parent with my own business (which I have put on hold to be around for my kids). I set daily schedules with early wake-up calls so my kids can eat breakfast and exercise before class. I am all in. This being said... virtual learning has proven to be monumentally more challenging than I had ever imagined. On any given day, my 6th grader who was diagnosed with ADHD in 1st grade, comes down crying every lunch break because he is overwhelmed and stressed. My 3rd grader, who before virtual learning, loved snuggling with me and heading to school, today is combative, argumentative and "hates" school. Our family is falling apart and the stress in our home is overwhelming. All of this and we are astutely aware of how fortunate we are to have an easier situation than most. I have been to school board meetings and I have watched online. I understand your scientific approach, the data that you are using to make your decisions. However, there is little to support your interest in any other data, that of our children's success and their mental health. It has been proven that 99.9% of people under the age of 50 will not get seriously ill, yet we stifle the healthiest. You use the data in fear and hold us hostage while other school systems are mitigating the risks and moving forward. Parents and children need a light at the end of the tunnel. Some discussion from their board to show that they are concerned and working to get everyone back in the classroom. My children see their friends already back at school. Their lives are progressing while ours stand still or regress. I believe that waiting until October 22nd to discuss returning kids to the classroom by the first week of November is too late to wait. This gives the perception that you have no intention of getting kids back to school at all. This is certainly how I see it. This is torturous and abusive. The children deserve to learn to love learning, not be force fed it. As my children see it...you have taken everything fun out of school and forced them to endure the rest. I plead for you to look at the entire picture here. This is not just numbers and data. This is the lives of children, their families, and their communities.</p>

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Sep. 24, 20 -- 5:55: PM	Lindsay	Andiola	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I write to you today as a very concerned constituent. After three weeks of virtual learning I need to acknowledge to you that it is NOT working for 1st graders. We have an absolutely amazing teacher on the other end of the video that has such a kind heart and so much patience, but 1st graders cannot navigate a Chromebook on their own and even with hand holding the Microsoft teams is fickle, many of the apps are very hard to understand and when you have a student who cannot read instructions it is virtually impossible to get all of them to do an online assignment. My little first grader has been in tears so many times the last 3 weeks because he can't figure out how to get to the assignment, he can't hear his teacher, he gets kicked out of chrome. It is so miserable. There are times when everything goes well for 30 minutes, but the constant issues just really seem to make the experience more detrimental than the 30 minutes of goodness. Beyond this, I do not understand how all these daycares, preschools, private schools, etc. can find a way and be flexible and work it out and our public system cannot find away to at least get the students that are most at risk of failing and falling behind (those with disabilities and K-2). I do not understand how Godwin High can be used for virtual learning and the YMCA can charge parents for this service, but the constituents cannot use these buildings that we pay tax dollars for. Chesterfield County Superintendent just announced yesterday that they plan to bring their first cohort in, and it sounds like their next cohort of K-3 is going to enter a hybrid environment very soon. Why cannot we not be more flexible in our county? Why can the board not realize that the decision they made at the end of July was fine for then, but is not fine now. Start making a move now to get K-2 back into school. There are so many examples out their in districts all around Richmond that are generally succeeding (Hanover, Powhatan, Goochland). Waiting the entire first 9 weeks does not make any sense. Be flexible, realize that this situation is not working for the youngest students and that their are examples of environments that are getting students face-to-face without increased rates of COVID. The school board and the county need to get more creative, more innovative, and more flexible to make this happen.</p>
Sep. 26, 20 -- 8:31: AM	Merrill	Milani	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>While I understand how difficult remote learning is, nothing has changed re the virus and I hope the school board votes to continue remote learning at least through the end of the year. I don't want teachers to get sick and I don't want my student to bring the virus home to me. Students will not wear masks properly or at all. And if there a ton of safety precautions needed like plexi glass etc faculty and staff will spend more time managing logistics and less time focusing on teaching. It will give our community a false sense of security. Please do the right thing.</p>

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Sep. 26, 20 -- 1:26: PM	Joel	Silverman	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Our DSF sophomore is building strong relationships with her teachers, engagement rich conversations with her peers, and overall learning as expected through the virtual learning program. We appreciate all the hard work that's gone into it, appreciate the breaks built into the schedule, teacher's encouragement for kids to move around, creativity around assignments like podcasts, during which kids can actually move and work and learn at the same time. Overall, I appreciate my daughter being kept safe while learning and wanted to thank you and the entire team at Henrico County public schools for your efforts. I encourage you continue to focus on learning and health and safety for students teachers and staff.
Sep. 27, 20 -- 11:44: PM	Stephen	Hawthorne	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Members of the School Board, I implore you to continue with virtual instruction in HCPS until the end of the first semester. As the weather cools and the days shorten Henrico citizens are returning to gathering indoors in closer contact and for longer times. I fear that the infection and death rate of this deadly pandemic we are all experiencing will increase. Respectfully, Stephen Hawthorne

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Sep. 29, 20 -- 10:32: PM	Christine	Hopkins	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>We are in the 4th week of an extremely unique school year. No one expected last March that we would be teaching students virtually due to a virus that has shut down all aspect of our lives. Our lives have been permanently changed. We have lost over 200,000 Americans & many of us have lost someone. I personally lost my brother in May. But the HCPS teachers & staff have rallied & changed everything we do. We shifted from teaching in our classes to online. The first few weeks were tough, but students & teachers made the adjustment. My class's attendance has been great & students are completing their work & learning new material. HCPS is now preparing to assess the year so far & make plans for the MP2. I ask to keep things as they are. Our students have a routine & are many are doing well. We have given the students a sense of normalcy within the abnormal. With the virus still effecting our county, we should not make any changes that may have to be reversed later on or put our children & staff at risk. I am also extremely concerned that bringing students back too soon may make teachers feel they have to choose between keeping family safe & their career. I've been with HCPS for 20 years 16 at TMS & I love my job, my students & the faculty. I have never thought of leaving the district. I have fiercely defended my school & district at all times. However, I may now start to question how much the county cares about me & my fellow teachers. My parents live with me because my mother's health is fragile. She is battling multiple forms of cancer. Her many amazing doctors have a long term plan of medications & procedures that will enable her to live many more years. However, they have also told us that if she becomes sick with COVID, it will kill her. We have taken every precaution available to protect her - masks, hand washing, missing family & friends, no church, limiting trips to stores, & ordering online. Since the beginning of summer, HCPS has been telling the faculty they will be given the option to teach virtually this year if students return to the buildings. I am dismayed to learn the options now are to teach face to face & virtual at the same time or resign/go out on FMLA. You are asking me to choose between a career I love & my mom. That is an unfair choice & in direct opposition to what you reassured us over & over for months. So I ask you, which choice would YOU choose: your career or your mother?</p>
Sep. 30, 20 -- 3:22: PM	Janice	Dumitru	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>Our son, daughter in law and 6 year old granddaughter are currently living with us. Harper is enrolled at Ridge Elementary, but goes to the Special Needs class at Tuckahoe Elementary. Harper has severe autism. In February, they moved here from Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, NC, when our son got out of the Army. She was in Ms. Leuder's class at Tuckahoe for a week, when the school shut down due to Covid. She has not had any therapy since leaving North Carolina. The virtual learning does not work with our granddaughter, as her attention span and focus is impossible to maintain. Now we hear that they are going back for one day a week for 2 hours?? When is there time for any therapy, let alone learn anything? If the Henrico school district is unable to meet our granddaughter's needs, I am requesting that we be allowed to pursue a different learning environment in a private school at the county's expense. Our family has been very pro-active in Harper's therapy and development, and we do not want this regression to continue.</p>

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Oct. 2, 20 -- 8:45: PM	Desiree	Hopkins	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	There should be ZERO mask exemptions. If someone can't wear a mask they should stay home. And does the district have enough masks for all the students who will forget their mask at home? We constantly give out pencils in a normal year but do we have enough masks?
Oct. 2, 20 -- 8:57: PM	Whitney	Hatcher	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella, Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I have 4th and 6th graders who are both having phenomenal experiences with virtual learning. All their teachers at Springfield Park ES and Moody MS bring their own spin to virtual instruction, and they are all truly incredible. My school-loving kids continue to love school, and are always excited to log in each morning and finish every day with a smile. Education is extremely important to our family, and we are grateful for the top notch educators we're blessed with in HCPS. However, health and safety is our biggest priority. As a family with individuals at additional risk, we have been extremely cautious throughout the pandemic, and we are extremely grateful for Henrico's virtual choice. I urge you to continue to focus on safety, and the safest option is to continue with the predominately virtual setting which we are currently using. Our nation's president and First Lady, as well as our VA governor and First Lady, have all been diagnosed with COVID-19. If these individuals, with access to any and all preventative measures, tests, and treatments, cannot be protected, I believe it is too big of a gamble to risk the health and safety of Henrico's students, teachers, staff, and families by returning to school buildings so soon. Thank you.
Oct. 2, 20 -- 9:24: PM	Karina	Blanton	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I believe the decision on in person education should be the decision and determined by each family during this pandemic. Each family and each student either is struggling or adapting to learn in the virtual environment. We must allow each family to have the opportunity to make the decision. This is a free and public education that as tax payers we have the right to make that determination.
Oct. 3, 20 -- 11:16: AM	Keri	Danna-Link	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	To be clear, I believe that in person learning should be the goal but there are two primary negative impact that need to be considered. 1) The timeline you all have set forth is counter productive to the health of our community. By returning to f2f in the middle of November, we would be increasing exposure right before Thanksgiving and winter break. HCPS does not want to be the cause of widespread community spread during the holiday season. 2) My family has avoided inside restaurants since March. There is no way having a group of children eating inside a poorly ventilated classroom everyday is a safe option. Add to this forcing the teacher to eat his or her lunch in the same room and it will be a matter of time before the virus is spread. I currently teach at a private school where we wear masks and have 6-10 children in a classroom. We have already had a teacher and children contract the virus and have quarantined a classroom. This is a small, very controlled environment in a new building where we have plenty of cleaning product and a sink to wash hands in each room. I know this is not the case is the majority of Henrico school, especially at the high school level.

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Oct. 3, 20 -- 11:18: AM	Kristin	Obeck	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III, Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins, ESL Itinerant: Fairfield MS, Elko MS, Rolfe MS, and Varina HS	Are you planning to hire more custodial staff at every school if we return to school in the near future? Are you planning to hire more ESL/LIEP teachers in the coming months?
Oct. 3, 20 -- 2:29: PM	Jillian	Flowers	Exceptional Education Teacher at Crestview Elementary School	I have significant concerns about returning to work in person at any capacity. My primary concern is contracting the illness, missing time from work (which will cause stress when I return), and possibly living with permanent medical issues as a result of COVID. I am grateful to work in a county that cares about the health of its employees and students. I am hoping that the care and consideration I have seen from the county will continue for the second quarter of this school year. I am an exceptional education teacher that works in general education classrooms to teach and support my students. Given COVID restrictions, would I be allowed to teach in the same classroom as my general education co-teachers? I've heard that there have been concerns about teachers and students mixing groups. If I'm not able to be in the same room as my students and co-workers, then it doesn't make sense for me to come in and work from the building. My students receive exceptional education services in the general education classroom, so pulling them and keeping them with me all day is not an option given by their current IEP. Changing the model will put more pressure on exceptional education teachers, which, as I mentioned before, is a concern as it relates to teacher burnout. If we do go back in person, will teachers still be expected to use virtual materials? If teachers are still expected to use virtual materials, then why are students in the classroom? It feels unsafe and illogical to bring students to school in groups to give them the same instruction they could receive at home, in a more flexible environment. Some students have thrived in the virtual environment due to the flexibility of turning in assignments and the ability to move around during instruction however they need to. Some students, especially those with sensory or emotional needs, will be negatively affected by coming back to school and finding it very different. Students will not be able to interact with their peers or teachers the way that they are used to, which could be damaging to their mental health. Additionally, the fear of bringing an illness home to their family members may prove too much for some students to handle. Thank you so much for your consideration of my questions and concerns and for your hard work to make sure that our students are educated in the safest way possible.

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Oct. 3, 20 -- 3:05: PM	Kathy	Woodard	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Families AND teachers need to be guaranteed a fully virtual option. If HCPS guarantees that option for families but not for teachers, then Henrico is sending the clear message that they value the choice of parents over the safety and lives of teachers. One way this could be achieved is to give virtual teachers a full class of virtual students and in-person teachers a full class of in-school students. To solve the problem of a full class not fitting safely into a classroom, in-school students would attend a half day every day. The in-school teacher would teach half the class in the AM and the other half in the PM. This would also solve one of the biggest safety problems of return to buildings because students would not eat lunch in the buildings. It would also make social distancing on school busses easier to achieve. Not only is this plan safer than other plans being considered, but it also makes more people happy because they are able to choose the option that fits their risk level. Finally, giving teachers and families the option to continue fully virtually sends the message that HCPS cares about the health and safety of the entire community, including its teachers.
Oct. 4, 20 -- 9:40: AM	Colleen	Bohlman	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Before you send out a survey about the next 9 weeks and ask for parent/teacher feedback, please provide a detailed description of the options (ie not a bulleted powerpoint that covers only the highest level). As a parent, I need to know for sure if my children will be in a safe environment. I am sure the teachers need to know in detail the implications of their choices. Will masks be required (no medical exemptions) of all people in the school? Will students be sitting at least 6 feet apart in all circumstances? How can a parent find out if their student's situation might vary from meeting or exceeding the guidelines? How will known ventilation issues (ie window units that don't work at J.R. Tucker HS) be addressed in every classroom? What is the remedy for a student who removes or refuses to wear a face covering? Are they immediately removed from the school? What education/community building will be done to ensure all the citizens of the school community understand the expectations and consequences? What plan is in place for reporting and contact tracing? Will I know if someone in my child's school or class is positive so I can choose to avoid (we all get the headlice notices - it's possible and legal to warn us of exposure!). If a family chooses virtual, will the student have the same teachers they started the year with? Will their center classes still be available to them? Will virtual students still have 5 days of quality instruction (which they ARE receiving today at the high school level- we have been very happy) or will it be "less" in order to accommodate whatever the new option(s) are? If students up getting less instruction time as a result of the new plan, it will be a significant negative. Maybe consider leaving high school kids at home - they are independent and capable of doing this without adult presence or support. Focus in-person efforts on special needs and youngest learners where kids can be isolated in small groups with a teacher all day. (In Sweden, for example, where they are praised for keeping schools open, it was actually just for primary students - high school and college are on line.) Virtual learning is going very well for my son - I appreciate all that's been done to make it a quality, full-time learning experience. I fear that pressure to put kids back in school in person will result in a chaotic and less successful learning experience.

