

**Citizen Participation Response Form**  
**September 24, 2020**

<b>Timestamp</b>	<b>First Name:</b>	<b>Last Name:</b>	<b>Magisterial District:</b>	<b>Your written comments for the September 24 work session:</b>
Sep. 10, 20 -- 9:37: AM	Kristyn	Canfield	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Teachers, staff, families all need to have a choice for in person, virtual, or hybrid.
Sep. 10, 20 -- 5:46: PM	Sally	Young	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Today September 10 school board meeting made everything seem rosy and fabulous when in reality it's horrendous. My kids are stressed tearful overwhelmed and stuck on their computers literally from 8:45 in the morning until 4 PM... And then for whatever reason teachers are assigning homework and not only is it homework it's online homework. Enough. These kids need a shorter day with more breaks no homework and the ability to get outside move and be kids regardless of how old they are. My kids are both in high school and watch younger kids playing in the streets while they are slogging through online classes. This social and emotional and mental health is at risk and has been for months. Henrico county has to do better and we demand that they do. For Dr. Cash well to say that everything is fantastic? Complete and utter nonsense. My freshman has an IEP due to ADHD and autism... How the heck is he is expected to do this for an extended period of time? I listened to the entire meeting prior to the first non-online decision... I listen to every speaker and every word and I just do not understand how this county cannot figure out how to get our kids in school.
Sep. 10, 20 -- 6:03: PM	Abigail	Dryden	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Good evening, My daughter (the oldest of four children) is in 1st Grade at Tuckahoe Elementary. Last year her report card noted her "contagious happy energy" and her "natural leadership skills." Her teacher continually commented on her positive, go get em attitude. Today, I could not find my daughter - she wasn't sitting in her seat (I didn't notice because I have to sit next to my Kindergarten son). I found her, curled up behind my bed, crying. Her tears were from complete frustration along with a feeling of failure. Put plainly, I am worried about her mental health. We are emphasizing technological learning over basic, 1st grade skills. Please, I implore you, create a plan to send these young children back to school. We've never used an iPad or lap top with our young children - she barely knows how to scroll up and down and today they're learning how to "toggle" between websites, edit documents and then post them? Please reconsider. On a completely separate note, I also have a Kindergartner at Tuckahoe. My son is reading on a 3rd or 4th grade level and comprehends mathematics well above normal 5 year olds. He HATES "going to school" each morning - I have to sit next to him with my EARS and EYES on his screen to ensure he's following along. It's just not working and I plan to give it one more week and will then pull them out and do this myself. On top of all of that, we are a privileged, 2 income family with more support than most people I know. I shudder to think about those less fortunate and what they're experiencing every day.

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Sep. 10, 20 -- 6:27: PM	Jessica	Delk	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	My 6th grader is on the computer from 830-315 with multiple breaks totaling 65 minutes. Therefore, she is on a screen for almost 6 hours per day. She developed a massive headache within the first hour, the first day of school requiring blue light glasses that may be strictly placebo. She has zero social interaction unless I allow her to communicate on her iPad, which I don't. She looks like a worn out zombie midday and I'm concerned that 6 hours of screen time and lack of socialization is going to adversely affect her mental health. This is not an acceptable amount per AAP guidelines. We need three kids back in some form. It's very disheartening that the school board is touting their successes and not addressing the reality of a lot of these kids situations. Figure it out. We can start a go fund me and raise money to support HCPS. Hanover and the private schools have figured it out. Local sports organizations have figured it out. Let's get on board.
Sep. 10, 20 -- 6:27: PM	Jenny	White	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I know teachers and staff have put in a lot of time to prepare for virtual school, but when there is no social connections children cannot reach their full potential. Please have a hybrid option for the next nine weeks, at least k-2. My second grader used to love school and now she hates it. She begs me not to go and it breaks my heart. Virtual school is doing more damage than covid. Please give us this choice to provide a real education for our children.
Sep. 10, 20 -- 7:21: PM	Carrie	Hagin	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I would like to understand the plan going forward beyond the first 9 weeks of school. Will surveys be sent to parents and will parents have any ability to decide if it is best for child to attend in person? Will the hybrid option actually be available to students after the first 9 weeks? What is the county doing for students that are not thriving in the virtual environmental (mentally and academically)? This is not a sustainable option for students of any level or grade.
Sep. 11, 20 -- 2:13: PM	Christina	Hoppe	Pocahantas/Godwin	I am writing this as feedback from the first week of online learning. Many parents are arguing about wanting in school learning, we would like that as well but we know it's not reasonable to ask teachers to risk there health especially with the upcoming winter season. Online is difficult for a 8th & 11th grader but they can do this with a little more flexibility. Currently it is just to long of a day to be sitting in front of a computer especially with teachers assigning homework, it is not balanced a enough to be healthy.
Sep. 13, 20 -- 2:00: PM	Lucy	Andreyev	Kaechele Elementary	Online education...
Sep. 13, 20 -- 10:06: PM	Brian	Davis	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I should have the choice of whether my children attend school or not. Virtual school does not work for either of my kids. It is not how a child should be educated. Let me decide whether my kids attend school !
Sep. 14, 20 -- 5:49: PM	Melanie	Dickerson	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Can the school board please review and discuss re-entry to the school building? Chesterfield County schools decided today to begin phased reopening at the end of this month. Hanover County is already on a hybrid schedule. Private schools and preschools are open without issues. Daycare providers have been open with no issues. Online learning is not sufficient and our kids need to be back in person - please!!!

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Sep. 14, 20 -- 6:07: PM	Tyler	Cox	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I feel it would be a smart idea to try a phased in approach to going back to school. The social and emotional toll this is having on every member of every family is too much. Our children need to be in school. Please consider trying a phased approach to get the children back in school. Thank you.
Sep. 14, 20 -- 6:46: PM	Melissa	Berrey	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	These children need to go back to school! My middle school IB students both state each morning that they "hate" school. We don't use that word in our house but that is the only word that describes their feelings. They are both straight A students who are being severely impacted by not returning to school. Their anxiety is high and I am seeing scary OCD behaviors I have NEVER seen before. I don't believe HCPS is working hard enough to find a back to school solution - you are letting fear drive your decisions rather than actual research and data. You are allowing teachers to dictate what is best for them not children. My husband works in construction which was deemed essential - he did not have a choice about whether to return to work, he hasn't missed a day since COVID began. Education and teachers are essential - they need to return to schools.
Sep. 20, 20 -- 9:54: PM	Janice	Dumitru	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	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.
Sep. 21, 20 -- 2:44: PM	Jessica	Delk	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	My comments/concerns at the last meeting have come true on paper. Please read this article. We need these kids back in their comfort zone. <a href="https://richmondmagazine.com/life-style/health/the-pandemic-and-abuse/">https://richmondmagazine.com/life-style/health/the-pandemic-and-abuse/</a>
Sep. 21, 20 -- 3:53: PM	Fonda	Lang	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please consider the stress and well being impact on the students that are already in a virtual setting at a new school- especially High School 9th graders - then being forced to move to a new school the following year. All students who start a school should be able to finish at that same school. Currently the SB has said that rising 10th graders would not be able to stay at their current school. This is not good for our students and adds more stress and lack of belonging that is vital to their well being . I hope the SB will show compassion in this sensitive area. Additionally- new census numbers; switches to private or home schooling; and reduced budgets due to the economy should impact the new construction and student attendance numbers. So this redistricting should be deferred to make an informed better decision. With all the virtual options, wouldn't that alleviate the over crowded schools?

