

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, January 14, 2021

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 14 work session:
Dec. 15, 20 -- 5:19: PM	Laura	Marcus-Plant	Crestview elem	Please keep Westwood at Freeman. Freeman needs the diversity coming from this area.
Jan. 3, 21 -- 7:16: PM	Shikha	Kocherlakota	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	Covid has affected my family and I, here and in India, in several different ways. We have lost close family to Covid-19 and that puts a lot of unneeded stress on my mental health: Especially as a student, virtual school does not help at all. It is very difficult to learn and focus in a virtual environment. Schools have almost doubled the amount of homework and projects we are getting this year and it is not easy to keep up with all of it. I am always thinking about the amount of work I have and the amount of work I haven't finished. To be frank, teenagers do not need this much of a toll on their mental health. When virtual school started, I have watched mine and my peers grades slowly start dropping because of how much work we are getting. However, I believe that giving us an asynchronous day during the week will help everyone be able to finish all their assignments, take a break from school, help us not be as stressed as we are, and even just relax. I have noticed that over winter break and weekends, I have been less stressed and tense. This is why just one day in the week without school will help everyone relax and help everyone de-stress. I really hope you consider this. Thank you so much!
Jan. 3, 21 -- 7:31: PM	Connor	Leary	Henrico	Less homework and one day of no school and we just work on school work
Jan. 3, 21 -- 7:49: PM	anvitha	kollipara	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Online school can become very stressful to everyone. It requires a large amount of self motivation and time that some of us struggle with. Getting up for school becomes very tiresome to when everyday feels like repeating the same tasks. I feel drained by the middle of the week and feel unmotivated. Some people also don't have the best environment around them for work. Most districts in Maryland have an asynchronous work day in the middle of the week, Wednesday. This is a day for catching up on homework, asking questions, studying, focusing on mental health, etc. I think this will be beneficial for us so we can move further with a improved mindset.

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Jan. 3, 21 -- 8:23: PM	Lily	Newmark	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	As a student attending middle school I have experience two sides. The first side being in person and online. This past year has been very chaotic and we have all gotten closer with our family, but for some people that's not good. We have people that can't attend class and do work because they had to take care of their siblings because their parents at work we have some people daughter and abusive household that don't have a safe spot. And we have some people that don't have Wi-Fi. As a student doing virtual learning it is very hard to learn and focus in class. The amount of work and stress has tripled in the last month because of work that teachers have assigned me. I'm not saying that because of the circumstances we should get less work but we are in a grade higher so that is why we should have more work because we can handle it but we can't. I had a sibling go through the same exact program as me but has had less stress and work In the same grade. I do understand that because of the circumstances we may not be as learning as much by assigning projects about stuff you have any mail learnt and homework in tests it's getting overwhelming and I am having to teach myself on my own time. I also understand that the curriculum has gotten harder since the last four years but I have more work than my sibling and she is in high school as a junior. I had some friends that were straight a student's last year and I slowly see their grade drop as well as their mental health. And as for the people are still attending school in trying which is me, it is very hard to learn in this environment. I do get the teachers were not trained to do this, and it is still hard on them but they give us a worksheet we learn it on our own time and we take a test two days later that we have to learn by myself on my own time. I am suggesting a asynchronous day once a week. This can benefit the teachers by giving them more time to great stuff and make plans for the new week, I can get students to get their wet work and get a head start on homework and projects. But most importantly people's mental health. Students and teachers are both overwhelmed with work that either have to grade or do. Please take this into consideration thank you so much.
Jan. 3, 21 -- 8:59: PM	emily	armour	henrico district	i think we should have this day of because online school can be really hard and stressful so i think it's good to have one week off.
Jan. 3, 21 -- 10:07: PM	Eisar	Al-jasari	Henrico (holman)	one Asynchronous day of the week
Jan. 4, 21 -- 12:25: AM	Sriya	Nallaparaju	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	We should have an asynchronous day once a week