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Oct. 4, 20 -- 10:01: AM	Joan	Hodges	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>I'm a middle school teacher in Henrico County and a resident of the county whose only child attended Henrico County Public Schools. I do not have any students currently in the school system. However, I wanted to share my thoughts. I have been getting the message, maybe subliminally, however subtly, that our system seem to be moving toward a hybrid model for the second 9 weeks. As a person who has experienced pulmonary embolism and pneumonia, who is also in her 50s, I am considered high risk. I am afraid of what will happen when we go back to school, so much so that I have completed my last will and testament. I have been researching information about the mutation of the virus that presents in most American and European cases, and this protein mutation allows the virus to replicate in the upper respiratory at much higher levels than the typically Asian presentation of the virus. Though it doesn't make the virus any more infectious in terms of the illness a person will experience, it does mean that asymptomatic people, especially children whom we know to be super spreaders, will present a higher viral load. For people like me, this is dangerous. My question is: if we go back in person, will there be any sort of air purifier or industrial fan provided to the classroom so that we can minimize that viral load? Simply putting a barrier of plexiglass between a teacher and his or her students isn't going to change what's in the air. I know you are working with science experts for contact tracing and incidence of covid-19 in our county, but I haven't heard much about these other aspects. I seem to be reading more and more scientific studies that focus on these elements as the disease progresses and our information becomes greater and the opportunity for longer-term studies presents. Thank you for considering my comments, and I hope that the school board makes a decision that keeps us all safe. I cannot imagine the despair if even one child or colleague dies from this dreaded virus.</p>
Oct. 4, 20 -- 3:35: PM	Karen	Siler	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea, Teach in the Brookland /Kinsella district	<p>As HCPS reviews the Continuum of Reopening Approaches, I ask that you consider alternatives for elementary resource teachers. Any approach after Approach 2 creates a burden on non-classroom teachers who work with multiple age/grade level students in the elementary school. When class size and movement is minimized to limit exposure for students and classroom teachers, this appears that resource teachers will be asked to go into classrooms. This increases exposure for everyone. Assuming students will need supervision in other areas such as hallways, daycare pick up, car rider line, bus pick up/drop off also assumes that resource teachers will be required to cover these duties as they have in the past. This does not take into consideration the exposure this will create for resource teachers. I am immune compromised and my husband is currently unemployed. I do not have a viable option other than to teach virtually during this unprecedented pandemic. Going in person, taking FMLA or resigning would be a detriment to my entire family. Please do not ask all teachers to take a one-size-fits all package. We have unique rolls in the school building and should be considered that way. If families have the option to be virtual, then teachers should have the same option without sacrificing paycheck or their jobs. Thank you for your consideration.</p>

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Oct. 4, 20 -- 3:36: PM	Marcid	Perryman	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please, don't make face to face learning an option for HCPS students at the end of this 9 weeks! There are just so many unknowns at this point and it's not worth the health of students & staff . The teachers have worked so hard to learn virtual teaching & they are doing a wonderful job. Why ruin a good thing and add even more work for these already overworked teachers? Please don't make face to face learning an option during the peak of cold/flu season! Consideration for face to face learning should occur after the Holidays. Please keep HCPS all virtual!
Oct. 4, 20 -- 4:30: PM	Sarah	Collier	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Please keep all students, faculty, and staff virtual for the 2nd 9 weeks of the current school year. Teachers have invested enormous resources into creating virtual classrooms that are meeting the needs of their students, and to change course after only 9 weeks online would be hasty. Covid continues to spread in the community and will likely increase in case numbers as the temperature cools down and people begin to move their outdoor social activities indoors, thus exacerbating the spread of Covid. We are also entering cold/flu season, so it will be nearly impossible to tell if a student with a runny nose or a cough is sick with Covid or just has a cold. There are too many scenarios to plan for every outcome. Staying virtual allows for the most comfort and safety for all students and teachers until Covid is better controlled in the community.
Oct. 4, 20 -- 6:37: PM	Rachel	Suddarth	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	As we consider a possible return to school, I am deeply concerned about the possibility of a hybrid model in which teachers are responsible for simultaneously teaching both in-classroom and virtual students. Not only do I think this is nearly impossible to do well, I worry about the teachers who will have to split their attention between the two groups. Teachers already are working far more than their contracted hours to make virtual learning work. It seems almost impossible that they will be able to simultaneously handle in-person students and meet the needs of those online. I also deeply worry for the students who, at best, will receive 50% of their teacher's attention. While there are issues with virtual learning, the students get 100% of the teacher's attention. They can get immediate answers to questions or assistance completing assignments. What is the point of having students return to the classroom if half of every day their teacher is unavailable because she is tending to the needs of students at home? If we decide on a hybrid model, I strongly hope the school board will consider other models: 1) Paired classrooms so one teacher has the virtual students at all times, and the other teacher has one the in-person. 2) Two days a week of synchronous instruction with a teacher, and two (or three) of asynchronous videos and assignments with office hours for help. 3) Morning sessions with in-person students, and afternoons with virtual students. etc. Requiring the teachers to do both is bad for everyone and will result in less instruction than students are currently receiving and a huge burnout rate for teachers, who are already overworked.
Oct. 4, 20 -- 9:33: PM	Heather	Desper	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	I do not want my child to go back to school until covid is under control. If schools open parents should at least have the option to continue virtual school.

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Oct. 5, 20 -- 8:35: AM	Terra	Balla	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	It is highly disappointing that the board has chosen to delay a comprehensive redistricting given the time and money invested into the process. I am skeptical that the board will move forward with the process and instead will hide behind Covid-19 as the excuse for not making courageous decisions for the good of all students. As a result my son along with countless other students in the Brookland zone will be bussed past the middle school closest to their home to go to their "assigned middle school". In our case that means driving past a school 1.5 miles from our home to go to one that is 12 miles from our home resulting in longer bus rides and increased potential exposure to Covid. This is unacceptable and highlights the inequity and how gerrymandered the school assignments often effecting those in less affluent neighborhoods by placating those constituents in the wealthier neighborhoods. It is time to look at those 4 cornerstones and work to ensure the safety, equity, and opportunity of all students. No child should have to drive past a school to go to an "assigned" school.
Oct. 5, 20 -- 4:10: PM	Audra	Vanderland	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	As you look forward to the second nine weeks, I ask the School Board to hold to their statement this summer that any and all staff and students are able to access the virtual pathway. The easiest way to do this would be to remain virtual. If this is not possible, we must, must avoid forcing faculty or students into classrooms. We are headed into a dangerous time period with coronavirus spread, and no staff or student lives should be placed at risk. Teachers have devoted their lives to building their programs to the best they can be -- and we will lose these teachers... To resignation, to illness, to disability, or to death. Studies have shown that re-opening schools can lead to a 30% spike in cases. Even NYC, who has been able to control the virus much more effectively than our area, is seeing a spike begin to happen. CDC published again, today, that coronavirus is able to be airborne. The largest contact tracing study ever completed states that children account for a huge amount of the spread and can even be super spreaders. Even under a cohort model, we are often bringing our most vulnerable students into the classroom first. Spread within our self-contained classrooms, for example, could be rapid and dangerous due to the high number of adults, unmasked students, and body fluids. These classrooms need extra support in PPE when we consider returning, such as KN95 with fit tests. Finally, as we look to our part-time instructional assistant staff, who are providing a critical service right now, I ask that we re-visit the proposal from previous years to turn more of these positions to full-time and / or to raise their wage. They are phenomenal staff members who deserve a living wage and access to sick leave, benefits, etc...

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Oct. 5, 20 -- 4:28: PM	Dan	Smith	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I am parent of two HCPS students and a husband of an HCPS teacher. I am deeply disturbed about the possible movement for HCPS to move to nearly fully face-to-face in the second nine-weeks. The safety risk for staff & students remains unreasonable. The PPE & other safety supplies that HCPS has stocked up on barely meet safety requirements and are only slated to last a few weeks, at best to Winter Break. In school activities, from learning to lunch, have been given no adequate safety plans, leaving the critical plans of infection control up to individual schools & teachers. The lack of transparency has been so disturbing & worrying, especially with our testing numbers still being so high. Teachers have adapted to this traumatic experience and rose to the moment to educate our students, and stop the process to open high risks for little reason is breach of trust in the HCPS community. To force teachers to choose between their lives & their livelihoods is cruel at a personal level. Please serve our teachers & students and choose what is safe and right. Thank you.
Oct. 5, 20 -- 5:35: PM	CJ	Walker	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	We continue to have higher numbers within the state and no real handle of this virus. The COVID-19 situation with President and many members of his administration reminds me that we are nowhere near getting a handle of COVID-19. With cases continuing to rise with staff and children (in general), we are not ready to return to in-person school. I am also not impressed with the way that are teachers and staff are being forced to make a choice between working or their health or the health of their families. Our teachers have done an amazing job in the midst of an unfortunate circumstance. They are to be valued and they deserve the opportunity to keep themselves and their families safe without being forced to choose. I believe that for the sake of all of us, we need to remain virtual for the 2nd Nine Weeks.
Oct. 5, 20 -- 7:03: PM	Amanda	Beierle	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	It is not safe to transition back into in person learning at this time.
Oct. 5, 20 -- 8:08: PM	Christine	Walker	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I appreciate that you want to get kids back into school BUT I think you are rushing things. I am thinking it is because you want parents to be able to get back to work. Has anyone considered asking for info from parents who can't afford to stay home? Would it be possible to allow that smaller group of kids to come back to school and have their virtual learning day in the school instead of at home. That way you have a consistent learning process for all kids and are helping parents.

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Oct. 5, 20 -- 8:41: PM	Dan	Smith	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I am parent of two HCPS students and a husband of an HCPS teacher. I am deeply disturbed about the possible movement for HCPS to move to nearly fully face-to-face in the second nine-weeks. The safety risk for staff & students remains unreasonable. The PPE & other safety supplies that HCPS has stocked up on barely meet safety requirements and are only slated to last a few weeks, at best to Winter Break. In school activities, from learning to lunch, have been given no adequate safety plans, leaving the critical plans of infection control up to individual schools & teachers. The lack of transparency has been so disturbing & worrying, especially with our testing numbers still being so high. Teachers have adapted to this traumatic experience and rose to the moment to educate our students, and stop the process to open high risks for little reason is breach of trust in the HCPS community. To force teachers to choose between their lives & their livelihoods is cruel at a personal level. Please serve our teachers & students and choose what is safe and right. Thank you.
Oct. 5, 20 -- 8:49: PM	David	Chilton	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Do you seriously consider each and every Henrico County school is safer than the White House ? If the White House couldn't prevent the president and his staff from Covid19, are you arrogant enough to think Henrico can protect teachers and students in a f2f environment?
Oct. 5, 20 -- 9:13: PM	Dulcie	Roe	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I am a preschool teacher in and also live in Henrico county. I was born here, went to college, and came back to Henrico because I love it here. I love that our county has always taken care of teachers and staff and kept their best interests at heart. That being said, if the county is even thinking about bringing students in on a normal basis and not allowing teachers the CHOICE they are allowing students, the train has veered violently off course somewhere. I am so worried that I will be forced into unsafe conditions and be unable to be my best teacher self for my students. I am worried I will catch the virus and my pre-existing asthma will be affected and the effects be terrible and long-lasting over my lifetime. I am only 28 years old. I came into this career hoping that I could be confident in my path and would be able to stay teaching until retirement. This decision is a major one and may impact mine and many other people's entire path of life. Please keep teachers and staff and their lives in mind when you make this decision.
Oct. 5, 20 -- 9:31: PM	Jimmy	Lincoln	QMS and JDES (parent); VHS (teacher)	I want to urge the all the members of the Board to vote to continue a predominantly virtual instructional plan for the entirety of the first semester. The epidimeological data is clear: the COVID situation is little improved from where it was this summer. The pedagogical data (though mostly anecdotal) is also clear: virtual learning, though not perfect, has not been a diaster. In fact, many students are thriving. Henrico County Schools, like most other systems , are not equipped with the infrastructure or funding to safely bring people back into buildings in large numbers. Not being able to return to in person instruction is frustrating for all of us but frustrations and inconveniences should not be weighed against life. Do not be swayed by a very vocal, well-organized minority; please continue to demonstarte the leadership that you have so often demonstrated in the past. Vote to remain virtual. Vote to protect the lives of students, staff, and their respective families. Vote because the data is clear. Vote because you care about equity. Vote as if your life depended because those of countless others do.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 6, 20 -- 7:08: AM	Lindsey	Beckham	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I suggest that instead of working to bring back all students at this time, the focus for the second nine weeks is on the ais, sis, and lis students returning at least 1-2 days a week for instruction. These students are not able to thrive with virtual. While challenging for many, students are getting used to the virtual classroom. Let us wait until the second semester before rushing back all students.
Oct. 6, 20 -- 8:19: AM	kristen	martin	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I appreciate all of your work on improving the virtual platform. My children's teachers are doing a great job. One issue I am having as a parent, is that I feel sort of "in the dark" about what's going on. Without the folders that would come home, it's harder to track the content, when assignments are due, etc. What would be helpful for us is to have a "parent dashboard" on schoology, where you can see relevant due dates along with the most recent grades it displays. As of now, you have to go into each course and check and see when things are due. I realize the teachers are getting to know these platforms as well, so these are just my requests to improve it. The teacher newsletters are helpful, so maybe the content of these could be published on schoology with links, so that parents can check one place for relevant information for all their children. Regarding a return to school, I am hearing that HCPS cannot enforce covid tests for symptomatic students nor require that someone test negative before returning to school after being infected. A recent town hall conversation at Henrico High School revealed that the only enforceable rule is that someone can't come to school with a fever within 24 hours. This is unacceptable and will result in outbreaks within weeks. Please pass a resolution or mandate that applies specifically to covid, requiring negative tests before a return to school, to help keep our students and staff safe.
Oct. 6, 20 -- 8:27: AM	Melissa	McKenney	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Henrico CPS has an award winning CTE program, one which has been developed in house. Chesterfield County and Richmond City school boards have rejected Ford NGL's approach to education. I understand that ChamberRVA is quite intent on bringing it to the Richmond region and that Henrico might be one of its last outlets to do so, but I hope leadership does so with careful consideration of the pros and cons. I will follow up with emails to the board in the next with more details about the program and potential issues. I'm particularly concerned with its heavy focus on creating tracks for all students compared to our current program which is something students can opt into should they show an interest.
Oct. 6, 20 -- 9:35: AM	Meghan	Ely	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Typically, I'd be the ideal parent for pushing a return. We're a dual income home- I have a small business in a failing industry (events) because of the pandemic, and it requires my attention around the clock. My son is in exceptional ed- he has ADHD and requires a parent to literally sit with him the entire day. But ultimately, I can't fathom the idea returning to school despite the considerable hardship it's put on our family. In short, it's simply not safe enough yet. Our COVID numbers are still considerable. I have concerns about the school ventilation. I'm terrified for our wonderful teachers- we can't put them in this position. If we go back, I fear what happens where there is an inevitable case in our schools and we have to shut down. Why not forge ahead and improve upon what we're doing? I live here in Short Pump and see how parents are starting to carry on like nothing is happening- I can't have my child going to school with their children. Please consider keeping us virtual another 9 weeks so we can reassess then. Thank you for your time!