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Sep. 21, 20 -- 3:58: PM	Jennifer	Farmer	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>High School parent and double healthcare provider family. Virtual learning is NOT working. We have no other options as all the programs to facilitate virtual learning end at the 8th grade. My child is 13 in the 9th grade and is expected to stay on task all day, while home alone? The only thing being accomplished with the virtual learning is forcing families to find other options, which they are. We held HCPS in high regards up until this when no consideration is being given for these high school students, options for supervised virtual or IN PERSON school, their social and emotional health, etc. All the majority of families are asking for is a CHOICE, which we have not been given. The metrics that are being used for the return to school should not be how we determine if our children go back to school. From what I understand one of the highest weighted items is number of new cases. What if all the new cases are people are healthy and fine, just like when we get colds. Do we shut down schools? I work in a COVID ICU at times and the numbers are down, people are not as sick and we are better at treating them but my student still does not have the option of in person school. Hospitals were forced to continue providing services and we found a SAFE way to do so but it seems as Henrico is not willing to do the same. The answer can NOT be virtual for everyone. Another metric being used is % of ICU beds. This number includes COVID and non-COVID patients. I have been a healthcare provider for 18 years and ICU beds stay full. So even if there was no COVID ICU beds are at a premium. I don't know how this admin. can justify what is being done to our children by this county and the lack of an option for FT IN PERSON education. I also work in a pediatric ED at times and I can tell you that school being closed is creating many consequences that I don't know how anyone could continue to support not offering in person as an option after seeing the things I see. School can be reopened safely just as many other professions have done, actually almost all at this point, except for our schools. I would venture to guess that many parents will see the benefits of homeschool or private school and continue with those avenues that they have been forced into. Leadership has done enough to stress out both children and parents in the current pandemic. One would think you would want legitimate data to base a redistricting decision off of that at this point you do not have.</p>

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Sep. 21, 20 -- 5:47: PM	Yael	Levin	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	<p>The Central Virginia Health Region consists of the following health districts: 1. Chesterfield (Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Powhatan) – these all make sense to include as they touch Henrico. 2.Chickahominy (Charles City, Goochland, Hanover, New Kent) – Goochland, Hanover and New Kent make sense to use as they touch Henrico. Charles City, however, is at least fifty minutes from Henrico, and it is unlikely that many of HCPS teachers come from there 3.Crater (Dinwiddie, Greensville, Prince George, Surry, Sussex) – None of these localities touch Henrico. 4. Henrico 5 .Piedmont (Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Nottoway, Prince Edward) – None of these localities touch Henrico. 6. Richmond (Richmond City) 7. Southside (Brunswick, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg) – None of these localities touch Henrico and are at least an hour and a half away. 8. Therefore, when it comes to looking at cases, positivity rate, and outbreaks – it only makes sense to use the following: Chesterfield Health District, Chickahominy Health District (if Charles City cannot be excluded then its impact is likely negligible), Henrico Health District, and Richmond Health District. 9. I understand the desire to use the entire Central VA Health Region for hospital data, though that data is still not available to the public, and as such, the health committee and HCPS are not being transparent. In fact, if you see the hospital data for the entire state, you will see that we are looking good and trending <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-IsW9GR5mmKu853UOUxRPOdxN-dLe_11/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-IsW9GR5mmKu853UOUxRPOdxN-dLe_11/view?usp=sharing</a>. The capacity chart shows the data under normal capacity, rather than surge capacity. The bed occupancy rate of 78% is similar to that of previous years. It is more likely that more people from our area seek medical experts in John's Hopkins in Maryland and UVA in Charlottesville than people from these Central VA localities come to seek medical care in the RVA area. Should Maryland base its back to school decisions on hospital data from Central VA? Should Charlottesville base its back to school decisions on hospital data from our area? 10. In addition to using localities that do not touch Henrico, the data also includes cases and outbreaks from Correctional Facilities. In data science, we always remove data that is irrelevant because it tends to cause anomalies, and correctional facilities outbreaks are very self-contained.</p>

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Sep. 21, 20 -- 5:58: PM	Yael	Levin	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	<p>My family's Virtual Learning Impressions:</p> <p>1. My sons are in 6th and 8th grades at Hungary Creek MS. They are both very bright kids, in gifted and advanced classes. My sons LOVED school until this year. I have done all in my power to highlight the positives of virtual learning, to make the best out of a difficult situation, and to highlight that this is also incredibly challenging for their teachers. We have no doubt that their teachers are doing their utmost best to make it a good experience. However, I have been hosting (for free), a virtual learning pod for their friends (parents are either single parents or two, full-time working parents) and can speak not only from my own sons' experience, but also of the experience of 3 other 8th graders in advanced classes at Hungary Creek MS, one other 6th grader in advanced and gifted at Hungary Creek MS, one 6th grader at Brookland MS, and one 6th grader at GYSA. These are smart and ambitious kids who love learning.. And they are hating virtual learning. I also pay attention and keep track of what they are learning, and while I am sure their teachers are giving it their all, the quality of instruction and level of education, do not come close to those of previous years. 2. What is more troubling is the attempt to mimic a traditional school day in an anything but a traditional learning environment. These kids need shorter days – period. They are spending too many hours in front of the screen and then have homework in front of the screen in addition. This is unacceptable and as parents, we are left to deal with the exhaustion, mental health toll and damage to their eyesight. 3. We believe that if you poll parents now, about 50% of parents would choose to continue with virtual, and about 50% would want full time, in-person school. If you end up with even just 60% of the students for in-person, there will be plenty of space to follow CDC guidelines. 4. If you poll parents regarding transportation, I also believe many will be more than happy to provide transportation for their children to free up buses for those students whose parents cannot provide transportation. 5. If you ask parents to donate supplies and PPE, many will be more than happy to do so. Somewhere along the way, it seems that HCPS forgot that education is a partnership with the parents and the community. We are more than willing to carry a heavier burden.</p>

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Sep. 21, 20 -- 6:02: PM	Yael	Levin	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	<p>Surveys and Big Picture: 1. We believe that if you poll teachers now, many will want to come back in person. Every day, I have so many teachers who tell me how eager they are to get back to teaching in person and how they would choose to do so in a heartbeat. We also strongly believe that teachers at high risk or who have someone at high risk in their households, should be accommodated to teach virtually. However, just like other jobs require their employees to show up to work and only make Covid accommodations if there's a high risk situation, then so should teachers be asked to return to work if they do not require accommodations. My husband for example is immunocompromised, yet has been going to work this entire time, while taking precautions. 2. We think you should look at what other localities are doing (Hanover is one example) and also what private schools are doing as far as mitigation procedures. We do not accept that students are not capable of adhering to the new rules. We see it work every day in Hanover and in private schools. The kids have gotten used to wearing masks, to keeping their distance, and to increased hand washing. It can be done. When there is a will, there is a way. 3. We think we are lacking a big picture view here – many have already un-enrolled their children for private schools and homeschooling. Some of them will come back, but most will not. This will impact future enrollment beyond just 2020-2021 and cause the following chain reaction: a reduction in funding for HCPS schools, followed by a negative impact to the quality of education HCPS is able to provide, followed by residents and businesses moving out of the area, followed by reduction in tax revenue for the county and further reduction in school funding. 4. And all of this, without even touching on the mental health issues resulting from kids being home for virtual learning, the spikes in depression and anxiety, the increase in substance abuse and alcoholism, the increase in child abuse, and the increase in suicides, especially in teens. We urge you to please survey parents and teachers again and give us a choice to come back in person, while still providing a parallel, virtual option for those who need it, and accommodations for teachers and staff who need them. It can be done safely.</p>
Sep. 21, 20 -- 7:06: PM	Chris	Schmidt	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Please consider the length of time the middle school and high school students are required to sit in front of the computer. The day is way too long and my children are losing focus quickly. Could asynchronous learning be done at the end of day so students can have instruction in the morning then work independently later in the day? ALSO please consider making cameras on a requirement ... they aren't engaged in the discussion if they aren't seen! Thank you for all that you are doing to make this difficult time the best it can be.</p>
Sep. 21, 20 -- 7:33: PM	Aiden	Sheldon	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	<p>I am in 6th grade at Hungary Creek MS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I think it's too much screen time</li> <li>2. Even when we're not in a Teams meeting, we're still doing work on the computer</li> <li>3. The breaks are too short</li> <li>4. It's a lot harder to learn than being in the classroom</li> </ol>