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Jan. 4, 21 -- 12:31: AM	demi	stratiou	henrico county	Covid has affected so many students and their families and forcing these students to continue school DURING a pandemic is ridiculous. teachers are doubling the amount of work since we "have more to accomplish it" but are forgetting the times we are in. some of us have lost close family members or even friends. we were not taught to deal with assignments, projects and tests during times where the closest people to us, the ones we love the most are dying. mental health is a major issue. kids are taking their lives. KIDS!!!! we need at least a break. a consistent weekly break, for us to take care of ourselves and to love ourselves. we are children at the end of the day. we need to be able to live our lives without constant stress and a unreasonable amount of workload.
Jan. 4, 21 -- 7:59: AM	Luiza	Freitas	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I think we should get an asynchronous day every Wednesday.
Jan. 4, 21 -- 8:20: AM	Sriya	Jeeredy	Moody Middle School	Online school has been really hard for me and basically all of my friends. We all are struggling to turn in assignments and trying to score as high as we can. Since online school has started, I have been overloaded with work and now that school is online, it didn't help very much. I am trying so hard to just get my work in on time. I feel like i am just doing the work and not even trying to get a good grade on it. All I think about is "11:59". A good solution for this problem would be to have one day where there are no meetings for students and where they just catch up on work for the day. This may slow us down from learning new things but we also may be able to do it a different way that works best for us. We could also have a asynchronous work day like the elementary students do. They don't log in to their classes for the day, they just receive work from the teachers and do it by themselves. I understand that teachers are also stressed about school and working hard to give us what we need. I hope that this solution works for us. Thank you.
Jan. 4, 21 -- 1:23: PM	Taylor	Hudson	Moody middle school ib	Online school has affected many student's mental health. I believe that an asynchronous day every week would be a nice day for stress relief.

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 14 work session:
Jan. 4, 21 -- 2:06: PM	Shea	Puttkammer	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>As a local, practicing Henrico County doctor but moreso as a concerned Henrico Co. mother of 5 Henrico Co. school children,I implore to let our kids back in-person at school, on schedule for next week.Frankly, I was rather disappointed with our School Board when you caved in to societal pressures and didn't let our elementary kids back in earlier this fall. Viral infections, of all sorts, increase in wintertime given changes in weather and temperature control of transmission, as well as changes in human behavior patterns. That was to be expected, as happens with any virus during the winter. You have devised a strong, solid, APPROPRIATE plan to control transmission rates. You have spent much money on resources to help with infection control (like the plastic partitions you spent thousands on, for example). You have to have CONFIDENCE in the plan you have in place for those children who want to get back into school buildings with their teachers in-person. I have been vaccinated, along with hundreds of my friends and colleagues. More and more are vaccinated daily and with this steady progression, herd immunity should be achieved this year and hopefully make all this a moot point as the year progresses. But for now, our kids remain a low-risk population; you have plans in place for higher risk students and staff to remain virtual if they wish or need to do so.</p> <p>Let those kids who desperately want to go back to in-person learning, do so as planned this month!! The greatest Tragedy from Covid isn't necessarily the virus itself, but the travesty done to our kids by keeping them at home in attempts to learn virtually. We all know this isn't working effectively.</p>
Jan. 5, 21 -- 6:06: PM	Sandra	Carle	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>I am outraged at the decision made to open schools in two weeks! The percentage is over 16 and climbing-far worse than it has been so far. How dare you endanger my child, who is a teacher, by placing her in the untenable position of having to be around so many others in a pandemic?? Are you going to make sure ALL teachers are going to be vaccinated before going into classrooms with ancient heating/cooling systems? Where viruses can spread like wildfire? Where are your heads? If Dr. Avula can close Richmond, what happened to Henrico? Doesn't he worry about this county? You must reconsider what is going on. Should anyone die it will be on YOUR heads! This is why a Union is necessary. It protects teachers from those who forget how important they are, protects them from the likes of those who cannot reason correctly. Shame on all of you.</p>