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 6, 20 -- 9:39: AM	Elizabeth	Compton	Employee at Colonial Trail ES, Springfield Park ES, Crestview ES & Pocahontas MS	Please consider staying virtual for the 2nd 9 weeks. It's working so well for so many students and staff, and most of us have gotten the hang of it by now. I'm an itinerant employee, covering 4 schools; I'm often left out of the communication loop at each school. How will I know who has tested positive among the LARGE number of students & staff I'm in contact with each day, not to mention, how is it safe for me to be traveling in between schools? I'm 59 years old; my husband and extended family are all older than me, some with significant health problems. Being forced to go back to work in person will guarantee that I won't be able to see family over the holidays; I'll be too scared that I'll be exposing them to illness. Please don't make me and so many others choose between our livelihood (well-loved careers, benefits, salary) and our lives. Virtual until it's safe again. Please.
Oct. 6, 20 -- 10:00: AM	Catherine	Akers	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella, Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	I filled out the survey for return to school in 2nd 9 weeks. I am very supportive of my children returning to school safely. I am concerned that I heard a child with COVID will be allowed to return to school if they are fever free. I think a child with COVID needs to be virtual for 14 days and have 2 negative COVID tests before they can return to school. This is VERY concerning. How can HCPS be ok with COVID kids being at school????? How is that returning safely?????
Oct. 6, 20 -- 12:21: PM	Loreen	Hitch	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	My comments relate to the extreme overcrowding at Colonial Trail Elementary School (CTES). With the neighboring new neighborhoods growing as rapidly as they are (as well as two new developments that will occur adjacent to CTES), the overcrowding there will only get worse. I'd like to propose a shift of neighborhoods feeding into the school to 1)alleviate the crowding at the school 2)provide safer routes for the students to get to our schools. CTES is bounded by Route 64 and Pouncey Tract Road. It is a natural conclusion that sub-neighborhoods in the Twin Hickory subdivision (Parson's Walk, Cobblestone Landing, Water's Edge, and Hickory Woods) may safely walk to Twin Hickory Elementary School; there is absolutely NO WAY those same children could walk to CTES having to cross and incredibly busy Pouncey Tract Road (which will soon to get busier (and likely widened even more) with two new developments going on that very same intersection). The neighborhoods that are naturally adjacent to the school will fill CTES . The Bacova subdivision that includes hundreds of houses as well as the Marshall Springs community has families that can safely walk to school. If the Twin Hickory Subdivision is moved to a more naturally located and logical Twin Hickory ES, this allows the students in all of these neighborhoods the opportunity to get back and forth more safely to and from school. Ultimately, this may even allow the communities to go to schools further west, especially since Kaechele is 40% empty. Thank you for taking the time to read my ideas.
Oct. 6, 20 -- 12:31: PM	Victoria	Case	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Quioccasin middle schools building is not safe to return. The HVAC doesn't work to standards in all of the classrooms, and there are no windows in the entire building. Also, wearing a mask should be enforced as part of the dress code. If we can strictly enforce the length of girls shorts and shirt sleeve lengths, then we are capable of enforcing a mask policy.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 6, 20 -- 1:04: PM	Jennifer	Oster	Highland Springs High School	<p>I am a teacher at Highland Springs High School and I have many questions and concerns regarding a potential return to the building. Our population is normally around 1900 students and our building struggles to hold that number in a regular year. I have classes of more than 30 and have colleagues with 35 or more. How are we supposed to put any distance between this many students? My classroom regularly has no a/c or heat. Has this and the mold, leaking rook, and other HVAC issues been fixed? Will teachers in the high schools be given any PPE beyond 2 cloth masks and a prayer? When I am infected and my family members are then infected, will HCPS cover our medical costs, including the possibility of my at-risk for severe complications child having long term complications? I understand that virtual is not the answer for all students, but it is in the best interest of the vast majority and deciding to suddenly consider options that you have repeatedly said would not be on the table (ie 5 day full return) shows that you really do not care about the number of staff or students who get sick or who could infect others and the potential for student or staff deaths. Would you be willing to be in these classrooms for a whole day, wearing only a cloth masks, while students eat, learn, and disregard rules—because teenagers are going to be teenagers—in rooms with poor to no ventilation, no hot water to wash hands and less than a foot between students? Until you can say yes, and you agree to be a substitute, then keep us where we are safe. Take a slow and measured approach and not a slapdash, throw everyone back and pray that it works. Thank you for your time.</p>
Oct. 6, 20 -- 1:30: PM	Erica	Angert	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	<p>I am a parent of a middle schooler at Fairfield Middle School, and I have been so impressed by how hard all of my son's teachers have worked to transition to virtual school. I believe that the safest thing for our community is for people who can stay home, to do so. In addition to saving countless lives by removing viral vectors, this has the added benefit of giving everyone equal access to the same education. Any kind of model that puts the entire county in person will inevitably have hundreds of students at a time staying home because of illness, dozens of teachers having to quarantine, etc, which will lead to major disruptions in education if people are scrambling to deliver or receive virtual content when they have been doing so in-person. Keep our staff safe, and let our teachers continue with virtual teaching, now that they have put in so much time and energy to figure out how to do it well. Thank you all for your work on this. It is an impossible situation for everyone in our country, but the more we work together as a community to stop the spread of this disease, the sooner we can safely return to school in person.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 6, 20 -- 1:48: PM	Taylor	Bosta	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	<p>As a teacher in Henrico County I find the survey that was sent out about our intentions if we go back face to face to be insulting. It truly feels as though teachers are expendable. I'm being asked to choose between bankrupting my family by quitting or risking my life and health along with my family's life and health by going back face to face. Virtual teaching is working. I've seen more participation out of my students while virtual than I have in a normal school year. And my attendance has been excellent. Uprooting everyone now by moving to a hybrid or full back model is irresponsible, for the students and teachers. We are all getting into a flow with virtual teaching. If you send us back now, especially at the top of flu season, we will be closed again in a matter of weeks but the learning will be so disrupted by the back and forth. Going back in person only puts everyone at risk. The connection of in person learning will still be affected because we can't hug we can't play, we can barely move around the classrooms and schools for fear of getting sick. So it will essentially be virtual learning in a face to face setting. Students will still have the same amount of screen time but the heightened risk of catching COVID 19. Why would we make that decision? Also, hybrid models are killing teachers. Virtual teaching is hard, yes, but hybrid teaching is adding even more work for your teachers with likely even less planning time, because our planning periods will be taken from us to disinfect rooms and monitor bathrooms. Asking teachers to teach in person and virtual students at the same time is asking to much. If you care about the health, both mental and physical, of your teachers and staff, you will vote for a fully virtual second quarter. If you care about the health of HCPS students and families, you will vote for a fully virtual second quarter. To vote for a hybrid or in person model that forces teachers back into the classroom too soon proves that you do not care about your staff the way you claim to.</p>
Oct. 6, 20 -- 1:53: PM	Angela	Ratay	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I support HCPS continuing with the predominantly virtual model for the 2nd nine weeks. I have huge concerns about face to face instruction. From what I understand, children who are positive for Covid would be able to attend school as long as they're fever free for 24 hours. Could you please clarify whether or not that is the case? Using fever as a baseline is reckless. We know that not all people exhibit fever. These people are still contagious. There is not enough room in school buildings or on busses for kids to maintain proper spacing. The CDC just shared that 6 feet is inadequate and HCPS is only requiring 3 feet of space. Masks are great, but we know that they will not be used properly at all times. What about the recycling of air and out of date HVAC systems? When will the HVAC reports be released? Teachers should be able to continue teaching virtually without fear of losing their current positions. Will they be forced to choose between their jobs and the health and safety of their families? I am concerned that the quality of virtual education my children are currently receiving will not be sustainable when teachers are trying to teach both virtually and face to face. I'm worried that the money and resources that it will take to attempt to reopen in person will leave the kids who stay virtual at a disadvantage and turn a workable system into a dysfunctional one. Virtual learning in Henrico has been very workable and smooth compared to counties that spent their resources opening in person. Is it true that in person will consist of children sitting on their computers doing the same thing they would be doing from home? If so, why attempt to open when it is so risky to do so?</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 6, 20 -- 2:15: PM	Adrian	Edmondson	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	<p>I am. Teacher at HCPS and I am completely frightened to go back to school under these conditions. I have seen several people around me become very ill and some have even died. One of those people was a former student who had a disability. Going back in a time like this is going to create more trauma. I believe that the safest thing for our community is for people who can stay home, to do so. We have put in countless hours to make virtual work. My students are showing up for class. We are establishing relationships. I am able to meet with students virtually anytime for assistance. I have had my students share their screen with me so I can help them or to demonstrate how to do things with other students. This is not ideal but it is better than what they will get in person. Be honest with the community and let them know that going back is not going to be normal. They will have teachers in front of them that is scared for their life. Teachers who want to teach them but will be distracted. Teachers who will be afraid to walk around the room. Are staff expendable? Because, I really don't feel appreciated after seeing that survey. I felt like I was being bullied. Of course, I want to teach my students. I also want all of us to be safe.</p>
Oct. 6, 20 -- 3:01: PM	Erin	Downs	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Board Members, please vote to continue online learning. If there is one thing that has become clear this year, it is how connected we are. As Alicia Atkins stated during the 7/23 SB meeting, education is a three-rung stool held up by schools, families, and communities. Decisions made that do not consider the needs of all end up endangering everyone. If elite members of our society can't avoid COVID, neither can we. On 10/5, the CDC published guidance that COVID can be airborne in "poorly ventilated and enclosed areas that involved activities that caused heavier breathing, like singing or exercise. Such environments and activities may contribute to the buildup of virus-carrying particles." From this, we know that enclosed spaces with poor ventilation, like our classrooms, can lead to airborne transmission. -A study of 85,000 COVID cases and 600,000 of their contacts, published in the journal Science on 9/30, identifies a "high prevalence of infection among children who were contacts of cases around their own age." The study notes that "school closures...during the study period may have contributed to reductions in contact among children. Nonetheless, our analyses suggest social interactions among children may be conducive to transmission in this setting." From this research, we know that children can contract COVID, spread it to older people, and are highly likely to transmit the virus when amongst other children. -Given these findings on child and airborne transmission, and knowledge of our aging school infrastructure, I ask you vote to continue online learning, reevaluating only when Henrico publicly releases HVAC reports demonstrating safe environments. Nightly flushing and HVAC maintenance will not address ventilation problems during the hours staff and students talk, eat lunch, sing, exercise, etc. together. -Additionally, is staff expendable? On the staff questionnaire, we were asked our intent if students return for in-person learning. Our options: teach in-person, seek FFCRA/ADA/discretionary leave, retire, or resign. We have no opportunity to exercise personal judgement for the health of our families, and no chance to vote on which model we will be responsible for carrying out. We all want safe and successful learning experiences for our students. We have worked tirelessly to reach students this year, and the survey did not communicate respect for our hard work or safety. Please ensure staff retention by voting to continue online learning.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 6, 20 -- 3:03: PM	Amanda	Reisner	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	I am writing asking you to remain all virtual for the second nine weeks. I have 2 students, a 1st grader and a 7th grader. Both are thriving virtually and neither one wants to go back yet because they know it isn't safe. As a teacher in the city I am also seeing how successful virtual can be. The teachers are doing an amazing job. The health and safety should be your number 1 priority and honestly I don't feel that can be guaranteed right now. I have so many questions but because of the character limit i will just pose a few. I would love to hear the answers to how students in the GYSA program are going to safely get to school when many take 4 buses each day and working parents can't drive them. I also want to know how at a school like GYSA the teachers are going to do virtual and in person because their is only 1 teacher for each subject. That's not fair to ask them to manage both. What is the protocol if a student or teacher is exposed or has symptoms? We have children in 2 different schools. Will both be impacted because really if one is exposed the other is at risk as well. My youngest wants to keep his teacher but it sounds like that isn't a guarantee. Students will have to start all over building trust and rapport with their teachers and that will take away valuable instruction time. There are so many more unanswered questions and we are headed into cold and flu season. As a teacher I know a lot of kids come to school sick. That will happen no matter what Henrico says and then children and staff are unfairly exposed. Please just make the decision to remain all virtual and save all the children, staff, and families the undue stress of worrying about people getting sick and dying.
Oct. 6, 20 -- 3:31: PM	Ellen	Heberling	Donahoe Elementary	Please consider staying virtual until after winter break - if it's safe to return then. How can we safely come back to school when students and teachers will be most likely seeing their families during Thanksgiving break, and then a few weeks later for Winter break? How can I, a library assistant, safely work in the school when I have to see all 500 students during library? I, and other special teachers, would be super-spreaders. COVID cases are rising and more and more evidence points to the fact that children can spread the virus just as easily as adults do. Please consider the safety of ALL and not just those who want their children back at school to get everything back to "normal." It will not be normal, and in fact, be more harmful for the kids than virtual is. Students and staff have worked so hard to get comfortable in the virtual setting - lets just ride this out a little bit longer. Thanks.
Oct. 6, 20 -- 4:31: PM	Jennifer	Harrell	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I feel not enough information has been given in order for me to answer the survey. what are the procedures for when a student tests positive for covid? how long are they out of school? I heard 24 hours fever free but someone could still be contagious. How will you contact trace and notify people? I'm concerned that kids will be coming to school sick and in some cases parents will be sending them knowing they are sick. How will the teachers be protected?