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Sep. 21, 20 -- 7:50: PM	Liam	Sheldon	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	I am in 8th grade at Hungary Creek MS: 1. Virtual school is very boring 2. The breaks are too short 3. Too much time in front of the screen 4. It's depressing
Sep. 21, 20 -- 8:04: PM	Sarah	Collier	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Please end redistricting with no further action at this time. The proposed maps, D4 and E4, were drawn based on data that is now out-of-date. With most students and families negatively impacted by Covid, the poverty data will not be reflective of families' current socioeconomic status. Furthermore, many families have left the public school system for private schools or homeschool and may not return to the public education system, which will reduce the school census. Please be mindful that our students (and we parents, too) are experiencing a collective trauma and grief. Moving students to a new school in the fall of 2021, when they may not set foot in a school building during the 2020-2021 school year, would be a very stressful event. If the Board approves one of the proposed maps, my own children will never set foot at Pinchbeck Elementary again. Their last day at Pinchbeck was March 13, 2020, and I am now homeschooling them for this school year. So, if D4 or E4 is approved, my kids will go to Carver ES and never be at Pinchbeck again. I cannot imagine the stress and anxiety it will cause our family to have to tell our children that in addition to the trauma of Covid, being homeschooled and away from friends for over a year, that they now have to go to a new school, where they will only know a couple of kids from their neighborhood (our small neighborhood is the only area being moved from Pinchbeck to Carver). So, I am asking as one parent to another, please keep our children at their current schools and allow them to return there once it's safe to return to in-person school. Thank you.
Sep. 21, 20 -- 8:56: PM	Jennifer	Smith	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella, Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	The committee worked extremely hard to come up with an equitable solution for Redistricting. I urge you to utilize the maps we came up with and use the recommendations we made in your decision making. Unfortunately not everyone is going to be ok with the outcome. Now is the time to let the voice of the committee heard.

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Sep. 21, 20 -- 9:15: PM	Rachel	Kelly	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea, Jackson Davis ES, Quioccasin MS, Freeman HS	<p>When more than half of families replied in their surveys that they wanted to return to school, our voices were not heard. When the American Academy of Pediatrics, the CDC and the county's Health Director made their recommendations for a return to school, our voices were not heard. Our children have watched everyone around them return to some normalcy. Stores, restaurants, bars, movies, gyms, pools, camps and childcare facilities are all open. Even childcare facilities operating out of the public schools are available, but at a cost. Our children are allowed to go to each of these places except school. Their peers are returning to private schools. Parents are being forced to choose to keep their children at home, sometimes alone, fending for themselves during school hours or having to pay for childcare services that were never in the budget. When schools, communities, and businesses were shut down in March, we were told that it was to flatten the curve and to keep hospitals from being overwhelmed. Those goals were achieved. Now we need to change our route. In the data that you are collecting for a safe return to school, you are not even looking at the hospitalization rate. You are refusing to even give substantial data points so that we know what the goal is. In fact, there is no data to support the children not returning to school. You have chosen to take the population that it seems are the least likely to get it and the least likely to spread it and you are isolating them in a time of their lives when it is the most important for their social, emotional and mental well being to be surrounded by teachers and peers. As a former PICU RN, I know that children are resilient. I also have experienced first-hand what a decline in mental health can do to children. I have been told my entire parenting career to limit screen time, but now that has simply been dismissed. School counselors, who give presentations at the beginning of the year on how increased screen time can impact their social and mental health and growth are refusing to give that presentation. I asked each of my children to tell me how they were feeling about school. You have taken away a basic right, and disregarded medical opinion. If we stay virtual, you are only lengthening your disservice to us and them. This is not the right thing.</p>
Sep. 22, 20 -- 5:04: AM	Shannon	Gravitt	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Keep Raintree Together
Sep. 22, 20 -- 9:10: AM	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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Sep. 22, 20 -- 9:29: AM	Robert	Dumitru	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Harper is our 6 year old Autistic granddaughter who lives with us along with her parents. She's one of thousands of Special Needs students In Henrico County who we've forgotten that they are indeed Special. Virtual schooling does not work for these students. They must have in person education to succeed. Now the experts are saying that that this virus will not be under control until the end of 2021! The data from the same experts show the very low risk that school age children have. Please get our Special Needs children the in-person education they deserve. Thanks
Sep. 22, 20 -- 10:18: AM	Dundrea	Harris	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	I would like for the school board to consider shortening the day for the students. There are too many breaks outside of the allotted time given for breaks. Allow them to receive the lesson and give time for questions, then let them go to the next class. One hour for each class should be enough. Allow the study break/ extended learning to remain before lunch so that the students could still get additional help where they need it.
Sep. 22, 20 -- 10:29: AM	Zinab	Bauwens	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	Hold off on all redistricting discussions until after COVID's attendance/enrollment impact has been resolved and students return to school. Only at that time would you have the required school population information to determine what the redistricting should look like since most, if not all, schools will have been impacted both from a student standpoint as well as from an instructor standpoint.
Sep. 22, 20 -- 10:31: AM	Tabatha	Williams	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Successful start to the virtual school year. Commending my children's teachers for their effort and time. I hope virtual will be an option even after this pandemic for teachers and students. In-person has not always fit all—many that have struggled with in person are no thriving! Please consider keeping this an option so we keep tax dollars in the schools even after this pandemic is over. Sad to see HCPS adopted a regulation last meeting of no part time school for students (half virtual/half in person) since this could be the best of both worlds going forward.
Sep. 22, 20 -- 11:39: AM	Michael	Steele, sr	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I have a special needs grandson that only has 1 good eye and has ADHD he needs to be back in school, he complains about a headache and eye after he's on the computer, if he keeps complaining I will stop him from being on the computer.
Sep. 22, 20 -- 12:17: PM	Mary	Carlson	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Please plan first to get kids back in school before considering redistricting. The fact you don't have accurate attendance numbers now should be enough to delay the topic until the attendance can be accurately counted. The most important is getting kids back in school. The teachers are doing the best they can, but it's still not the same as in person learning. Many school districts both locally and nationally are having the in person option for learning. There is no reason why we can't progress to in person learning options after the first nine weeks. My daughter said wearing a mask all day is preferable to sitting in front of a screen. I know many parents have already voiced the difficulties they are facing with this platform, we've had much of the same. I want to keep her enrolled in HCPS, please do the right thing and let families have a choice for in person learning.