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 14 work session:
Jan. 6, 21 -- 10:04: AM	Samuel	McCoig	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I know that this year has been one of the hardest ones for any teacher out there. I'm so incredibly proud of my mother, one of the more technologically challenged people I know (I can say that, I'm her IT guy), jumped right in and learned how to do it all. I was amazed the first time she showed me how she had setup everything for these students to learn in the best way possible under the circumstances. It was very similar to how my online classes were setup at VCU. She has such a passion for helping her students and not once did she show any signs of giving up on them. Her passion for teaching just seems to grow each day no matter what the challenges are that she is faced with. A semester later, and none of that real seems to matter to HCPS. Their number one concern is to get kids back in school because that would be better for them and their parents. It just seems to me like this school district has thrown their concerns for the health, safety, and lives of their underpaid, overworked employees out the window in a time where it matters the most. At what point does returning to something more normal for students outweigh the possibly of an employee falling terribly ill or passing away. ALSO, employees at Tucker High School recently received a survey a few weeks back asking them if they are comfortable returning to school. If they answered no, they were followed-up with a meeting with the principle. So WHY was a meeting needed. The answer should be taken as is. My mother respected the privacy of the school district and did not disclose what happened during the meeting, but I'm assuming part of the purpose was to convince her on why she should come back, something that should never EVER happen. Thank you.</p>
Jan. 7, 21 -- 7:27: AM	Stephanie	Ross	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I realize that the board has consulted with health experts but pushing the start of school until January 25th is just delaying the inevitable. I wanted my children to go back to school more than anyone for many reasons. However, as a health care provider COVID 19 hospital admissions are at its highest. They are going to continue to rise for months after the holiday season. Please consider starting school in September 2021 let the schools continue to focus on virtual. Avoid having the teachers split between virtual and in school students. Teaching virtual is hard enough now we are asking our teachers to do both. Please stop dragging this on and let's just look at the numbers and not be contribute to the ongoing rise.</p>

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 14 work session:
Jan. 9, 21 -- 1:44: PM	Concerned	Glen Lea Parent	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	I have concern over Kindergarten teacher Brooke Wallace from Glen lea Elementary as she was in attendance at Capital riots on Wednesday Jan 7th 2021. She had posted images on her and other known white supremacist leaders on her Facebook page at the time. She may have been one of the rioters that stormed the capital. As a parent I don't feel comfortable having her work with my child or around my child until a full investigation in to if she was part of the rioters are not is conducted. She should be put on leave until the investigation is completed.
Jan. 9, 21 -- 4:48: PM	Linda	B	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	It has come to my attention and many more parents of the Glen Lea community that a 1st grade teacher at Glen lea Elementary was part of the mob that happened to riot and storm the capital building in Washington DC this past Wednesday. She had posted images and videos on her facebook page. She should not be allowed to teach students until her role in the mob riot is cleared. Also if the principal allowed her to go their should be punishment to the principal of the school for allowing her time off to take part in it.
Jan. 9, 21 -- 5:05: PM	Staff memeber	At Glen Lea	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella, Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III, Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea, Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	Good afternoon. As a black staff member at Glen Lea Elementary It has come to my attention that a 1st grade teacher on Wednesday Jan 6th was spotted at the events that took place in Washington DC. She posted pictures all on her Facebook page stating she was up in DC and at the capital building. Their also were pictures of her with know white supremacist members as well. By now she has taken down these pictures off her social media but I know of some of our champion of children teachers at Glen lea took some screen shots of what she posted. Her actions are very disturbing and she should be placed on leave until an investigation can happen to see what her involvement was in it. Show all of Henrico county that staff members of Henrico involved will be held accountable for their choices. This teacher choose hate and to be lies over facts and love and there is not place at Glen Lea for that. Thank you for reading my comment and hope you take action on this as now this may have started to divide staff members at Glen Lea.