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 6, 20 -- 4:42: PM	Nancy	McGuigan	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	It is my humble opinion that given light at how dangerous this virus is and how easily it is spread we should hold off until after the first week of January to gradually open schools. Given recent events at the White House, what we know about this virus, lack of testing and just the nature of youth, and fluctuating virus positivity rates in VA as well as the metro area (low to high which indicate to me serious discrepancies in reporting), and flu season, we need to remain virtual until after winter break. In Addition it just doesn't make sense to return to a chopped up 22 day period with a super spreader event (Thanksgiving) after the first 7. I can't imagine you would want to risk serious spread of COVID19 in our community via close contact in school to students, their families, staff and their families, and heaven forbid a tragedy like what happened to Julie Davis a third-grade teacher at Northwood Elementary School in North Carolina who died just the other day, days after testing positive for Covid-19 and while her students were quarantined as a result of exposure. Would you really want this on your conscience?
Oct. 6, 20 -- 4:47: PM	Connie	Miller	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I was appalled at the options given to teachers in the survey. Given the exposure potential due to poor ventilation and small classrooms alone, we will not be safe. Consider that 15-25 (likely more) students will be unmasked in our classrooms while eating lunch and ask yourself if you would take that risk....Not once but daily! And we will also stay in that confined space after those student leave but their airborne germs linger only to be mixed with the next group who walks in the classroom improperly wearing masks. Most of us aren't eating out due to the risk! Yet you will expose us. It is unconscionable. We have been giving everything to strive to make virtual teaching work. We're working well past reasonable hours to do so. We deserve the opportunity to teach virtually from the safety of our homes instead of being forced /coerced to come in and be exposed or basically lose our jobs. There are not proper measures indicated. There is not room for 6 feet of distance. Students will have less instructional time and yet it will still be delivered virtually. There is no point for the mass return of students! Bring back those groups in dire need but not all students need to return. Most don't. You should realize that we teachers are being asked to bear much more risk than the average employee elsewhere due to being confined in a small space for long periods of time with large groups. We won't have N95s. Even the student in your video could not wear the mask correctly. And you didn't notice!!! Perhaps you can hire subs to cover classes of students at school while we teach from home. There are alternatives if you just look for them! You will lose many valuable teachers due to the current options and the lack of transparency regarding actual procedures. Students can attend school with coughs, within 24 hrs of a fever, without a clear Covid test? That is nonsensical! Think outside of the box and keep teachers safe. Be transparent with parents and let them know students will be sitting facing a laptop all day. It will NOT be less screen time than at home. I might qualify for FMLA but I would lose my school in the process. I love teaching and am giving it my all. Perhaps you need to go above and beyond and give teachers your all as well...respect us, value us, treat us as you should and not as worthless as the survey indicates we are in your eyes. I have no respect left. I hope you can resurrect that respect from me and from my colleagues.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 6, 20 -- 5:35: PM	Susan	Scoven	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Frankly the fact that the Board is even considering an in-person return is irresponsible. The cases have not been truly declining, there is no vaccine and all the Sanitation in the world will not protect from the possibility of aerosol spread. Flu season already packs a wallop and cases are likely to rise as the weather gets colder. Why disrupt what is arguably working well to turn our children into guinea pigs? And the ultimatums being offered to teachers are unconscionable. They have already risen above and beyond . Children can make up work, but they cannot overcome permant organ damage or the gulf of infevting a family member.
Oct. 6, 20 -- 6:05: PM	Karen	Finch	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	Dear School Board. The CDC just said that Covid can be airborne, however it is mostly transmitted with droplets between people that are 6 feet or closer. Most classes do not have good ventilation and provide opportunities for covid to spread. There are anywhere between 20 to 45 students per class. If students are to be 3 feet, which is still unacceptable, there is no physical way to do that in any classroom. When students are seated upright there is about 1 foot distance between heads. This is unsafe and impractical. The survey sent to teachers did not ask us any questions, such as do we prefer virtual, hybrid or the 4 or 5 day options. No one asked if we felt safe or were able to come to work. The survey was basically you come to work or you resign. That is ridiculous. It shows teachers that we are not valued and that no one cares about our opinion or how we feel about this. Students will come to school sick and spread the virus. Teachers have come to work sick, some knew it and one had been tested and came to school before they got results. Parents will send the kids in sick or even after being tested. There have been 32 schools with covid cases and that is without students. The only possible outcome of students returning would be to have covid cases at every school and for many to get sick. It also will be disruptive and cause more issues. Please think about this and unlike what the President said we should be afraid of the virus. Many people get really sick and it can take months to recover, don't put people in a situation where this will happen.
Oct. 6, 20 -- 6:16: PM	Amelie	Rives	I work in Henrico.	I felt compelled to write the school board after learning about a very short sighted plan to not require students to quarantine, rather send them back to school after 24 hours symptom free. This displays a severe misunderstanding of what is known about COVID transmission and puts everyone at risk. While I live in Richmond, I work in Henrico, and the school board needs to consider that as cases increase as schools reopen this will contribute to community spread throughout Henrico, Richmond city, and the surrounding counties. Additionally, I am extremely disappointed in the lack of foresight in asking teachers to commit to teaching in person, or effectively resign, with no reasonable plan in place. Teachers need to be at the center of any discussion that occurs regarding going back in person, and as it has been presented thus far, the school board leaves them little option that is guided with health and safety in mind. This pandemic leaves no beat options for anyone, but active teachers need to be included plan making when it comes to their health and safety.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 6, 20 -- 6:59: PM	Alden	Blevins	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Although I do not have children within the schools yet, I am writing to you as a concerned Henrico resident. The premature decision to reopen school buildings for in-person learning when there is not scientific data to support it is one that will impact our entire community. As the schools provide a breeding ground for community transmission, the virus will mutate and transfer to countless other members of our community as we grocery shop or head to essential working locations. Additionally, I fear the disrespect of school employees in asking them to risk their lives in poorly ventilated spaces for inadequate pay may impact the types of candidates Henrico is able to attract long after the COVID-19 pandemic has come and gone. Other school divisions considering similar actions may result in a mass staff exodus from the field of public education that will negatively impact Virginia's students. Please, make the right choice for the health and safety of our community and continue online learning within HCPS.
Oct. 6, 20 -- 7:17: PM	Leslie	Harris	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I was dismayed to get the parent survey that indicated you are considering a widespread return to classrooms next month....just before Thanksgiving, and then winter holidays. This is when colds, flu and Covid are widely expected to rise again. Virtual is working for the majority of students without risking staff or families. Why on earth would you disrupt classes that have bonded in this way, when you should be focused on slowly bringing in those that absolutely NEED to be in the classroom (ESOL, ExEd, youngest learners)? I am also APPALLED at the teacher survey and your callous disregard for staff and teachers. Losing them hurts everyone.
Oct. 6, 20 -- 7:29: PM	Jennifer	Kelley	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I am writing again today to ask that the counties youngest learners, specifically kindergartener (in my case) be allowed back in the classroom. I sit next to my kindergartener, a student at Lakeside Elementary everyday during virtual classes and virtual learning is incredibly inequitable. I constantly have to keep my kindergartener on task and focused, there is no one to do that for the at least half of his class who I can see on the screen that are in daycare. Children in daycare unmute themselves and cannot re-mute themselves, they are called on by the teacher and do not know how to unmute themselves so talk but no one can hear them or they can unmute but no one can hear them over all of the noise in the background. Henrico county did not provide headsets for students and at a title I school like lakeside where 60% of children in a typical year receive a free or reduced lunch you cannot expect families to buy them. There is no way those children are having the same learning experience as my child and that is not equitable and unacceptable. I understand the risks during a pandemic but child care centers with younger children who are unable to wear masks are open and some never closed and have had no issues. We left in March because we were working to flatten the curve and that was done. Families at "wealthier" schools have hired tutors, pod moderators, retired teachers to work with their children, etc...but many families do not have that luxury and that has created a very inequitable school year where the children most at risk in our school system are the ones who are going to be left even further behind.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 6, 20 -- 7:38: PM	Kimberly	Linham	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>HCPS is a great school district. Clearly, one of the best in Virginia, and competitive in the nation. I have been proud to teach here. Right now, HCPS gets to decide if they want to continue that trajectory or fall back. Because to continue to be great, you need teachers who feel valued as professionals, appreciated for their hard work, and whose opinions matter. Since we have always felt that way in the past, we have been able to deliver. That said, as all of these decisions are being made around us, I come back to one thing. No one has asked me, as a professional on the front lines, how I feel virtual learning is going for my students. No one has asked me if the hours upon hours I've spent rebuilding my curriculum and learning a million and one new things is working. What I see each day are 27 smiling faces (who have had perfect attendance asynchronously every single day so far this year) who are excited, engaged, and nothing short of amazing. We see each other's faces. We dance. We chant. We get creative. THEY LEARN. They are happy and they are progressing. My feedback from parents is awesome. Every late night and weekend full of work has been worth it. And we are all safe. No one has asked me how I feel teaching/learning in "Covid Classroom" would compare. In a "Covid Classroom" there will be no dancing, no chanting and singing, and only absolutely necessary movement. As it is, I wouldn't feel comfortable in such a small space with so many bodies and voices, so no whole brain learning. Limited speaking. Less collaboration than we have now. Masks all day. Sitting in one place all day. A teacher who is anxious she could get sick, or worse, or bring Covid into her home. A teacher who feels like a failure because she cannot teach both in person and online at the same time successfully. A warm body. A robot. What has made me cry in the middle of the night is how unhappy my students are going to be once they realize the reality of what it's like to go to school. And for my students who stay virtual- well, I won't be the same there either, will I? I won't be great to anyone. Please give teachers the choice to remain virtual for the 2nd nine weeks. Please give HCPS the chance to keep our community safe. And most of all, please let me continue to teach and contribute to the continued success of HCPS.</p>
Oct. 6, 20 -- 7:57: PM	Beth	Norvell	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Please consider remaining virtual for the 2nd 9 weeks. With the exception of our very youngest children and our very most challenged students, my students are learning. I am a speech-language pathologist at an elementary school. I have learned how to engage children virtually. To my surprise, there have been some hidden benefits to the virtual platform. I have more contact with parents and caregivers which has allowed me to model and instruct them about speech therapy techniques to assist in achieving goals. There is less time spent coming and going to and from therapy sessions, giving me more time to spend directly on therapy activities. The majority of my caseload is making measurable progress on their IEP goals. I know this pandemic has stretched and stressed families and I know this is so difficult. But this is a time like no other and we must rise to the occasion. I am almost 60 and my parents are in their 80's. Returning to in person school would put me at risk, especially since I have a caseload of 60+ children. If I were to return to school, I would be at increased risk for covid -19 myself and I would have to suspend contact with my parents. Please do not bow to the voices of parents that are unable and unwilling to acknowledge the risks that an in person return to school poses. Allow us to have the time needed to make progress against Covid -19. Hopefully we will soon have a vaccine and will see the end to the Corona virus. Thank you.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 6, 20 -- 8:06: PM	Julie	Atlas	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	<p>1)Options in survey are undefined2)Eating in classrooms is not safe.Can a covered area for students to eat outside, even during the winter be built?3)Adequate cleaning supplies is undefined.4)Ventilation systems do not work frequently. many rooms are windowless.5)What is the plan for substitute teachers and lack of subs? What will happen with students when the teacher is gone and there is no substitute? 6)Will Coaches/ Admin/ Resource/ IA's be bounced through multiple classes to meet student needs? What will be done to keep employees in multiple classrooms safe from multiple classroom exposures?7.)What documentation is needed to work from home? What happens if more teachers want to work from home than students?8)What is the plan for sick students and teachers? If a student is not picked up will they be sent back to class? Can they return to school before the quarantine period is up? If a sibling is diagnosed will their sibling also be sent home ?9)Will 14 day quarantines be mandated? How will they be enforced? Will a doctor's note be enough to return to school? Will classes be quarantined if a student or employee becomes sick with COVID? Will others be notified?10)Will teachers be paid their full wage every time they are put in quarantine, even if they are sick and unable to work virtually? Will sick days be taken? Will this be done as a workman's comp? 11)What will be done to protect employees' families? Is the hotel still an option if quarantined? Will food be provided?12)What will happen if students refuse/ cannot wear masks? Will teachers be required to be in the same room with them? Will teachers have the right to refuse entry to their classroom if the student is not wearing a mask? How many redirections will a student be allowed before in-person instruction is no longer an option?13)What PPE is being provided to employees? Will the PPE be replaced daily? Weekly? Monthly? Never?14)What is being done to allow hand washing to be increased in classrooms. HSES water to sinks must be held on while in use. Also sinks are only accessible to students after using the toilet by opening 2 heavy doors. Soap is also only accessible by touching a high touch area to make the dispenser work.15)What supplies will the district supply for students?16)What kind of COVID testing will be done with staff and students to find asymptomatic carriers? Who bears the cost?</p>
Oct. 6, 20 -- 9:39: PM	Michele	Butts	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	<p>As an African American woman, I'm high risk. Not to include my heart issue and my husband's underlying medical concerns. We have teens. We want to see them in college and married. As an IA the last 6 years, I've given 110% and brought home strep, stomach bugs, the flu, and sosome unknown viral concern in January. My husband was so sick he asked me "what did I give him". I want to work with our fabulous students when it's safe. Those students sometimes need a extra hug after being pryed from the playground or hand over hand assistance...I can't give that 6 or THREE feet away. I've been gone from corporate America 6 years making substantially more, so it's not about the money or 13.00/hr / \$18,469. It's about me becoming the teacher that I aspire to me in just a few months. I want to walk across the stage in May and have my own Integrated services classroom...right now I don't feel I'll be placed in a safe environment to even get there.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 6, 20 -- 9:49: PM	Crystal	Brinn	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	<p>VENTILATION * What does adequate ventilation look like? And how many school would have “adequate” ventilation systems? * What about classrooms with no windows or ventilation? * What about bathrooms? * Will HEPA air filters with UV light be purchased for teachers who want one for their classroom? LUNCH * When do we go to the bathroom if students are eating in our classroom? * Will students walk to the cafeteria and back to the room for lunch? * Will students eating indoors together be 100% safe? CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT * How do we enforce masks? What happens to students who refuse to wear masks or wear them improperly? * How will class function for hands-on classes where group learning and cooperation is necessary, such as science and electives? * Will class essentially be virtual learning in the same room? * What is the procedure if a teacher needs a sub and the job cannot be fulfilled? VIRTUAL/IN-PERSON SPLIT * Will we have the responsibility of teaching both virtual and in-person? * What is the legality of recording our lessons with students in the room? PERSONNEL * Will we be expected to teach our f2f class virtually if we are quarantined due to potential exposure? * What is the difference between a release of contract and a resignation? * Who will determine if a teacher meets requirements for CDC or ADA to remain virtual? * Will there be additional personnel for maintenance and sanitation? * Will SB members be volunteering for substitute positions in their district? ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS * How will information of positive cases be distributed? Will all cases be disclosed and will contract tracing happen for all cases? * If a student or staff member tests positive will they be required to have a negative test result before returning to school? * Will f2f class sizes be capped to allow 6 feet of distance between students? * How will school distinguish between COVID-19 and the Flu? * What is the plan for transportation and will there be social distancing on buses?</p>
Oct. 6, 20 -- 10:17: PM	Brooke	Zehmer	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>As a current HCPS parent and former PK/K/1 classroom teacher (not in HCPS), I am deeply concerned about the possibility of anything other than virtual instruction during the second nine weeks. Keeping all students and staff safe will be a logistical nightmare. There are FAR more questions than answers and WAY too many variables beyond the county’s control. I recognize that virtual instruction is not ideal, but I am impressed by all that I have witnessed thus far. I currently spend my days monitoring the online schooling of my own kids (7th and 9th grade) plus two children of a HCPS teacher (K and 3rd grade). So many HCPS employees have worked tirelessly to make virtual instruction a viable option in these unprecedented times. My kids truly miss in-person school, but I worry that cold /flu season is the WRONG time to rush back into classrooms and buildings that do not allow for proper social distancing or offer ideal air ventilation. As an educator, I firmly believe it will be detrimental to ALL students’ learning if teachers are required to simultaneously manage in-person AND virtual instruction. I am also extremely disheartened by the options presented to our hard-working teachers in this week’s survey. I do NOT support HCPS essentially “forcing” employees to sacrifice personal health / safety in order to keep a job they love and/or need... Especially since a viable SAFE-FOR-ALL option is already in place. I urge you to tune out all the “noise” and vote to keep HCPS predominantly virtual through the 2nd nine weeks.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 6, 20 -- 10:39: PM	Rhea	Whitlock	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I am currently in quarantine because I tested positive for COVID, after being exposed to a teacher who tested positive in one of my classrooms (another county). She was not wearing a mask. My husband and three small children all now have the virus and I fully believe they could have been spared getting this disease if I had been notified within a reasonable time frame of the school becoming aware that she had a positive test. So my questions for HCPS: What is HCPS policy regarding notification of potential exposure for employees and students? If a student/teacher tests positive what will they have to do to return to school? I would like an example of a timeline from positive test to return to school. If a student comes to school with symptoms (ie a fever) will they be required to see their doctor and be evaluated before returning to school? FYI: Myself and my family have never had an elevated temp over 99.1 so fever should not be the only indicator to watch for. Who will contact trace? I had to self report to the health department before they contact traced the individuals that I had been around. Finally, how will HCPS contact any contractors, volunteers, subs etc who are in the school and around children to notify them of a possible exposure and therefore prevent them from visiting another school?
Oct. 6, 20 -- 10:58: PM	Madison	Pappano	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	The eagerness to return to school and risk the lives of students and teachers is shameful. One student or teacher death is too many. If the School Board forces us to return before it's safe, you will have a stain on your legacy that will last forever. Everyone will remember you as the School Board that sacrificed lives just to attempt to return to "normal." This problem is temporary but the consequences of a premature return to school will be permanent. By returning to schools too early, you are ensuring that some students and teachers will never see a normal school setting again. Teachers have worked so hard to ensure that students are receiving a quality education in the virtual setting. Students have been putting in hard work as well. Attendance for all of my classes has been outstanding, with nearly perfect attendance most days of the week. I've experienced fewer discipline issues, students are more engaged with the material and are turning in assignments at a higher rate than in a typical school year. Forcing teachers to teach virtual AND in-person simultaneously will not only have a negative impact on teachers mental health, but on students as well. Teachers will be spread thinner than they are now and quality of education will suffer. Virtual learning does not come without its challenges but it's the absolute option we have right now! In an info graphic shared by the county just recently, it was said that if you are able to work from home you should and to avoid groups larger than 10. How can you justify sending students and teachers back into classrooms with 15+ people, especially when some of these buildings have HVAC systems that are less than functional? I breathed a sigh of relief when the School Board unanimously voted for a virtual start to the school year. However, I feel as though you are now letting a few disgruntled parents bully you into this decision, thus altering your moral compass. I have faith that you will make the safe and equitable decision to keep virtual (and keep us safe) for the second nine weeks. Thank you.
Oct. 6, 20 -- 11:38: PM	Travis	Ely	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	As the parent of a second grader I'm extremely anxious about any rush to bring children back and the resultant disruption to current classes that it will cause.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 7, 20 -- 8:27: AM	Maria	Kirtley	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I am extremely concerned of the lack of details provided in my parent survey. I have no idea how assignments will be submitted, how bathroom and hallway transitions will go, how recess and lunch will be handled, and what happens if a child has a medical mask exemption and is placed in my child's class. I also have concerns about children being allowed back to school after being fever free for 24 hours and yet not required to have a negative test and students only using 3ft distancing indoors. The most recent CDC guidelines underscored my concern for the HCPS scenarios not aligning. The recent HCPS Facebook post about safety guidelines for work don't even align with the protocols for having children and staff inside our public schools. They recommend 6 ft and to work from home if possible. Virtual is not only possible, but it is the responsible choice. My family and I have sacrificed many things since last March to keep the rate of community transmission low, but returning during cold/flu season and with some much unknown about this virus is irresponsible. Please consider voting to remain virtual for the second nine weeks and keep our students and staff safe!</p>
Oct. 7, 20 -- 8:54: AM	Sarah	Feierabend	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>It was very challenging to fill out the simple survey HCPS sent out because of all the ambiguity surrounding the scenarios. I started but have yet to submit the survey. I would hate the board to receive all this data and then when the specifics are announced, everyone would change his mind. I'm afraid the teachers are going to be overworked (as if they're not already!) I have 2 elementary school children at KES. We love our teachers and are doing reasonably well with virtual learning, but I'd love the opportunity to get them back in the school with their same teachers. However, if the teacher will be teaching the class in person and simultaneously a virtual group, I think learning will be hindered in both cohorts. Maybe taping the lessons is more feasible, but to jump back and forth, esp. with all the technological hiccups involved, is near impossible. I've also heard talk that if they go back to school, they will still be glued to their desks in front of the screen all day, surrounded by plastic, wearing a mask. If that's the case, we'd rather stay virtual. I think there needs to be different policies in place for elementary, middle and high school education; my 5 and 7 year old learn much differently than someone 15. With all this being said, we want to remain with our current teachers and school as long as they're not stretched too thin (teaching both groups simultaneously). Thank you so much for your time and hard work to find the best solutions--I appreciate your efforts.</p>