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Sep. 22, 20 -- 12:22: PM	Jennifer	Kelley	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>After just over two weeks of my very social kindergartener in virtual school I would like to ask that you please consider allowing the youngest learners to return full time. My child, a kindergartener at Lakeside, is one of the fortunate children in his class as I sit next to him while he is learning, and I have to sit next to him the entire time. Anytime I leave even to go to the room next door and pour a cup of coffee when I come back he is either not listening or unmuted or bothering his brother in the same room. I feel terrible for the children I can see who are not at home and do not have an adult next to them, they seem confused and lost much of the day. Based on what I can see everyday while I sit next to my child there is no way virtual Kindergarten is equitable for the youngest learners.</p> <p>My kindergartener loved pre-school, he is smart, funny, and inquisitive. He is very social, we play with friends everyday after school and he lights up in a way I know he would if he was going into school with his friends everyday, last Friday he screamed and yelled and kicked the floor in a temper tantrum I have not seen from him since he was 3 years old. All of his teachers (LAMPs and his Kindergarten teacher) are doing an AMAZING job. But this is not sustainable for an entire school year and will not result in an equitable kindergarten experience for all children.</p> <p>My third grader, on the other hand, is fine. He follows the instructions from his teacher and is able to work independently with only the occasional assistance necessary.</p> <p>I am not worried about the long term impact of this on my children's education because I am fortunate enough to be able to be home with them to facilitate virtual learning. I am very worried about the children who do not have an adult next to them during the day to facilitate and assist in their learning.</p> <p>In closing, I do want to share that my family has had a positive attitude about covid and schooling this entire time. We have never been firmly for or against in person schooling during this pandemic. And even now, if I only had my third grader doing virtual schooling I wouldn't even be writing to you today.</p>
Sep. 22, 20 -- 12:46: PM	Kindra	Kirkeby	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>How is it that there are NO tangible metrics on reopening, no goals (in terms of the state of health of Henrico or our locality) and no way for anyone to plan or hope for otherwise. Have you all thought about what time it takes for parents to overlap their kids' and employer schedules and can there not be an easier technological way than PowerSchool or Schoology that kind of work together - but don't - I have to reset my passwords constantly- I'm blinded with emails from teachers who are engaged and crickets from the ones who are lost. I don't even know the gaps we are missing or the expectations that the state has for my children. Can we not show progress in any way? Please stop 'v-logging' and marketing- please show us tangible means towards progress and collective ways to more easily understand and access our children's educational plans. Send me info on 'how to homeschool in Va' and 'what should I expect from my kids' in school educational support' (and really, why only 4 hours a day for elementary but full days for our middle and high school kids?)</p>

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Sep. 22, 20 -- 12:56: PM	Miriam	Bernhardt	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella, Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I have 2 kids: 10th grader at GAHS and a 6th grader whose was supposed to be in the IB program at Moody Middle this school year. We enrolled my 6th grader in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic school which was a choice we were NOT planning to make but she needs an in person option for school. My 10th grader is in virtual classes this year through GAHS - he also needs an in person option for school but sending him to private highschool is not in the financial cards. Both of these scenarios have caused emotional and financial strain on our family. We are making it work - my kids will be fine in the short term. Long term, I'm not so confident.</p> <p>I'm advocating for in person education option for Henrico County as soon as possible,. One of my part time jobs is working for the YMCA as an Enrichment Teacher with kids enrolled in the virtual education excellence program currently hosted at 6 Henrico Highschools. I've seen ,first hand, the incredible dedication of the staff at the YMCA who are helping (in person) our county's children and their families navigate this herculean task of educating our kids via screens. These kids do not need more screen time. They need more "real time" with their teachers and their classmates. These kids need the structure and community of school to thrive and learn the core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility. Values that the Y is doing their very best (with limited staff) to teach them. These elements of education are so vital along with their academic instruction to learn how to be good citizens of our community. Please give our county's families and teachers the option of teaching in school. Masks, hand washing, social distancing, temperature checks, daily health questionnaires (just like they are providing in private school and administered daily by the YMCA) can be put into place and those who are at risk can continue to choose to stay home for virtual instruction. Have families and employees sign a waiver to choose in person instruction and move forward with the option to educate our kids in this county effectively. When considering all of the risks of in person instruction remember to include the power of social connection and community as a key component in keeping our immune systems healthy.</p>
Sep. 22, 20 -- 1:49: PM	Bryan	Hatchet	Chamberlain's Elementary	<p>I have a young boy named Dru. He is a foster to adopt child. He struggles daily with virtual based learning. He is suffering from anxiety and depression. He is 9 and shouldn't have this amount of stress over a school day. He can hear and see his fellow classmates but unable to interact with them. The class is supposed to have small group learning and he is unable to get his IEP support. Before the school board decided to reopen schools they should have figured out how to make this work for all and not sum. Leaving my job to be a stay at home cafeteria worker and teacher is not how this benefits my child or any other. I JUST DONT UNDERSTAND WHEN A PACK OF CIGARETTES BECAME MORE IMPORTANT THAN OUR CHILDREN EDUCATION AND MENTAL HEALTH.</p>
Sep. 22, 20 -- 2:21: PM	Millie	Denoncourt	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I am highly discouraged by the very apparent lack of planning that should have already been very much underway to get the children back in the classroom. I was aghast when I learned that the school board is spending time thinking through re-districting plans when their sole focus should be on getting children back in the classroom.</p>

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Sep. 22, 20 -- 2:25: PM	Laura	Trow	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I understand redistricting for Henrico is being discussed at the meeting. I am sure the school board is only bringing the topic back up as a formality, but just in case there's any question mark at this time, there is No Support for continuation of this process in the community. If you need a list of reasons why, we can elaborate further. But for this year and 2021, all redistricting decisions should be completely halted or dismissed until accurate assessments can be made of the student population, the needs of the community, and the financial state of the county. Thank you for your expected support of these considerations.
Sep. 22, 20 -- 2:48: PM	Katy	Reynolds	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Regarding virtual learning - I'm disappointed HCPS did not take the opportunity of distance learning to support our children and families with more voice and choice. Attempting to transition a "normal" school day to an electronic platform is difficult and clearly has not been effective. I implore the school board to consider alternative options to improve virtual learning. Strategies like a district wide lunch period, teacher recorded lessons, more flexibility in when and how and assignments are completed, intentional time for student led learning, more movement, more time outside, screen time being focused on small group or 1 to 1 support, limiting screen time overall, and more time for student social interactions are all vital to student's health and well being. There are plenty of schools who have been doing virtual learning for years now. In addition home schooling and democratic education sites have long championed the power of student led learning and voice and choice within the school day. In person schooling as it was before Covid-19 was not effective for many students and families. Covid-19 has presented an opportunity for HCPS to explore alternative strategies for education. There are plenty of resources and research to support a less rigid and restrictive learning structure. Please seriously consider making wide reaching changes to support families in having more control over the education of their children and less constraints from the district around the amount of "seat time" students spend in virtual learning. Seat time does not equate to effective learning or growth.
Sep. 22, 20 -- 4:19: PM	Carrie	Hagin	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I have a middle school and high school student and virtual learning is NOT working. The only thing being accomplished with virtual learning is forcing families to find other options. All we are asking for is a choice, which we have not been given. The metrics that are being used for the return to school should not be how we determine if our children go back to school, the % of hospital beds occupied, number of hospitals reporting difficulty acquiring PPE, number of current ICU hospitalizations. These metrics do not reflect an accurate picture of Henrico County since COVID and non-COVID data and a much larger surrounding area included in these numbers. The current COVID 7-day positivity rate is 5.7% and it has been below 6% the last 7-day window as well, so please take that into consideration and allow the children that want to attend in person to do so. HCPS can look to other counties and private schools to reopen safely. Schools in Henrico County (such as Steward School) are currently open and thriving. The administration and school board has done enough to stress out both children and parents in the current pandemic. so let's be sensible about it and work to return these kids to some normalcy. They have already suffered enough over the 7 months.

