

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, August 27, 2020

Timestamp	First Name	Last Name	Magisterial District	Your written comments for the August 27 work session
Aug. 13, 20 -- 8:33: AM	Maria	Greco	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Will Henrico schools be prepared to teach our children in person in November? Other counties are opening and were prepared, why was Henrico not prepared? Rumor is that Henrico county will not being prepared to hold in person classes for the entire 20/21 school year. Is this true?
Aug. 13, 20 -- 8:34: AM	Maria	Greco	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Will Henrico schools be prepared to teach our children in person in November? Other counties are opening and were prepared, why was Henrico not prepared? Rumor is that Henrico county will not being prepared to hold in person classes for the entire 20/21 school year. Is this true?
Aug. 17, 20 -- 3:23: PM	Stephanie	Gelem	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	After watching the video from the county in regards to a sample of what elementary virtual learning will look like, I'm becoming increasingly concerned with the number of students per class at the elementary level. The video didn't show a full class load. I know from experiencing the spring virtual learning that having 18+ children in a whole group lesson virtually is not acceptable, especially in the lower elementary levels. While I can't be sure of the class numbers for my children in this up and coming school year, I do know that my daughter went from a grade with five teachers, now down to four. Leaving me to assume her class size will be larger than is manageable for virtual learning. Class sizes NEED to be lower for children to have a chance at being successful in virtual learning.
Aug. 22, 20 -- 5:38: PM	Cassandra	Taylor	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	How can faith-based organizations partner with the county to create space for student/family coops so that the parents can work?
Aug. 24, 20 -- 2:19: PM	Terra	Balla	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	It is time for the board to establish a time line for completing the redistricting process. It is critical during this new era that students attend the schools closest to their homes.

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Aug. 26, 20 -- 12:45: PM	Morgan	Walls	Teacher, Brookland Middle School	<p>To the members of the School Board:</p> <p>Thank you for your hard work this summer as we prepare for our upcoming school year. As we move forward, I am very concerned about the ability of our district to keep our students and staff safe and the need for transparency that goes along with that. As I write this, I am aware of a handful of schools with COVID-19 case(s), and our students have yet to even step foot into our halls. It is absolutely crucial that HCPS make a firm commitment to staff and families to notify us of suspected COVID-19 cases and necessary quarantines in our school community. This is a public health issue, and a lack of transparency could lead to additional spread of the virus. Transparency with this information is important so that teachers, staff, parents, and families can make an informed decision regarding their health and return to school plans.</p> <p>Furthermore, I am wondering why we are insisting to push forward with a predominantly virtual model that will put several thousand students into our buildings, when it is clear that even a small handful of staff in a building poses a public health risk. We need to see that our schools are safe before students come back. We need to know that all principals are enforcing the same guidelines in a fair manner so that every school is a safe place to work and learn. This is not the time for an autonomous approach to safety. We need strong guidelines and leadership from our DLT.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration during this very tumultuous time.</p>
Aug. 26, 20 -- 3:25: PM	Yael	Levin	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	<p>1) We have yet to see a plan to return to school - only a plan for virtual. We have yet to see which MEDICAL metrics you will be using to determine how to return students to school. We deserve to see an actual plan to return students to the classroom this year.</p> <p>2) How will you prevent pornographic cyber hackings into virtual classrooms? These have been happening all across the country.</p> <p>3) How will Microsoft Teams handle more than 50,000 students PLUS staff at the same time when at my husband's work for example, it doesn't work properly if the meeting has more than 15 participants and they have the best technology and Wifi?</p>

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Aug. 26, 20 -- 4:45: PM	Audra	Vanderland	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I wanted to thank the Board again for their continued commitment to providing safe learning spaces for staff and students, including their commitment to allowing any staff or student who needs virtual work accommodations to do so. I hope this will continue to be a priority as we move forward and that creative solutions, such as collaborative teaming between teachers, can be explored to ensure everyone is able to have the safety they need while teaching and learning. I also wanted to express concern about the use of PCR only positivity rate. There is a gap between the PCR positivity and the total test positivity, as many people get rapid testing completed at urgent care (or even college). I believe that we need to look at both positivity rates when making decisions about safety as the gap can be quite large (0.5) at times.
Aug. 26, 20 -- 5:04: PM	Kelly	Taylor	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Regarding slide 6 of the HCPS Health Committee Report, how are the Burden and Trend numbers calculated? The report indicates the numbers will be updated each Monday. Where will the updated figures be shared/reported to the public? Additionally, my question from July (how HCPS plans to address the additional emotional support needs of our children during this time) has gone unanswered. Please answer this important question. Kids are without the physical contact of their teachers and friends, not getting clubs or sports, and as other school districts have started their virtual sessions, we are seeing instances of crumbling mental health (kids crying in front of screens) and upsetting images (porn) shared via Zoom and other online tools. How is HCPS preparing to deal with this very real problem?

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Aug. 26, 20 -- 9:34: PM	Maria	Kirtley	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I want to once again express my appreciate for your consideration of the safety of students and staff to create a plan for reopening schools. I have had the privilege of working for HCPS for 14 years. I have met amazing and passionate educators, parents, administrators, office staff, and C&M staff along the way. Over the past few weeks I have had many people share with me concerns about the lack of or inconsistencies with safety protocols being followed in their school buildings. They are scared and feel helpless about how to approach this issue for fear of reprimand by coworkers or administrators. Many have reported people not wearing masks in the building and staff gathering within buildings and not following social distancing guidelines. My concern is that not all schools are following protocol to the same degree. My hope is that you would consider implementing an avenue for people to report their concerns about what they encounter in their work environment that is unsafe so we can address those jeopardizing our safe return to school. Staff members are nervous about returning to school and disheartened when they see others not taking measures seriously. I have encouraged the people I have spoken with to have honest conversations with their administrators or write to you but many are fearful they will be seen trouble makers. I am so fortunate to work in a school where my administrator has taken measures seriously and validated my concerns about returning to work, but not all have that. Having said that and despite all the measures my administrator has taken, my school had two positive cases reported last week. I am asking that you consider implementing a system or protocol for reporting those who are breaking safety measures put in place by HCPS to keep our students and staff safe and ready to reopen.</p>
Aug. 26, 20 -- 11:27: PM	Melissa	McKenney	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Thank you again to HCPS' leadership team for making the health and safety of our students the top priority.</p> <p>This week I have gotten notifications from two of my childrens' schools to make me aware of cased of COVID in the buildings. I greatly appreciate the transparency. When schools reopen having details like this will allow me to make decisions that are safe for my family and close circle of contacts. I hope this approach is one that is being used system wide.</p> <p>I would like to request that an anonymous system for reporting noncompliance with safety measures be implemented.</p> <p>I'd also like to see HCPS continue to provide remote work options to all employees, including part time Instructional Assistants, who often work more than one job -- increasing the likelihood of COVID contraction -- and no employer-provided medical insurance -- increasing the likelihood they do not have the healthcare coverage they would need should they get ill.</p>

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Aug. 27, 20 -- 12:05: AM	Jennifer	McDowney	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>Please consider giving part time IA's the same opportunities as everyone else. This is my third year as an IA and I love my job and my school. I am fully capable and prepared to assist the students and teachers virtually. Not even having the option is not right. To say, if we don't come into the school we don't have a job is not fair to the hard working part time IA's in the schools. Just because we do not work as many hours does not mean we aren't invested in our students just as much! We should be treated equally and fairly.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>