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Oct. 7, 20 -- 8:57: AM	Valerie	Kelly	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Now that the CDC has formally acknowledged that there is airborne transmission of Covid-19 we now know that: 3 feet apart and even 6 feet apart, plexiglass, and hand sanitizer - do not mitigate risk for an airborne virus. Sending kids back 2, 3, 4 or 5 days a week so students can improperly wear their masks for 6+ hours a day is foolish and dangerous. If it is ok to send kids back to school, then why aren't school board meetings held IN PERSON? Why aren't HCPS sponsored parent forums in person? Because it is not safe to meet in person right now. The staff questionnaire sent to HCPS teachers regarding the 2nd 9 weeks of school is shameful and reprehensible to basically offer teachers an all or nothing approach to teaching. HCPS has made it very clear to the entire community that HCPS does not care about its teachers and staff and that they are expendable. As a member of the community, I am disgusted at the treatment of our teachers and sad that HCPS is treating its most valuable resource in this way. Catering to the small group of parents who want full F2F teaching without regard to safety will only cause teachers to resign, retire early or get sick and die. Teachers are professionals, they are not glorified babysitters, and deserve to be treated with respect by everyone, especially the school board, so set an example. HCPS needs to support children whose parents must work out of the home, ESL learners, kids with IEPs and other special cases IF those teachers are willing to go F2F. As hard as it is to be a working parent overseeing virtual school, it is much harder to bury a child or tell them that their teacher has died. My kids will continue virtual learning no matter what the HCPS decides. It is the only safe option going into the winter with an uncontrolled, airborne virus in the community that has killed over 210,000 Americans with no end in sight. HCPS needs to respect their teachers and staff and offer virtual learning for the 2nd 9 weeks. Teachers are working very hard to make virtual school a great experience and it's working. They need our support and they need our respect, not an ultimatum.</p>
Oct. 7, 20 -- 9:41: AM	Lindsay	Mosca	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>There is no easy decision to be made here. Regardless of what is decided, there will be a group of people angry. I do not envy your position. That being said, I can only speak from mine and my child's own personal experience. Virtual learning is okay. It's not great but it's also not terrible. I have never experienced my child saying she doesn't want to do school more than I have since the start of this year. She constantly asks (and sometimes cries) about when she will get to go back when almost every other county is back or on their way. She asks why she can go to dance classes and music classes but can't go to school. She asks why her brother can go to preschool and the playground but she can't go to school. I don't have answers because in looking at the data, she should be able to be IN school. While it would be great to have a vaccine or have COVID eliminated, that's not going to happen for a long time. I truly worry for the day that my child stops asking about when she can go back to school because that will mean she no longer cares about school. Our children and teachers deserve the option to be face to face. It can be done safely. There is going to be risk. That risk cannot be eliminated in this day. Please allow us the option to have our children face to face. Thank you</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 7, 20 -- 10:01: AM	Casey	Burton	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I just want to be sure that I am clear on some facts. Hanover County has been offering in person learning from the start of the school year, Chesterfield County is bringing back ES students in Cohorts starting Oct. 12th, and Goochland County plans to begin bringing students back on Oct. 19th. Yet, Henrico County, with arguably the largest budget and resource pool cannot seem to manage to announce similar re-opening plans? If I've got my facts straight, Chesterfield County serves about 58,000 students in 62 school facilities - we serve about 52,000 students in 72 school facilities. Therefore we have LESS students and MORE facilities but can't seem to develop a plan for in-person instruction? Are parents just supposed to sit back and watch all of our surrounding sister jurisdictions figure out ways to think "outside the box" and re-open while we watch our children stare at computer screens for an unknown length of time, possibly 18 weeks or more? Don't our surrounding jurisdictions have similar health metrics to our County, as I have not seen any major outbreaks amongst daycare facilities, YMCA care, PAL centers, or Hanover schools that have been supporting the virtual learning or in person? What am I missing here? Why do we seem to be the most archaic and least innovative amongst our surrounding jurisdictions? I thought we were supposed to be the regional leaders in educational quality - and I'm just not seeing that.</p>
Oct. 7, 20 -- 10:18: AM	Heather	Boyce	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I have three children at HCPS. They are thriving in the virtual format. As we enter cold and flu season, and it becomes more difficult to distinguish between those illnesses and COVID, I don't want them to bounce back and forth between virtual and in-person as their schools discover cases and attempt to quarantine. It's possible to have no symptoms, test negative for COVID one day and then days later, test positive. We don't have any reliable testing or contact tracing. How can we track who has the virus on any given day and to whom they may have spread it? I'm not confident that my first grader and his peers can properly wear a mask all day and stay the CDC recommended distance of 6 feet apart. It's physically impossible for them to be 6 feet apart if they are simply sitting in their desks. I believe it may be more stressful for them to see each other in this masked, restricted environment. I'm not in a rush to come back to an in-person school experience that doesn't include recess, gym, lunch with friends, etc. I'd rather have my elementary children learning at home than sitting at a desk all day and being physically present with their friends but not able to go near them or play games with them. As for my middle schooler, she is at Moody in the IB program. The halls there are overcrowded to begin with, let alone during a pandemic. The bathrooms are inadequate for all students to be able to wash their hands before lunch, and I don't want to have to rely on middle schoolers to sanitize their desks properly. Ventilation in the school is also inadequate. Teachers are already overwhelmed and shouldn't be responsible for sanitizing their entire rooms on a frequent basis. Our teachers are doing a PHENOMENAL JOB of teaching virtually. They are already overburdened, and I think it's cruel to ask them to teach both virtually and in person. Many of them have health conditions or vulnerable family members that make them high risk if they contract COVID. I don't want to use them as guinea pigs. If the county moves to a hybrid format, I worry about breaking up the relationships that children have built with their teachers. Switching to a new teacher would completely disrupt the learning process. Until we have a reliable vaccine, or widespread and frequent testing and contact tracing, I request that we continue in an all virtual format.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 7, 20 -- 11:23: AM	Brittany	Crafton	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I am deeply concerned with any school doing face to face. It puts teachers and students at risk. There is absolutely no way parents can be trusted to do the right thing when there are so many people who do not believe the virus is even real. I do not believe other countries that are open have been truthful with the numbers. If we have already been doing virtual and closer when there were 10 cases how can we open when there are thousands.its not ri ghb get ti ask teachers to risk their lives bc parents cant teach or feel its tough. I'd their children and up sick or worse they really do not gave to worry about it. Most teachers are older or have young children,we simply can not trust people to do the right thing. This is lives we were risking its unethical
Oct. 7, 20 -- 12:00: PM	Amanda	Smallwood	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	The recent "survey" sent to school staff is an unfair position to put school employees in after making so many promises this summer. It is extremely disappointing to see commitments made by school leadership walked back because it is no longer politically correct or popular. According to VDH's own school metrics, Henrico is considered "higher risk" of transmission of COVID in schools, as of 10/07/2020: https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/key-measures/pandemic-metrics/school-metrics/?fbclid=IwAR0V0K8ZYnW0bnWol92kDfQ0iZqlRSwur4e_IpLI9N-mvYRqTRD53Tbi4jQ