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Sep. 22, 20 -- 6:54: PM	Keri	Link	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Thank you for your continued diligence on working to make the educational experience more equitable and positive for our students. I have two high school students in Godwin HS and live in the Three Chopt district. I have been very impressed by the virtual experience my freshman and junior have been receiving so far this quarter. The teachers have been wonderful in communication and I have overheard several "check in" on the emotional health of students. My only concern is the amount of time spent in front of the computer during the day without sufficient breaks. A shortened school day for HS needs to be considered. I truly hope HCPS does not try to move to face to face too quickly to appease the vocal minority and instead considers science, trends in cases, conditions of facilities and health of staff/students.
Sep. 22, 20 -- 8:16: PM	Scott	Sheldon	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	So... wife and I just got off the MS virtual back to school night for 6th & 8th grades. We used their headsets. It was just over an hour and a half and my head was uncomfortable from wearing the headset for so long and it was not fun to be on a Teams meeting for so long. That was just one and a half hours. Our kids are doing this from 8:30 am to 3 pm EVERY SINGLE DAY. No doubt in my mind all of their teachers are putting in all they've got! No doubt in my mind their teachers are doing all they can to make it meaningful and high quality instruction. But now I felt their frustration and exhaustion for myself and it was just a fraction of their day.
Sep. 22, 20 -- 8:16: PM	Heather	Schmidt	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Thank you for trying to keep our kids safe! Our family appreciates the efforts made every day by the board, our schools, and their teachers.
Sep. 22, 20 -- 8:22: PM	Deirdre	Belden	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	In light of the fact that many of the "positive cases" have no symptoms and the reason the tests are coming back positive is because their cycle count is being done 35 plus times....(for those of us that actually research this virus, we all know that anything over 25 times should be considered negative), our family wants to know when those of us willing to sign a waiver saying we will not sue you can return to in person instruction? We all know the reason our children are being denied an actual education is because of the fear of a lawsuit. Those of us that do research know the vast majority of "cases" in Henrico county have been in retirement communities and prisons. And for that our children are denied an education. You can not compare virtual education to in person. Our youth's mental health is at more of a risk than their physical health is to this virus that doesn't have any effect on them, nor do they transmit the virus. Please consider letting our children go back to in person instruction ASAP!!!!!!
Sep. 22, 20 -- 8:37: PM	Hiyasmin	Zimmerman	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I would like to express my concern about the tremendous amount of change the children of HCPS has been experiencing this past year (social isolation & virtual learning). We have been living in a crisis. Please consider to end redistricting efforts in order to give some sense of normalcy to those students returning to school in Fall 2021.

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Sep. 22, 20 -- 8:40: PM	Jessi	Von Bank	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Thank you for meeting for the benefit of all our children. I want tell you about my seven year old daughter, Sarah. She has an IEP due to her epilepsy and learning challenges. She loved kindergarten and is thrilled to be first grader now. Unfortunately due to her poor fine motor skills she is unable to navigate a computer independently for virtual school. I am a nurse and I'm not able to sit with her during school hours to press mute, unmute, open assignments and meeting rooms. I've had to hire a sitter to literally sit next to Sarah and help her with her Chromebook for 5 hours a day. This situation is very hard on all of us because I'm giving over half of my nursing paycheck to pay for her to sit through virtual school. I know I'm lucky to be able to do that for her at all, but it's not okay that as an essential worker I am working, but my child is not being provided a free or appropriate education. Please consider all of the essential workers who are doing their part in this pandemic. By closing schools we are telling our kids that their education is not essential. Teachers are just as essential as doctors and nurses and our kids deserve more.
Sep. 22, 20 -- 9:14: PM	Nikki	Stephenson	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	"Boring". "I hate this so much". "School is the worst". "This is just awful". These are the comments I've heard from my 7th and 9th graders the past 2 weeks regarding virtual learning. Virtual learning is NOT working. Just because there haven't been any major technology glitches doesn't mean this learning experience is successful. There is little to no consideration given to kids' emotional health and well-being - special needs kids and elementary aged kids are not the only groups struggling in this environment. My kids are feeling frustrated and isolated. The majority of parents are just asking for a CHOICE - the ability to decide what's best for our children and choose either virtual or in-person learning. The risk of the virus does not outweigh the price these kids are paying. The data does not support the extreme measures we are taking - businesses, youth sports, other school districts have all figured out a way to be open and operational during this time. Why can't HCPS? Come on, school board - we can do better for our kids.
Sep. 22, 20 -- 9:37: PM	Pam	Strieffler	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I would like to discuss the mental health of the children doing hours of virtual learning. No socialization. This is doing more harm than the virus would. We need to get these kids back in school.
Sep. 22, 20 -- 10:19: PM	Maria	Provenzo	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	My daughter is a senior at Deep Run High School. She is struggling trying to learn AP Stats and AP Bio on line.
Sep. 22, 20 -- 10:32: PM	Cathy	Ahmed	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	My 3 high schoolers are definitely struggling with the amount of time sitting with their computers, alone, coupled with an inordinate amount of homework in addition (particularly for my senior.)
Sep. 22, 20 -- 11:20: PM	Mary	Hummer	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Online school is a daily struggle for my family it's entirely too long for my children to be in their room and or in-front of a computer , this is not working Please move forward with getting kids back in the classroom

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Sep. 23, 20 -- 2:14: AM	Sara	Jamal	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I'm sure you're getting a lot of push for getting kids back to school. There is a silent majority that does approve of your careful handling and consideration of all issues during this pandemic. Distance learning is hard and certainly not ideal and with many issues (tech issues, too much screen time, isolation from classmates etc). But playing Russian roulette with your child's life and other lives in the community is more appalling. Thank you for all your hard and dedication.
Sep. 23, 20 -- 5:48: AM	Karina	Blanton	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Our child want to be back to in person education. Virtually learning is too long of a day starring at a screen with technology issues of getting kicked out- hand raise and teacher does not call of child, jumping through various platforms for 1 assignment and the frustration of navigating multiple forums. Our kids mental and social health are being ignored by our public school system. Return to in person just as our private schools and neighboring public schools have done. Our children are emotionally and mentally exhausted and want to go back to in person education
Sep. 23, 20 -- 8:26: AM	Sarah	Allen	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Thank you school board for listening to each family represented. I have three children and live in the Tuckahoe District. I am a healthcare worker and my husband is also an essential worker. We have been working full-time during the entire pandemic. I had to make the difficult decision to put my 3rd grader in private school with the choice of virtual school being the only option in Henrico County. Since I'm working full-time it was either daycare or private school and I did not want my child in daycare. We are into the 5th week of private school my daughter is doing amazing wearing a mask. Temperatures are taken and health questions are answered before children enter the building. No one has gotten sick and all the children are thriving. My older two children 5th grade and 7th grade have stayed with hcps in Virtual School. The teachers and School staff have been amazing however they can only do so much in a very difficult situation. The school board is putting too much on their shoulders. My 5th graders straight A student confident and good athlete. is really struggling paying attention and basically just being frustrated as his teacher has to help the slower kids he is sitting for hours waiting until she's ready to go to the next step. He is bored and I do not feel he has learned anything since school has started. His teacher is amazing and she is trying her hardest. But virtual school is just not a good environment for young children to learn. My 7th grader is doing the best she can. The first day of school was rough she was teased by a large group of students in the chat feature during class. Since then she does not feel comfortable being on a camera. She is doing okay but I'm really not sure how much she's understanding. During the presentation for back to school night I could see the frustration with the teachers especially not being able to connect with the kids or know if they understand things are not since most of the kids on the Middle School level are keeping their cameras turned off because they don't feel comfortable with someone. Our children need to be in person in school. Their mental health is so important. It is not being addressed. They cannot learn through a computer screen. The positivity rate is dropping. The metrics being used for henrico isn't accurate of our immediate area. My recent experience with private school shows kids can go back to school safely. Please send our kids back to school. Thanks You

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Sep. 23, 20 -- 9:05: AM	Kim	Spillare	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	You all need to be doing everything in your power to get all of these kids back to school as soon as possible. The headaches are out of control at the high school level with the amount of time being required looking at a screen. This isn't sustainable. I currently have a 15 year old daughter in the 10th grade that wants to know if she can drop out. There needs to be an end in site to this online nonsense. I know the teachers are doing the best they can but 9am to 4pm everyday 5 days a week plus 2 hours of homework a night is unhealthy. Henrico County can do better!
Sep. 23, 20 -- 10:15: AM	Jon	Sealy	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	I'm writing to encourage the board to hold on redistricting until the pandemic is over and in-person school resumes. First, I think the school board's energy is best served by focusing on the immediate needs of the system (logistics of re-opening, PPE, budgeting, etc.). Second, since we don't know how the economy and school enrollment will shake out post-COVID, I don't see how you redraw district lines effectively. Finally, until you solve the issue of in-person school, district lines shouldn't really matter. Virtual school has de-coupled schools from census tracts, which might present an opportunity to improve equity outcomes within the system. At Rev. Cooper's March town hall, there was some discussion about an eastern Fairfield student unable to participate in a math program at Hungary Creek due to travel times. The issue was geography, and the sheer distance between eastern and western Henrico. Virtual schools solves that issue, so if virtual schooling is going well, I would encourage you to look into ways virtual schooling may continue post-COVID--at least in small pockets, such as a high schooler wanting to take specialty classes out of their district. Perhaps virtual high schools can be a new permanent option akin to the county's magnet schools. If such an option were available, that too would affect the way you redistrict the county. So, in all ways, solving COVID and the issue of in-person vs. virtual schools is up-stream from district lines. Thank you.
Sep. 23, 20 -- 10:31: AM	Christina	Stone	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	My middle school son cannot make it completely through any class without being kicked out. It keeps saying the internet is weak. My elementary daughter does not have any issues. We've done everything suggested. It doesn't even work on his phone using data instead of wifi. It's very discouraging for him and he wants to just quit, and I can't say I blame him!
Sep. 23, 20 -- 11:03: AM	Sarah	Schumacher	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I just wanted to say thank you. Thank you for making virtual learning such a smooth transition. It is going great in my household even with my ADHD child! Yes there are the occasional technical glitches but they are to be expected when technology is involved. My kids teachers at QMS and Tucker have done a great job keeping my kids engaged. So thank you. I feel so much better knowing my kids are able to learn safely from home during this pandemic.

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Sep. 23, 20 -- 11:05: AM	Jackie	Brown	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	It is too soon for students to return to hybrid. Educators and students are JUST now getting into a good routine with virtual, Henrico's death rate is current double the state average, and we are heading into flu season. Each time I have visited a school since virtual began, I have seen a lack of compliance with mask wearing and hand sanitizing by HCPS employees. I have seen a lack of plexiglass, and a general lack of awareness of personal behaviors that contribute to spread. Over 21 schools have had staff test positive for covid. This will only worsen if students return for a hybrid learning plan. Looking at Hanover, they're experiencing significant disruptions to learning due to covid cases. Looking to CCPS, their hybrid learning plan is an absolute mess, parents are upset and confused, students are receiving LESS time with their teachers and being forced into more time guiding their own education. Please vote no on the Hybrid option.
Sep. 23, 20 -- 11:24: AM	Jessica	Milligan	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	We must provide an option for both in-school and virtual teaching- and choice to families and teachers. I am able to live my life safely as possible out in the world and working by following a set of rules. We all have to live by a set of rules to live and continue on. We can not accept the current state of public virtual education. I appreciate all the hard work given the situation, but we need to be smart and find ways to go back in a safe manner so these children can have at least two real school learning days a week. I also worry about the teachers being overworked so that may mean hiring MORE teachers to CHOOSE virtual groups while others CHOOSE in person teaching. Let's find creative ways to turn a very hard situation into an opportunity for jobs and community helpers. Let's find jobs for family members that are out of work and have brains in their head to help the education system. LET'S BE PROBLEM SOLVERS like we ask our kids to be everyday. If HCPS can't find a way forward, I fear charter schools will start popping up to aid families and take additional funding away from public schools.
Sep. 23, 20 -- 11:24: AM	Christine	Williams	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I accidentally signed up to speak. I apologize for that. I was looking for this form. Please adjust the Middle School schedule. It is brutal. Please follow the high school schedule for them. They need a longer lunch. Please adjust the metrics you are using to get us back into school buildings. No other county is using those metrics and they are oppressive. We need the CHOICE to send our kids back to school - just like you are providing a virtual choice all year. Our kids' mental health is just as important as their physical health. Virtual learning is mentally draining, isolating, and stressful and it is incredibly academically disadvantageous. Thanks
Sep. 23, 20 -- 12:01: PM	Jennifer	Holsten	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I have a 5th grader and a 2nd grader with ADHD. Virtual learning is NOT working for them. They cry out of frustration every day. Their mental health is suffering. There are no "in person" accommodations for them. There needs to be something done for them now and not at the end of the 9 weeks or later.

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Sep. 23, 20 -- 12:24: PM	Stacy	Hackney	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Hello, I would like to know if the health committee is considering the new data that's been released from Brown University (National COVID-19 School Response Data Dashboard) and the Network of Public Education that indicates low rates of COVID infections in schools and little evidence of transmission in schools. Additionally, how is the health committee taking into account the low level of transmission in both private and public schools in our area? I believe these new facts should inform the School Board's decision making, and I would like to know how they are being accounted for in evaluating a return to in-person learning.
Sep. 23, 20 -- 1:25: PM	Lindsay	Rayfield	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I have students in K and 2nd grade. We are so thankful for their teachers, who are doing the best they can, but we are very disappointed in virtual learning and that our county did not allow families to choose between virtual and in-person. Kindergarten students are not able to sit still and pay attention to a small face on a screen for 4.5 hours. My daughter was always an attentive and enthusiastic student in preschool, but she is struggling so much with the screen. She is constantly bored, even though her teacher is doing the best she can from afar. We have toured a private K program and are strongly considering removing her from HCPS so she can learn in person, the way kindergarten was intended to be. Looking at her ipad full of faces, she is clearly not the only one struggling. My 2nd grader was doing fine the first week, but the second week was so upsetting as she struggled with the various apps and programs they are using, as opposed to a traditional pencil and paper. Teachers are on a regular laptop, while kindergarten is on Ipads and 2nd graders are on chromebooks. Each of these devices function differently, and the teachers explain assignments differently than how they actually appear and work on the students' computers. This causes a lot of wasted time as the students and parents try to figure out what they are supposed to be doing and how to actually access the app or the assignment. Projects in SeeSaw take much longer than they would with a pencil and paper, or even dry-erase board and marker. I am also frustrated with the amount of computer time the teachers expect after class is over. They have assigned math, reading, and LA homework in Dreambox, SmartyAnts, Lexia, and various other apps. By the time the virtual class is over, our family is finished with screen time, and I do not want them spending more time on their chromebook or ipad. My husband and I have other obligations during the day and are not able to sit next to our daughters, helping them with every tech issue or reminding them to pay attention. I know many other families face the same issues. Please provide our students with the option for in-person learning. Virtual learning is not working for our family, and many others, and we are ready for our daughters to be in the classrooms with their teachers and peers.