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 7, 20 -- 12:07: PM	Kimberly	Bonner	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>Thank you for the work that you do representing the stakeholders of Henrico County Public Schools. As a retiree from HCPS, resident of Henrico County, and member of a household with several members for whom contracting COVID-19 would be very dangerous, I have watched the decision-making process regarding school reopening with great anxiety and have felt that anxiety rise again as individuals push to have schools open for face-to-face learning during the second nine weeks. I understand you are hearing and seeking information from many stakeholders regarding their wishes and plans. I have seen the anxiety-levels rise once again among my colleagues who are still teaching as they are asked to either put themselves in harm's way or to give up the careers they love along with their income. This, however, is not a decision that can be made based solely on anyone's wishes or plans. The data regarding the spread and presence of COVID-19 in the community does not yet allow for a move to stage 2 learning, and making any such move at this point would negatively impact the community by increasing the spread of COVID-19 right at the time at which we can also expect an increase in influenza, problems that would impact hospitals and overwhelm resources in the community.</p> <p>Frankly, all stakeholders from whom you've heard have one thing in common: all want schools open and teachers, students, and staff in them. The only difference between the disparate voices is that a number of them recognize that it is not feasible to do so, and some do not recognize this fact. That second group does not realize that a return to face-to-face learning that follows CDC guidelines and keeps everyone protected would not at all look or feel like the "normal" for which they are pushing. Further, they seem not to believe nor care that it would place students, faculty, and staff of HCPS as well as the families and communities to which each of them returns at the end of the day at greater risk of infection. This is not a decision in which public opinion or will can carry weight. Please consider the scientific data; impact on the larger community; and the limits of your resources, including not just the physical plants, but your staff and faculty--your most valuable resource--and remain online for the second nine weeks and beyond, should the spread of COVID-19 in the general community still not be reduced to a point at which in-person learning can be implemented without negative impact at that time.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 7, 20 -- 1:42: PM	Marissa	Findlay	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>Please reopen our Henrico Schools for in person learning. This is particularly vital for our youngest learners! I am a mom of a very active Kindergartner who even with the best possible situation for learning - mother available to help, extra help with a nanny, understands and has become fairly proficient in technology, an award winning and experienced teacher, and every possible advantage available to a child. And yet, this current learning environment is a struggle. Children need socialization and tactile learning. Children need to get to know and interact with their teacher. Children need to be able to communicate questions, responses, and verbalize what they are learning without the limitations of a mute button. We see the frustration with our exceptional teacher to adapt her teaching for all kinds of learning environments and skill levels. It is nearly impossible to manage a classroom of 18 Kindergartners at the beginning of a school year, but now we are adding in 18 different environments full of distractions, the visibility limitations of an ipad camera, and the varying level of structure from day to day on top of this. Please consider the most number of days possible in person for these youngest learners. The only thing worse than not opening up would be to have half of a class on ipads while half of the class was in person. This classroom dynamic does not work for Kindergartners and certainly does not set any of our teachers up for successful outcomes. It may be possible with older students, but not for Kindergarten.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 7, 20 -- 2:51: PM	Arlene	Bandas	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>In his morning message, my principal stated, "teamwork" was the focal point for today. This actually caused me a great deal of distress. Not only are teachers working above and beyond, providing more availability, one-on-one assistance using monitored breakout rooms, answering emails from students and parents at all hours of the day and evening, dealing with well-meaning parents who think nothing of chiming in during synchronized learning, providing engaging activities for our students, taking part in IEP and class meetings after school hours, and still grading papers, but we are still managing home and family at the same time. How much more are you asking this "team" to give? Their lives? The health of their families? I think not. "Because kids need to be back in school." Is something going to be done about poor ventilation systems in the older schools, especially the ones which will be replaced next year? Are teachers going to be provided with substitutes whenever it is necessary, Presently while on virtual, substitutes aren't available, Hence accommodations may not always be met. Why would substitutes be willing to come into the building, especially when the majority are at-risk-age? As far as student engagement, how will we be able to devote additional one-on-one teaching when the only difference between 100% virtual and being in the building is the building. What are the consequences for students and staff who refuse to wear their masks, or don't wear them properly as shown by the video produced by the county? PPE and all, with no face shields, no N95 masks put us all in danger. In actuality, the proposed abbreviated schedule provides less student instructional time. Conversations have shown that many are very skeptical about returning to the building. The prospect of wearing masks constantly, only allowing about three students into the restroom at a time with only 10 available restrooms, eating in the classroom without masks, with a virus that is airborne are only a few of their concerns. How is this protecting our students and staff? Returning to school at this time, family holidays, cold-flu season, with inadequate PPE and schools which are without soap, paper towels, hot water does not sound promising. These are only a few of our many concerns. I propose that HCPS does not bring the majority of our students back into the building prior to the end of first semester, and only then when we can guarantee the safety of our students and staff.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 7, 20 -- 5:19: PM	Ashley	Payne	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I am a parent of a 7th Grader at TMS and a 5th Grade Teacher at Johnson Elementary. I understand and share the desire for students to be back on campus; however, I am concerned about a few details in the HCPS plan to return to schools. First, what is the protocol for lunch? Henrico says that students will be required to eat in classrooms, but students cannot eat through their masks. How is this safe for students and teachers? Second, what is the safety plan for maintaining 6 feet of distance in a crowded classroom? Third, every teacher knows that students thrive on routines. Indeed, after 5 weeks of virtual learning, the students in my class and my son are doing well. Across America, schools are reopening only to have to return to virtual learning after positive cases surface. Students and families need stability right now, not more uncertainty. Why not keep students, staff, and teachers safe while continuing to build on the momentum of the 1st 9 weeks? Fourth, are teachers expected to teach two classes simultaneously (students on their roster who opt for face-to-face and those who opt for virtual)? If so, how will that work? How many extra planning hours will teachers be allotted each week to plan for teacher two classes? Fifth, will teachers be notified if there is a positive case in a student in their classroom? What is the protocol for quarantine if there is a positive case (e.g., will the whole class quarantine and for how many days)? What if a sibling or a parent of a student tests positive? Sixth, when we took our survey this summer, it included the possibility for teachers to opt to teach virtually. It appears that the County is giving teachers an ultimatum: return to school or resign (unless you can meet some strict criteria). We did not embark on our profession thinking that we might risk our health or the health of our families or students by giving our all to our students. Seventh, is this Board willing to risk the health and lives of students, staff, and teachers? Many studies are showing that children are spreaders of the virus. https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2020/08/looking-at-children-as-the-silent-spreaders-of-sars-cov-2/ Will Henrico commit to protecting its students, teachers, and staff by requiring testing to ensure safety on campus? Thank you for your time and consideration to these important issues that affect our children, our students, our livelihoods, and our health and lives.</p>
Oct. 7, 20 -- 5:44: PM	Nancy	Essid	teacher assigned to school in Tuckahoe district	<p>I am an elementary school librarian. I teach every student at our school. I am concerned that I have not heard any discussion of how I and the other teachers on the LAMP (library, art, music, PE) team will be kept safe. I have heard that we will be going into teachers' classrooms to teach because it wouldn't be safe for students to come to our classrooms. This means we will be in significant contact with every student and every teacher in our school. Clearly this is not safe for us or for the students and staff we will encounter. I am also concerned that you may be considering returning to face-to-face instruction right at the time of year that many people travel (Thanksgiving and Christmas) and cold/flu season. Despite the pressure I know you are getting from those who want to rush back to face-to-face, I hope you will do the right thing to keep us safe by keeping us virtual. Thank you for your time and your support.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 7, 20 -- 5:50: PM	Jessica	Ciokan	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	<p>I am a employee of HCPS (Tuckahoe District) and a resident of Henrico County (Varina District). My concerns are as follows: 1. Certain staff members, including office staff and custodial staff, were also excluded from completing the survey, and will not be given access to the survey. These staff members are the most financially vulnerable, and are arguably at risk of the most exposure when students return to the building, since they have to interact with and/or clean up after an entire building full of people. My school has already had its entire C&M night crew placed in quarantine due to a positive Covid case when the building was practically empty. 2. Being asked to choose between a paycheck and the health of ourselves and our families is a choice that no educator should have to make. Many teachers are single, or are have families living off a single teacher's salary. Some teachers cannot afford to resign or take unpaid leave, so these staff members are not going to select these options on the survey; however, this does not mean that they are comfortable with coming back to in-person instruction prior to Winter Break. Because of how the survey was written, the data are going to be skewed and will not accurately reflect the FEELINGS or WISHES of the staff. The staff survey data are simply going to indicate who is financially capable of resigning or taking unpaid leave, and who is not capable of resigning or taking unpaid leave. 3. In my school, which is currently mostly unoccupied, we have had some instances of the staff who are reporting to the building not following protocol (i.e. wearing masks and/or social distancing). While these issues were addressed by my school's Covid Liaison, I still have concerns that, if we cannot get a small number of adults to follow protocol, we may have an even greater challenge getting all adults and all students to follow protocol. 4. If we do return to in-person instruction for Q2, and have the students split into two groups, the teachers are still going to be a common denominator. The students who attend school on Monday-Tuesday will have their germs passed to the students attending school Thursday-Friday by sharing the same teacher. 5. Eating lunch in the classroom is not okay. This will result in the greatest exposure during the school day. Teachers will not want to eat while students have their masks off. Teachers need to be provided a proper lunch break. Please vote for what is best for ALL.</p>
Oct. 7, 20 -- 5:51: PM	Kathi	Harris	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I think the conversation of returning to in-person learning is very pre-mature. With predictions of the COVID-19 numbers set to rise through the holiday season, why on earth would we plan to return during that time period? Although community pressure may be crying for a return during this unsafe period, it is the responsibility of the school board to protect its students and staff. IF and ONLY IF the numbers stabilize through December and early January, then the conversation that is being entertained in the video and planning committees should come to fruition. At that time I would also be eager to return to class. I AM EAGER NOW! However, with my elderly mother in my home and myself being her only caregiver, it reasons that I would be putting her life and my own at risk (I have severe asthma) should I try to return during a time when even our own president isn't safe from infection. Here me clearly! Continue full virtual during the second nine weeks, with only small groups and individuals returning (with all safety precautions in place) in-person!</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 7, 20 -- 6:48: PM	Susan	Lionberger	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Parents NEED information on each plans (virtual, 2 day, 4 day and 5 day) for elementary, middle and high school. We can't make decisions for our families with no info. Consider different plans for elementary vs middle/high. KEEP current teachers and schedules for all middle and high school students!! Teachers need to teach to all their current students (virtual and in person) at same time. Do not consider a plan where kids have to change their teacher or have to learn alone at home for more than 1 day a week. Timing of starting any in person on 11/16 isn't a great plan - a week before Thanksgiving break and only 3 weeks between Thanksgiving and Winter Break. Lots of germs for all families, teachers, kids, grandma!!! Tell parents in detail your plan for when (and it will be when, not if) a teacher or student tests positive. Require kids and teachers to test and quarantine!!! We've got virtual in place - easy to switch back and forth if needed. I have not completed my survey - how do I with so little info from HCPS on plans???? Thanks!!!
Oct. 7, 20 -- 6:58: PM	Heather	Snyder	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I ask that HCPS remain fully virtual for the second 9-weeks. The safety and health of our community is still at risk. Forcing the teachers and staff into a high-risk, unsafe working environment is unethical and wrong. Teachers are making great strides in virtual learning. Students are learning and teachers are working harder than ever. Why change direction? Let's continue with the momentum, continue to learn safely and virtually. Henrico's COVID numbers are too high for in-person, face to face learning. Plus, from what I hear, going back as hybrid is even harder on all involved.
Oct. 7, 20 -- 7:00: PM	Amy	Kenyon	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I spoke at the last meeting. My son is now in his 7th week of face to face school. To refresh your memory, there are 17 children in class with him and 3 learning virtually. It is beyond ridiculous that I had to withdraw my child from public school to pay \$10k for 1 year so that he can receive an actual education. The kids and staff wear masks and the kids are learning and thriving. Health issues arise and are dealt with properly by the school nurse. I would like the school board and superintendant to start following ACCURATE health data and to stop cowering to the group of teachers who want to throw tantrums about going back. I can assure you there is a silent majority of teachers that are ready and would prefer to go back. The lazy teachers now found a way to skew the results of the survey so essentially we have teachers now who are CHEATING to benefit their agenda. Get the kids back in school. The teachers that leave shouldn't be there anyway as I have encountered some of the nastiest teachers online in the last 6 months that I THANK GOD they are not teaching my child. Imagine our society if Doctors, Nurses, Fast Food Workers, Grocery Store workers, etc etc etc had the attitude of these teachers. Everything crumbles. Covid is here and not going anywhere but at least allow the students and teachers willing to return to the schools, the option to do so. The Y has miraculously found a cure for the "bad" HVAC systems in the schools so if the buildings are safe enough for Y employees and their volunteers, what makes them so unsafe for teachers?????