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Sep. 23, 20 -- 2:41: PM	Tracy	Davis	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>We have just entered our third week of virtual learning. I have two students in Henrico County one at short pump middle school and the other at Shady Grove elementary school in the SIS program. My older son is suffering mentally through virtual school. He's devolving into a depressed state that I have never seen. My five-year-old daughter with autism is suffering the most. Her may need a socialization and face-to-face teacher interaction. She learns from watching other children in the environment around her. To this point entering the third week my daughter is disintegrating before my eyes. Her social skills and her behavior in general has deteriorated to a point that I am not sure that we can recover from. My son is weepy all the time and not sleeping. In addition we have parents or suffering greatly. The mental toll and stress that it takes to work and teach school side-by-side with a special needs child and another one in class simultaneously is untenable. The teachers are doing an amazing job with what they have been given but a return to school is necessary and vital. The community is suffering. Most of us want in person and feel our voices are not heard. Let those that want to stay virtual stay that way and those that want to return, return. Split it up. I know there are teachers that want to return. Please do what is best and allow a return to school. The virus isn't going anywhere. We will all eventually be exposed if we haven't already. Keeping things locked down and out will not stop this, it will only cause more suffering and mental illness for these kids and parents. Please do the right thing, which is the best thing.</p>
Sep. 23, 20 -- 3:01: PM	Ruby	Kratzert	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>Dear HCPS School Board &amp; Leadership Team, My name is Ruby Kratzert, and I am a first grade teacher at Nuckols Farm Elementary School. This is my 8th year of teaching in HCPS, and my 6th year teaching first grade. I am writing today to voice the concern that I have revolving around primary-aged students receiving traditional grades during virtual learning; while I will speak about 1st grade, please know that my concern is also extended to Kindergarten and 2nd grade students. I have voiced my concerns to my building administration but feel that the issue is much larger than one school building and needs to be addressed on a county-wide level. Please see my 4-page letter, emailed to each of you on Monday, September 21, 2020, for more details, including my concerns and suggested solutions. Thank you in advance for your time, Ruby Kratzert</p>

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Sep. 23, 20 -- 3:01: PM	AJ	James	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>We have two attending Tuckahoe Middle School. My feelings up front, we advocate for a choice of whether or not our childing should attend in person or virtually. 1. From my last calculations... 90% of COVID deaths in Virginia are to those 60 years old and above, with 50 – 60% above the age of 80. I still don't recall a single death in Virginia of anyone 19 years of age or below. Can they transmit COVID to at risk people, sure. But in our household, we avoid at risk family members and friends or if must, follow social distancing and masking rules when around people at risk. 2. My kids are left alone often because my wife and I both work. I try to work from home as much as possible, but I'm out of the house a lot. This is a security risk. No only from bad people, but also a risk of fire, etc. 3. Day cares adjusted early this Spring, but kept doors open then allowed more kids to return. We've heard of no incidents at day cares.</p> <p>4. Private schools started a week or two earlier, and we haven't heard anything about any negative, COVID related events. 5. Surrounding counties are either back in school, back in school at some level, but at least if they aren't they now have in-school plans starting this month or next. 6. The mental health of our children is a priority for us. Even our one son who loathes school is upset that he can't go back on campus. 7. Recommendations from respected medical professionals and organizations are to send our children back to school. This is a family-by-family decision in the end, but that is why so many of us advocate for choice. In closing, one School Board Member stated a couple of months ago, and I'm paraphrasing... "If we vote one way we anger half the people. If we vote the other way we anger the other half of the people." I agree with that statement, if the only choices are mandatory virtual or mandatory in-school learning. But what about a third choice, that would probably anger only 10% of the people, and that's giving parents a choice? The vast majority of us advocating for in-school learning agree entirely with those that don't want to send their kids to school; please keep them at home and learn virtually. We just want the choice. I think that's probably the same feeling for most teachers as well. If I am wrong, I would love to see the data on that. Thank you! AJ James</p>
Sep. 23, 20 -- 3:12: PM	Tabatha	Williams	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>The county keeps asking more from teachers---the fact that PD coordinators, SCA coordinators, safety, etc are unpaid this year is UNREAL. Teachers work more and more and more and never are given a monetary value for it. In this world, it is wild that this is EXPECTED of us. I hope and pray that more teachers start saying no to the demands placed on us above our contractual duties, maybe then we will stop being taken advantage of.</p>

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Sep. 23, 20 -- 3:27: PM	Janice	Dumitru	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	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.
Sep. 23, 20 -- 3:46: PM	chris	haberlin	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I would like for the school board to recognize that the education of our children is among the most essential services provided by our local government. However, it is not being treated that way. I'd like to board to also recognize that Virtual Learning has failed our students thus far; it is not effective, it is not efficient, and it is a fallacy to suggest that it is a tenable alternative to in person learning, particularly for younger, ESOL, disadvantaged, and children with learning disabilities. Lastly, I beg the educators in our county to step up in a big way. You have an opportunity to be a hero much in the same way doctors, nurses, and other front line workers were deemed heroes early in the pandemic. By stepping up to the challenge, coming to school everyday prepared to accept the risks of teaching, and providing our next generation with the education they deserve, you will be a hero to so many children, parents, and community members. Our children need you now more than ever, please don't let them down.
Sep. 23, 20 -- 6:51: PM	Maryse	Eubank	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Thank you very much for your attention to the need to update the current schedule for secondary students. The time spent in front of a computer in isolation from others is much too lengthy. Students need interaction with others first and foremost, but if that is not possible we must be flexible in our approach to teach them. Teachers need to limit the number of computer-based assignments. Assign books to read. Provide textbooks and do reading checks. While it is important to lessen the length of the school day, it must be acknowledged that if it is shortened and teachers simply assign computer-based homework, nothing is improved.
Sep. 23, 20 -- 8:17: PM	Jessica	Lynn	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	We have been so happy with our learning pod set up for virtual learning. It includes 4 families for a total of 6 children in grades K-2. We rotate houses each day and it has been a life saver. I am so thankful to have found a consistent system to support my daughter through virtual learning while allowing my husband and I to continue working. The teachers have been absolutely amazing. I cannot say enough wonderful things about how Henrico has made the best out an incredibly difficult situation. I wish more families could work to make this a more positive experience for themselves.

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Sep. 23, 20 -- 8:27: PM	Bonnie	Zaudtke	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Virtual learning has presented some challenges for my family. I have a 10th, 8th, and 5th grader. They are all good, responsible students. In order for us to be as successful as possible, we set up a desk for each with all the supplies they need. We also got a new router and increased our bandwidth by 5x. We still have had some connection issues. Our biggest challenge has been with Teams. My 8th grader has missed several days of school already because Teams continues to kick her out just minutes after she is admitted to the class. We have tried the app and the browser, sitting in different rooms, clearing the cache and cookies, restarting the computer and replacing the computer. Nothing has helped. Tonight we don't know if she will be able to attend classes tomorrow and we aren't sure when or if this will ever be resolved. I want my children to be safe AND be able to learn and grow. I also can't help but wonder how many students are facing this issue but don't have someone at home to help them push to find a solution. We are frustrated, worried and anxious about how this will turn around. The teachers at Hungary Creek have been wonderfully supportive, and continue to load assignments onto Schoology. The assignments are good, but it's not ideal for learning new content. I feel helpless as a mom and hope someone can help us get to virtual class!
Sep. 23, 20 -- 8:28: PM	Kelly	Taylor	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	The metrics used to influence the decision to return to school continue to be shrouded in secrecy. HCPS needs to be transparent with the numbers they are using to make decisions that are impacting the households of every student in the county. There should be no mystery or magic involved in the creation of the presentations posted for the public. Per the published HCPS Health Committee Weekly Community and Transmission Preparedness Report for the week ending 9/12/2020, there was a burden score of 16.0, a trend score of 11.1, with the City of Richmond having 11.4 cases per 100k, 4.9% positivity, and 0.25 rate of outbreaks. Henrico County had 11.4, 7.4, and 0.04 respectively. The published report for the week ending 9/19 showed the burden score remaining static at 16.0 and trend of 9.9 (drop of 1.2). It is difficult to comprehend how the burden score did not change at all when every reported score for the City of Richmond went down (11.2/3.8%/0.00) and Henrico county went down for both cases per 100k (11.2), and percent positivity (3.8%) and remained constant for outbreaks (0.04). For Richmond, the cases per 100k dropped by 0.2 (2%), the percent positivity went down 1.1 (18%), and the outbreaks went down 0.25 (100%). For Henrico, the cases per 100k went down 0.2 (14%) and, percent positivity went down 3.6 (46%). How is it with those drops, the burden score remained exactly the same? When I asked Ms. Teigan about whether the burden score was accurate or was an error in the document, she told me the burden score was correct, but noted that the metrics had improved. How is that? What is the burden score based on if it does not change, but the metrics have improved? This continues to be an issue with transparency. Families are feeling defeated and are losing hope. If you are posting information to the public to address a concern, at least make sure the product serves the intended purpose.