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 7, 20 -- 7:04: PM	Tabatha	Williams	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Please remember teachers have kids attending HCPS schools too. You make teachers come back and kids are on any other schedule than mine— I have to leave. I know I'm not the only one in this situation. What about all the HEF, Y, PALS programs? Where will those kids go when we re-open but not everyday ? Is this really the safest time? Can you be sure?
Oct. 7, 20 -- 7:05: PM	Polly	Dieter	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I am very concerned about sending all of our students back to school full-time. Our students in the PEDD program may be ID, on the Autism Spectrum, be medically fragile, have sensory issues. The idea that we can manage their social distancing, make sure they wear their masks and teach seems pretty impossible. We eat 3 times in our day. Three times when masks cannot be worn. We have rest time. Again masks off. Part of my job often includes potty training, feeding students, holding hands to prevent students from running away, helping children with motor delays walk. I love my job, my school, the children. I can't afford to quit or retire. I have been following the VDH guidelines since we closed down in March. I understand children with disabilities need in person education, but I don't want to get sick. I don't want my family to get sick. I don't want the students to get sick. I do not think we should go back full time in the second nine weeks.
Oct. 7, 20 -- 7:13: PM	Julia	Cuccherini	Gayton parent / Tucker teacher	A parent of a Tucker student died this morning from COVID. Her daughter is positive. Her husband is positive. We can talk declining positivity and statistics, but it all seems like numbers until it is YOUR family affected. This virus is here, it is deadly, it is in our community. As a HCPS parent, I am happy with the virtual experience my kindergartener is having. Was it hard at first? Yes. But he has adapted and is learning. Most importantly, he is healthy and so are his grandparents and his teacher. I'd like to keep them all that way. As an HCPS teacher, I can attest that my students are learning. They are showing up, they are participating, we are forming a virtual community. They are turning on their cameras just to wave and smile at me. They are joking with me in the chat. I am able to engage in small groups and discussion activities that would be impossible in our new face to face setting. Would some of them like to go back in person? Of course. Many would not. But they are healthy and I'd like to keep them that way. Please do not make me choose between my family and my Tucker family. Choose online for the second nine so that I can stop worrying about keeping everyone healthy and alive and focus on providing a quality virtual experience for my students. I love them already and I don't want to choose to leave them.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 7, 20 -- 7:29: PM	John	Morse	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Please allow remote learning continue for teachers and students for the second semester. 3 weeks of school and 4 weeks off isn't supportive of a consistent environment for children. Add in the natural risks of college kids returning home, and the holidays, we can expect an uptick in Covid. Bringing the kids to school to likely send them back to a virtual environment again in the spring is simply bad policy. My wife and child will be forced back into the schools, and unfortunately as an at risk adult, may be choosing to explain my hospital stay or worse, to my son or have the guilt shouldered on my wife that her husband is no longer able or alive to support our family, because she had to choose between her career she has given the fist half of her life to or her family.
Oct. 7, 20 -- 7:35: PM	Karen	Kusterer	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I am highly concerned that the pace of this decision is being influenced more by pressure from parents who can yell the loudest and not by science and best practice. I write this as an early childhood educator who is currently teaching children in a face to face setting, and as a mother of 3 children, one of whom is absolutely struggling in the virtual setting. Your survey asked me to make the impossible decision; keep my children learning virtually when 1 son is drowning in virtual learning, with spotty wifi and denials of hot-spots. His grades are dropping in every subject and his anxiety is high. And yet, the alternative is sending him back to school where he could possibly infect his beloved teacher, the woman who looped up with this class simply because she loves them so much and could have easily retired months ago. To put it simply, I just don't know what to do. There are no easy answers, but I do know this. I would rather you put the needs of your teachers above the needs of my children. They are the key to my children's success or failure, whether it is via a chromebook or behind a plexiglass partition. I am heartbroken for those teachers who feel they have been belittled or devalued in the times where they are our absolute God-given heroes. Please listen to them, respect them, and retain them. We need them if we are to weather the months (and hopefully not years) ahead. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration to this life or death decision.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 7, 20 -- 7:46: PM	Courtney	Gibbons Plowcha	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>I am a parent of a first grader and I am advocating the virtual option for ALL staff and students for the 2nd 9 weeks. Given recent CDC data that confirms that children can be effective spreaders of COVID-19, even when they have no symptoms, I think it is too soon to try and open the schools to 300-1000 students at a time (minimum) and expect that there will not be a serious outbreak and lives lost. I am concerned for the students, who could unknowingly bring the virus into their homes and cause illness or death to themselves and their loved ones. I worry that the school building's environment will be harsh and unwelcoming to students given the restrictions we must take to keep us safe. My 6-year-old is happy and healthy and loving virtual school. She is a social child and will suffer greatly to be near to her peers but unable to really share and play with them safely. I am concerned for the staff, who in addition to being teachers, parental figures, curriculum developers, community leaders, cheerleaders and legal scholars, now also have to be lunch monitors, technology specialists, mask enforcers, and experts on infectious disease. HCPS is so eager to embrace the big picture of being back in the buildings, that they are leaving all of the little details to be figured out later. "Little details" might include managing life-threatening food allergies in a crowded classroom, enforcing mask wearing on the bus or in classrooms when students refuse, classrooms without sinks for frequent hand washing, sanitizing classrooms in-between groups of students, keeping students distanced while also trying to teach, creating meaningful lessons without any manipulatives that could spread germs, keeping younger students from touching each other and their faces, teaching social skills while insisting students not be close enough to socialize, finding substitutes when teachers need to take a day off, obtaining sufficient PPE past December, and comforting a child in distress without touching them for fear the act of sharing a hug could be deadly. The data, while showing improvement, does not prove that we are ready to go back. The decline in cases proves that staying at home is working. Please keep us safe by keeping us virtual until January 2021.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 7, 20 -- 7:47: PM	Courtney	Gibbons Plowcha	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>As a teacher, I am advocating that we continue to predominantly virtual option for students and staff until January 2021. I work with our youngest students, and love them as if they were my own. If you have worked with toddlers and preschoolers, then you know that keeping them from touching their mouths/noses or each other is near impossible. You will also know that they need constant close contact in the form of hugs, high-fives, holding hands in the hallway, diaper changes, wiping noses and mouths, clothing management (zip, snap, button), picking them up when they fall, and physical assistance to complete tasks such as feeding themselves. They put everything in their mouths and chew on their clothing until it is drenched in saliva. Preschoolers do not effectively cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze, and most cannot effectively wipe their noses either, which leaves my IA and I to tend to these needs at the risk of our own health. Trying to teach while adhering to the HCPS/VDH/CDC guidelines of mask wearing and social distancing will create a classroom where each child has their own "safe pod" in which they do not interact with other children. They will not learn sharing and taking turns because it is not yet safe. They will not learn how to greet in acceptable ways (hand shake, high five, fist bump, hug) because these ways are no longer acceptable during a pandemic. During the week leading up to school closures in March, all my IA and I did was help students wash their hands, and use our own bodies as barriers to keep students physically distanced. Hand sanitizer can be toxic to young children who have their hands constantly in their mouths and noses so we tried not to use it much in March – now we will have no choice but to apply it to their hands with our own to make sure they don't ingest any by mistake. This is an incredible amount to ask of students, staff, and families to ensure that students do not get sick or bring germs home to their loved ones. We have a solution that is already working: virtual school. My students are succeeding, they are making progress on their goals, and they are happy. Please do not risk the lives of the staff and students by reopening the schools for the 2nd 9 weeks.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 7, 20 -- 7:58: PM	Jason	Hatcher	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>I would encourage the school board to continue fully virtual learning for the second nine weeks both for the purposes of providing the highest level of educational quality as well as for the safety of students, faculty, staff and families. While the first nine weeks have brought the challenge of a new experience, HCPS teachers for my two students have shown the ability to adapt and provide a high quality learning environment through the technology available. Further, we have continued to see improvements that are made each and every week as they become more comfortable. Regardless of any of the back to school options (for which minimal information has been provided), it is clear that there would be a major disruption. Whether that be from teachers trying to teach both in-person and virtual students at the same time or from completely reshuffling classes, it would clearly cause a delay that would remove valuable instructional time in a year in which we are already attempting to do more to catch up from the disruption in the spring. I do not believe that it is fair to our students to add additional challenges to them this year. In terms of safety, the lack of information around how ventilation would be improved through upgraded HVAC systems, classroom distancing, mask requirements and other safety measures would be implemented, does not provide much comfort and would seem to place teachers at risk. Given that high ranking government officials are catching COVID at an alarming rate, it would appear reckless to ask our teachers to be exposed. Beyond my simple compassion for teachers, I am further concerned at how the county would handle these disruptions for teachers being out for at least two weeks. Even if there are adequate substitute teachers available, this would further disrupt learning for students to lose their teachers for extended periods of time. I would ask the school board to allow the HCPS administration to focus their efforts on continuing to improve and perfect virtual learning until it is safe for everyone to be back together (ie once mass vaccination has occurred) rather than wasting resources trying to model endless scenarios. Please focus on providing the resources to faculty and staff to allow them to continuously improve and provide the best education to the students of HCPS through a virtual platform.</p>
Oct. 7, 20 -- 8:03: PM	Michelle	McGrath	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>I am a HCPS teacher who lives in the Brookland District and teaches in the Fairfield district. I have been teaching in the county for over 20 years, and have won multiple awards for teaching, throughout my career. I have a masters degree in my content area. I was extremely disheartened by the limited options given to teachers in the recent survey. It felt like an ultimatum. It felt like bullying. It felt as if you do not value me as either a teacher or a person, and that I am expendable. If you send us back in person, you will be using us as guinea pigs, knowing that some of us will die. I know that the "never virtual" families are pressuring you. What is more important, having angry families or having dead families? I know which one I would pick. If we go back in person, my diverse, low-socioeconomic population will suffer disproportionately more than the affluent schools in the West End. This is not equity. Students will not properly follow the safety protocols. Self screening will not work. Teachers are undervalued and underpaid. Please show us that you value us by keeping us virtual for the second semester. If not, then don't back away from Amy Cashwell's previous position that all teachers who want to teach virtually will be able to. Period. This feels like a bait-and-switch, and I'm very scared to go back in person.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 7, 20 -- 8:09: PM	Nicole	Dillard	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Thank you for your response to the first 9 weeks and for keeping us all safe! I reiterate many of the same comments as others that are concerned about face to face in school. I haven't heard much about any upgrades to ventilation systems which is very concerning to me. We are heading into cold and flu season soon and I hope that the Board continues to keep health and safety a priority for not only our students, but staff, teachers, families, and the community at large. As I've previously mentioned, even if a choice is offered, not all will have a choice. Specifically, stepparents such as myself, and other guardians or parents who don't have final say on their children's education. Please don't give in to the pressure just because it's pressure. I trust the board will continue to make the right decision. Thank you for all that you do!! Especially in such an unprecedented and difficult time!!
Oct. 7, 20 -- 8:10: PM	Ryan	Burgess	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Please release the full HVAC ventilation report to the public. Please provide a virtual option for any staff who request one. We are not expendable.
Oct. 7, 20 -- 8:25: PM	Sallie	Morse	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Please consider keeping school virtual for the second nine weeks. As an HCPS employee who travels to multiple buildings, I would be a high risk carrier if infected, potentially spreading the virus to hundreds of individuals over the course of a week before showing any symptoms of Covid19. As a parent, I am uncomfortable sending my son back to school even with proper safety measures in place. To choose between my career or the health of my at risk family members is no position anyone wants to be in. It seems safest and wisest to keep students and staff virtual until at least second semester. Thank you.
Oct. 7, 20 -- 8:27: PM	Michael	Davye	Varina High School	If protocols and procedures can't keep the President, the Governor of Va or a Joint Chief of Staff from getting COVID, does anyone really believe the measures put in place at Henrico schools will keep students, staff or the community safe? I would also point out that the individuals pushing the hardest for the return to F2F instruction, will be the first to blame, and likely litigate against, HCPS should their student(s) and/or a family member become infected with COVID. Lastly, the survey sent to teachers sent a simple message, return to work or lose your job. What will HCPS do when teachers decide their health, and the health of their loved ones, isn't worth the risk of returning to F2F in Quarter 2? Can HCPS "afford" to lose scores of experienced teachers? I ask, because you've left teachers no real choice.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 7, 20 -- 8:33: PM	Tim	Krassowski	Brookland Middle	<p>I am deeply disappointed with the current 'survey' and options I heard that the Parents received, but Teachers did not. I live with a high risk individual and you just basically asked me to risk not only my health, but hers. That's unconscionable.</p> <p>That being said, I have several questions, and I feel if they can't be answered satisfactorily with the safety of ALL in mind, please vote to continue with the fully virtual option until at least January:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Changing the routines of middle schoolers (or any child) is detrimental to them. Virtual is not ideal, but it is the SAFEST option for us ALL at the moment. 2) What will in person look like? If it's the same thing as virtual, why bother increasing the risk? Will kids be allowed to move around? Will it be 6 feet of distance? Anything less than 6 feet is not safe. 3) When we return, do you honestly think that kids, especially the younger ones, will respect the 6 feet distancing rule the first time they see their friends in person that they have not seen in 7 months?? It will be an all out stampede and they will not listen. 4) If we return f2f, how are teachers going to have time to clean surfaces between classes (middle and high)?? I don't believe most middle schoolers know how to properly clean just yet--High school, probably. Plus there is the added danger of having them handle chemicals. 5) Accountable and Responsible: We ask our kids to do these two things everyday and for us to 'rush' into a return to in person is not the responsible or accountable thing to do. If you return in November, it's a week or so until Thanksgiving, when families will (hopefully) be getting together. Then, three weeks later, you have Winter Break--again, families getting together. If we wait until January to return, hopefully the numbers will be low enough to permit it, PLUS it gives us time to prepare buildings, staff and rooms for the return.
Oct. 7, 20 -- 8:35: PM	Rachel	LeClair	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, I teach at Colonial Trail Elementary School in the Three Chopt District	<p>The reason for my writing today is to express my concern with the growing number of students at Colonial Trail and the lack of classroom space to accommodate this increasing number. Even in the virtual setting we are bursting at the seams, with one second grade teacher working from a work room that will not house her 20+ students should we go back to an in-person schedule. There are more and more housing developments being built in our zone that will only make our current situation worse. We have students who live closer to three or four other elementary schools who are zoned to ours. There are more sections to teach than we have the manpower for as well, due to the size of our student body. We have just hired another kindergarten teacher, leaving our ESL teacher to use the unoccupied music room. Last year our resource/LAMP team had additional support, yet this year the library assistant has to teach one class, soon to be two with the new kindergarten addition, and that is on top of what she is already trying to accomplish with remote library book checkout. I feel like there are band-aids being tossed our way and we are left to fend for ourselves without the appropriate support. Our students deserve an educational space that is not an after thought. And we, as your employees who are on the "front line" teaching in an entirely new way with the same expectations, deserve more, too. Perhaps a more focused zoning shift, similar to what Hungary Creek MS did a few years back, could alleviate the overcrowding at both Colonial Trail and River's Edge. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>

Your written comments for the October 8 work session:				
Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	
Oct. 7, 20 -- 8:43: PM	Sarah	Schumacher	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Please continue with predominantly virtual. It is not safe to return face to face. Sitting at a desk unable to get up and move? At home kids can move as they need. Eating in a classroom with your peers unmasked because no one can eat while wearing a mask! Think about how the president of the United States and many close to him got Covid from an event! They, unlike most henrico families, have access to the top doctors at zero cost to them. My family can't afford any of us to get sick. Think of the community, think of our students families, think of our dedicated teachers and staff. It would be careless to gather face to face less than 6 feet apart for hours on end in a classroom (some without windows).
Oct. 7, 20 -- 8:45: PM	Melanie	Tazza	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Thank you for this opportunity. I do not envy your position. I am a parent of a Kg, 2nd, 5th & 9th who works full time as does my husband. I feel like we do not have enough information to complete the survey. Right now because HCPS is 100% virtual both my husband's and I's employers are letting us flex hours to be home with the kids. If we are given the choice for F2F that option will disappear and we will be forced to send them. Below are just a few of my questions that I feel like need to be addressed before I can answer the survey. 1. In the hybrid F2F what happens with the kids of working families on their days off? How are childcare facilities to be able to manage that schedule and maintain ratios (both for regulations and profit) consistently throughout the week? 2. Speaking of childcare facilities, how are kids supposed to get there after school? I am under the impression VDSS is recommending that they do not transport children. 3. What is the procedure for exposure and quarantine going to be? Our family has a high exposure rate since we have so many kids in school. I am deeply concerned about the continuity of learning if we are going to be subject to multiple 2 week quarantines. I know you all have a lot to read so I am going to end it there. There are certainly many other things to consider. I would be remiss if I didn't mention my disappointment in the staff survey. Our teachers have put in an incredible amount of work to completely re-invent themselves for VL. They put in SO MANY non-contractual hours to learn so much and re-do all their lessons. The survey that was put out for them was <i>too</i> dismissive of their thoughts on what the 2nd 9 weeks should be and merely stated are you willing to come back or quit. That is unacceptable. They deserve so much better. Thank you for your time.
Oct. 7, 20 -- 9:11: PM	Marcia	Hafer-Marcus	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	Enough with the convoluted and RIDICULOUS 'formula' that you are attempting to use to determine what is 'safe'. Children need face to face interactions. Schools in all counties surrounding us are offering a FtoF option. It can be done...it IS being done. Shame on you for allowing the pressure of the Teachers Association to dictate your actions. You were elected to represent us, the taxpayers and our CHILDREN. DO YOUR JOB.

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Oct. 7, 20 -- 9:28: PM	Kelly	Taylor	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Other surrounding districts and states are allowing teachers to choose between teaching virtually or in person. In the HCPS teacher survey sent this week; teachers were not asked if they preferred to teach virtual or in person; they were asked what they would do if HCPS returned to in person learning. The choices offered were retire, resign, take FMLA, have a doctors excuse, or return to teach. Why isn't HCPS gauging teacher interest in who wants to return and who wants virtual? It only makes sense to match teachers who want virtual with students who want virtual. In other states and districts, it's been a fairly equal distribution. These unique times call for unique solutions - Not all or nothing. Yes; this would probably mean a change in teachers for a proportion of students. But it would also mean not losing teachers who feel they have to resign due to not having a choice. If a teacher cannot return to in person for whatever reason; are you exploring out of the box solutions? HCPS is presently advertising for clinic assistant positions. Could you hire classroom assistant positions, for people to monitor an in person classroom held by a virtual teacher? I hope you are exploring out of the ordinary solutions. It will be extremely disappointing to find out otherwise.
Oct. 7, 20 -- 9:58: PM	Vickie	Crumpton	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	As an HCPS employee I feel safer being virtual until the 3rd 9 weeks. I will have to put on the survey that I will return in person if that is what is decided. Only because I need healthcare insurance. I just wanted a chance to voice my opinion.
Oct. 7, 20 -- 10:23: PM	Morgan	Walls	Teacher in the Fairfield District	To the members of the School Board and Henrico's District Leadership Team: Schools were closed from March-June due to COVID-19. Summer passed. Schools opened virtually in the fall. Yet, with an abundance of time, Henrico has yet to create a plan or answer the most fundamental questions of how to reopen our schools safely. The lack of thought and lack of plan presented to teachers in Monday's survey is a clear sign that we simply can NOT open for the second marking period. So many of our most pressing questions and concerns from the summer have yet to be addressed, much less answered. It feels like we are back to square one and repeating the same concerns from August all over again. The issues at hand have simply not been solved. Ventilation, student lunch time, buses, the substitute teacher shortage, and so much more. Everyday I hear new and different questions that have yet to be answered about our possible return in 5 short weeks. Five weeks is not enough time to address the multitude of issues that are before us. Absolutely nothing about this virus has changed since August, except now we have hand sanitizer in every classroom. The nature of the virus has not changed, and until we have real solutions to some of our biggest challenges, in person learning is not appropriate. I am also concerned that as we approach reopening, teachers are being given the short end of the stick once again. We adapted to a sudden closure. We adapted to virtual learning. (Many of us are thriving at it, in fact). But the rough plans before us look even more challenging than the hurdles we have already overcome. Please do not expect the impossible from us. We can only do so much. Consider the teachers. We just want to make it through this pandemic in one piece. Thank you.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the October 8 work session:
Oct. 7, 20 -- 10:50: PM	Jennifer	Hauéis	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>It is not possible to answer the survey without more information. Here are just a few questions that need to be answered. How do parents make a choice between in person learning and virtual learning when they do not know if their child's teacher is going to be teaching in person or virtually? If a family chooses to continue with virtual education will their child get to keep their current schedule and their current teachers? If some students do choose virtual learning and others are in the classroom, how do we make sure the children who are virtual learners do not suffer from distance bias? What about specialty center classes that are only taught by one teacher if our daughter were to stay online would she still be able to take this classes which are needed for graduation from the center? Instruction two days and then have three days at home doing asynchronous/self-instruction will not work for most children. How would my daughter who is taking 5 AP classes would be able to self-teach the material and be prepared to take the AP exams? Hybrid learning needs for elementary, middle, and high school students are all going to be very different. How are these differences going to be met? If all students have the option to return to school 5 days a week how will the county make sure proper social distancing is able to be maintained? Especially in the high school? The school system has had a difficult time getting substitute teachers. What is the plan if there are not substitutes available during in school learning? What is the county's plan if teachers are required to return but instead choose to resign? How will they find teachers who are certified to teach AP and other specialized classes? What will they do if they are unable to fill the positions? Several holidays fall during the second 9 weeks. People traveling and college students returning home significantly increases the risk of Covid exposure. Why are we pushing to get back to in person learning during this time? If a child chooses to attend in person for the second 9 weeks but goes in person and feels unsafe can they switch to virtual instruction? In addition, to that point, if a child chooses virtual instruction for the second 9 weeks to avoid infection over holidays can they switch to in person instruction for the second semester? Is there going to be a cap for in person learning? What is the plan if more children choose in person learning than the building can safely accommodate?</p>
Oct. 7, 20 -- 11:00: PM	Melissa	Spaulding	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I advocate for Virtual learning to continue until COVID numbers significantly decline. I advocate for the teachers 100%. If in person learning is forced upon the county, there is a strong possibility it could result in staff retirements and resignations, as well as illnesses, or death. We all want to be back at school, but only when there is certainty that this virus is no longer a threat to our safety. My 9th grader is teaming well with his teachers and prefers to stay the course and keep the same teachers. Adapting to this environment has been challenging, but we would rather address them from the safety of home, vs. adjusting to new teachers and possibly catching and spreading COVID. Please don't rock the boat and ask us to adjust all over again. Students need consistency in their learning environment and leadership from educators that their health comes first. Please keep what is in place now, including the arrangements for special needs students and the younger grades. Let's try and get through these winter months and reevaluate in the next quarter.</p>

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Oct. 7, 20 -- 11:13: PM	Rachel	Druff	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Asking teachers to commit to in-person or essentially quitting without outlining exactly what the in-person would be makes teachers feel like pawns. We have been working hours and hours beyond our contract to make virtual learning successful. Many of us have gotten into a good routine with our students. Please give us the respect we deserve by outlining a plan before asking us to commit to a return and give us the option to stay virtual.
Oct. 8, 20 -- 12:08: AM	Carolyn	Brosnihan	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	The parent survey does not provide sufficient detail to express intent, even if it is non-binding. The survey does not go into any level of detail as to what the school day would look like for students that attend in person. For example, is the intent to still primarily leverage online tools in Schoology for teaching and class assignments? Meaning, will the kids still be sitting in front of a computer all day looking at a screen? Will students be sitting in their classrooms all day - not transitioning to other rooms for resources? How are manipulatives going to be handled for students? Will each student be given their own set of supplies to use in class or will there be joint supplies that are sanitized after each use? Further, the survey does not provide sufficient details regarding the safety precautions that will be employed in the classrooms. For example, will class sizes be limited to a certain number of students based on the space in the room? Will students be placed 6 feet apart or 3 feet apart? Will teachers be required to teach both virtual and in person students synchronously, and if so, how will that be handled? If a student or teacher tests positive, when are they permitted to return to school? What will happen at the school if there is an outbreak of COVID? If cases across the county increase again, requiring a shift back to fully virtual, how will the shift to virtual schooling be handled and what will that look like? Will there be additional teacher changes and class changes as a result of that? Finally, there is absolutely no information for parents to make an informed decision for selecting "My child will attend school virtually." There are no details as to what virtual school would look like for students. Is it expected to be a live, synchronous learning day or asynchronous independent learning? While Henrico does indicate a few "things to know" in the introduction of the survey, the statements do not go into the next level of detail needed to assist parents with making a decision on their intended way forward. Every statement leaves me with the question of "In what way?" As a parent, I am struggling with what the best decision looks like for myself, my children, and my family. I truly do not know what we want to do, and I feel that I need to know the specifics of the various scenarios in order to express my intent.

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Oct. 8, 20 -- 12:35: AM	Keith	Lippa	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>I appreciate that the School Board is moving forward with redistricting in phases in an effort to immediately address specific hot spots while minimizing the number of students impacted given the current COVID pandemic. Per the last Board meeting, overcrowded elementary schools in the far West End are one of the hot spots being prioritized in Phase 1, and option D4 has been proposed as a template for this area. In light of this, I want to communicate to the Board that our small group of neighborhoods at Staples Mill and Hungary Roads (Census Tracts 10314 and 16309) fully supports rezoning our area to Echo Lake Elementary in Phase 1 for 2021-22 as is proposed in both options D4 and E4. Making this change in 2021-22 would not only help increase utilization at Echo Lake, which is at < 80% capacity, but also free up space in surrounding West End schools. This move would allow for the cascading changes involved in the D4 map that are necessary to alleviate overcrowding at Rivers Edge Elementary. In addition, it supports all redistricting guidelines by utilizing the major roadways of Staples Mill and Hungary Roads as boundaries at all three school levels, which ensures safe and efficient transportation and maintains existing feeder patterns, keeping our children's K-12 progress intact. Redistricting is an extremely difficult issue made even more complicated by recent events. I want to thank you for addressing this issue now and communicate support for rezoning Census Tracts 10314 and 16309 to Echo Lake during Phase 1 implementation in 2021-22 as proposed in map D4. Thank you.</p>
Oct. 8, 20 -- 7:49: AM	Kirsten	Hanson	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I will try keep this brief and frank to spare your time. Although it isn't perfect for everyone, the first quarter had been going very well. Personally, my kids are actually thriving. Returning for the second quarter, only to be faced with the in-and-out of school for holidays (with travel) during height of cold and flu season... AND A PANDEMIC... just feels like a lesson in folly. Our local numbers are probably only as controlled as they are because schools are closed. I know there will be a virtual option for students, which we will be taking, but the county's treatment of our teachers is borderline heartless. Making them basically chose between a job/insurance and the health of themselves or their family is terrible, considering the poor timing and ridiculous lack of testing/fever requirements that would actually help keep the school community safer. I beg you to consider waiting until third quarter. Everyone will be able to see what the holiday season brings for Covid numbers and we will be that much closer to being able to have classes outside or with windows open, which is important for both teachers and students. As an added bonus, the successful hard work that our teachers did to prepare for being online for the first quarter will not be wasted just as most students are really settling in and making good traction. It's not like the students in the building will have a "typical" school day. Students' days will be what they have now, but with far more risk exposure to all involved. especially if teachers are forced to bear the burden of teaching in-class AND online at the same time. To date, I have felt like Henrico County schools have put the heath and well-being of staff and students, but I'm seriously questioning that now. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>

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Oct. 8, 20 -- 8:01: AM	John	Andiola	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I am writing to strongly urge the board to vote for in class learning for our most vulnerable groups for the next 9 weeks. Specifically those with learning disabilities and K-2. The online learning environment is completely unacceptable for these groups and Henrico County must do better for these children. Any return to schools should be phased and begin with these most vulnerable groups just like the many many districts that have successfully done this in Virginia as well as throughout the U.S. Our rates of infection in the county are way down and both childcare setting and private schools are showing us that it can work. These children may never recover from this missed education. I urge you to get these groups back in schools face to face. I have heard from many many parents that high schoolers and middle schools are doing ok, they wish they were in person but they are learning online just fine. That same does not hold true for elementary school, and certainly not for the youngest in this group. If you think you are protecting them by keeping them virtual, I am sorry but you are mistaken. Watching them cry and get frustrated when they can get on Schoology or their teacher can't hear them or they can't figure out how to make the assignment work is heart breaking. PLEASE PLEASE, think about being flexible and starting with a phased approach to bring back those most vulnerable for the next 9 weeks in the 5 day or 4 day model suggested by the county.</p>