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Sep. 23, 20 -- 8:48: PM	Thomas	Sherlock	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	<p>To the School Board of Henrico County, I am very disturbed by the superintendent and the school board's assertion that I am a visitor in my own home. The email that was distributed by the school system on September 14th references the school's visitor policy and that parents must act like they are in a school building if they enter their child's room while they are doing virtual school. I cannot even believe that I must explain this to the board, YOU and your teachers are guests in my home! I have paid my taxes for years to help pay for the buildings these students have been forced out by your lack of knowledge or flagrant disregard for facts, scientific evidence and the experiences of other countries on our planet. Your lack of respect for the people that work hard to provide homes for their children is incredible. I expect the Board and the Superintendent to make a formal apology to all the parents in Henrico County for is offense. I also want to know if the school board is looking at what other countries are doing as far as opening schools. I know that some countries are opening schools and that some studies show that children are not a large vector for spreading Corona Virus. As a taxpayer I want honest, accurate and complete information so that a good decision can be made and at this time I do not feel that the Superintendent or the School Board is being honest. This appears to be more political that fact based. Please be honest about these questions. Our children are suffering. All you have to do is look at the news and see that domestic violence calls, substance abuse and the activities of child predators is all increasing. My kids and all the kids in the county deserve more than incomplete information and political gamesmanship. I am begging you to do the right thing. Let these kids go back to school.</p> <p>Regards, Thomas Sherlock</p>

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Sep. 23, 20 -- 10:20: PM	Jessie	Sanborn	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Hello! I am a teacher and a parent in the county. I have 4 children in all three levels of HCPS schools. I am teaching virtually from my classroom while my three older kids are at home learning on their own. I am paying \$100 a week for my youngest to go to another HCPS school to do his virtual learning through the YMCA. While I am grateful that this program exists so that he has some personal interaction and time outside during the day, it seems crazy to me that I am paying for him to go to a public school in his county. I am working exponentially harder as a teacher, which I happy to do to give my students the best that I can. However, I feel as though we, as a county, are failing our students. I have students in my class who have done nothing since school has started. These students were behind when the year started but are falling farther behind each day. On the parent side of things, my children are surviving, but that's the best I can say. They are not thriving and we are denying them the chance to do so. I am trying to give them as normal an experience and possible and am signing them up for as many activities that mimic school as possible, but why should I have to? School should be providing these as an option for our kids. I know that we had MANY teachers who campaigned for the first nine online. I am a teacher campaigning to go back to in person learning! I am also coming to realize that many of those who were adamant about having a virtual first nine weeks are not even residents of our county. Some of these teachers are now sending their students to face to face school in their home counties. I am not asking that everyone be forced to return, but that those of us who feel comfortable be given the chance to do so. I can think of so many children who would benefit from this! Thank you!!
Sep. 23, 20 -- 10:48: PM	Phung	Blevins	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Virtual learning is not working for our family. Kids are complaining of headaches and mental fatigue. Subject matter is not as engaging and is being described as boring. We have an IB student and an all honors enrolled student so they are studious and have previously enjoyed school. Do you have a plan for in-person learning for all students (who are requesting an option) for Q2? Little has been said by HCPS regarding mental health. Is your health committee looking at this and weighing the effects of virtual learning, lack of social interaction, minimal meaningful teacher/student interactions vs mental health? My son had his annual physical last week. The pediatrician asked him 3x (at the beginning, during the check-up, and at the end) about his mental health, if he is experiencing any anxiety and/or stress due to the situation. He has been a patient of this practice/doctor 17+ years and this was the first visit that this subject was discussed. This should tell you that mental health and the restrictions being imposed on our children are not healthy. HCPS needs to allow students who can and who want to return to school the opportunity. What is HCPS doing to address this valid concern?
Sep. 23, 20 -- 10:55: PM	April	Williams	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Why is HCPS Board and Dr. Cashwell privately meeting and discussing school reopening plans with VEA while ignoring emails and request for meetings from parents? Why are teachers in certain teacher lead FB groups privy to the knowledge that HCPS is considering plans for in-person learning and telling others on the page to vote "no"? "Regardless of the metrics vote no." Is HCPS working for the students?

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Sep. 23, 20 -- 11:31: PM	Gina	Blackwell	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	I believe that Henrico county should stay virtual at least through the 2nd quarter and not go back to school nor have a hybrid return to school. The hybrid option should never be chosen since experts agree that a hybrid model would be even higher risk than than going to school full time. Also, I believe that redistricting should be tabled for the time being. There are too many factors currently to make an appropriate decision.
Sep. 24, 20 -- 6:32: AM	Marcia	Hafer-Marcus	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	It is unacceptable that children have copious amounts of homework after spending 6+ hours staring at a computer screen 5 days a week. Headaches are daily. My daughter's anxiety and stress levels are off the charts. She is 11!! There needs to be a reduction of hours required online. The children need a 4 day schedule with a day to work on assignments. Not sure why you are trying to replicate a face to face experience when there are many homeschool programs you could be modeling that allow more flexibility for families and students. The mental health of your students is being ignored and that is unacceptable.
Sep. 24, 20 -- 6:50: AM	Shannon	Carroll	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I'll keep this as brief as possible. Our 3rd grader at Kaechele is doing fine, but only because she attended Mathnasium all summer to the tune of \$300/month & a reading tutor for \$200/month. Our kindergartener, despite having zero diagnosed "learning differences" that we're aware of (he's quite possibly dyslexic but that can't be determined yet because he can't get with a reading specialist in the school) is having a terrible time. He has the BEST teacher at the BEST school under the BEST principal but they can only do so much. Every time the teacher screen shares, kids have to log out & back in to see it. It's 14 steps to get a kindergartener logged in. He can do it if it goes right, but not if there's an issue. Both of them have emotionally regressed. At a bare minimum, kindergarten needs to be in a physical classroom. Private schools are doing just fine... but we can't afford it on our public servant salaries. Both of us have sacrificed tremendously for our communities & Henrico County is FAILING our children. Coming from a COVID ICU RN, get these kids back in school or risk losing them, and your funding, altogether.
Sep. 24, 20 -- 7:32: AM	Jason	Stamm	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I urge the Board to choose to end redistricting with no further action. It is impossible to pick up where redistricting left off or even resume the engagement at all. The data, the process, our communities, and even the people are all altered by the pandemic; and the whole method is in invalid at this point. My wife was a volunteer for the redistricting committee, and our family contributed significant time and energy to the process. We realize many others did as well, and that the District spent a significant amount of money and time. Those are all costs sunk by the pandemic, and I ask you all to cut the losses and end the process with no further action. There will be a next time when a valid method can be engaged again.
Sep. 24, 20 -- 7:46: AM	Summer	Robinson	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	Evidence shows that children are not at risk from Covid 19. The long term effects of virtual school will be dire. Children have been out of school for 6 months now, it is time to open up. Working parents have had enough.