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 14 work session:
Jan. 12, 21 -- 11:25: AM	Michelle	Kimberlin	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	As an HCPS teacher and parent, I am asking the board and Dr. Cashwell to please do everything in their power to delay school opening until ALL teachers and support staff (subs, bus drivers, C&M, aides, cafeteria, etc.) who wish to be vaccinated are safely vaccinated to prevent unnecessary COVID spread, side effects, and death. Re-opening at time when COVID numbers are at an all time high and hospital beds in the area are at an all-time low is reckless and putting our students, staff, and greater community unnecessarily at-risk. Are the board and Dr. Cashwell prepared to attend student and staff funerals?
Jan. 12, 21 -- 11:31: AM	Sarah	Allen	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I am a CNA hospice healthcare worker. My husband is also an essential worker. We have three children two Elementary and one Middle School. Our 7th grader has a 504 plan that has not been followed this year she is failing one and possibly another class she has not received the support virtually that she needs to succeed. Our fifth grader is struggling mentally he spends the days wrapped in a blanket in front of the computer screen to comfort himself he lays on the floor a kid who never had any mental health issues in the past was a straight-A student athlete popular and happy. He is still doing well academically but mentally is falling apart. It took me two months to find a counselor because so many children need mental health right now that the availability for counselors is almost non-existent. Our third grade grader we had to pull from hcps because she was not old enough to stay home while we were working. We got her a partial scholarship this year to a private school. She has done well in the private school in person there have been very few health concerns. Unfortunately we will not be able another school year to financially afford the private school. Our family needs in person options. The mental health aspects of our children and our family far outweigh the concerns associated with the virus. Statistics show that children can go back to school safely. Hcps needs to do the right thing and continue with their decision to allow students to return in person who want to.

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 14 work session:
Jan. 12, 21 -- 1:42: PM	Jessie	Sanborn	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I have written many times over the year advocating for a return to in person learning. I wanted to thank you for recognizing that many students are struggling right now and that the opportunity to be in school in person might be the difference for them. While I know it is a hard time to reopen the schools with our regional COVID numbers so high, I do really appreciate the emphasis on the third metric of school mitigation procedures. I have sent many emails over the last year advocating for face to face learning and arguing for the schools' ability to keep our students and teachers safe, so I wanted to be sure to let you know how much I appreciate your decision now. I am really thankful that you are offering a choice for those of us who would like to see our children in school and for those of us who are so excited to be teaching children in school again! I really appreciate all you have done to make this decision for our students! Thank you!
Jan. 12, 21 -- 4:11: PM	Antonio	C	Glen Lea	How is it that a woman that had pictures on her facebook page talking about how "election was stolen" is still able to continue to work for Henrico county as a teacher. She actions were unamerican and she should be fired. This is the 1st grade teacher at Glen Lea Elementary. I thank god my child never had this teacher.

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Jan. 12, 21 -- 4:27: PM	Mesha	DeVeaux	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Hello Mrs. Cashwell, I thought it would be helpful to share recent updates from surrounding school districts as it pertains to Winter sports as we request you to reconsider reversing your decision in canceling winter sports. In November 2020, Superintendent Russ canceled winter sports for Botetourt County. A month later, after careful and deliberate consideration, he reversed his decision. Other school districts that also have recently reinstated winter sports after initially cancelling include Virginia Beach, Petersburg, Roanoke County, Washington County, Smith County, Wythe County and Waynesboro County. There also many school districts that have 100% virtual learning, but are allowing winter sports to proceed including Fairfax County, Clarke County, Madison County, Washington County, Arlington, Prince William, Caroline County, York County, Chesterfield and Goochland (Goochland offers parents a choice of hybrid or virtual). This list is not exclusive – these are the districts I have been able to confirm. We are asking you to please reconsider reversing your decision and allow Henrico County Public Schools to participate in winter sports. There are many student athletes who have worked so hard and relied on an athletic scholarship to attend college only for it be taken from them without their voice being heard. Just as Superintendent Russ acknowledges the continued spike in COVID-19 cases, he also acknowledges that we can safely participate in athletic competition by following guidelines provided by the Virginia High School League and Governor Northam’s executive orders. Governor Northam has urged school districts to find creative ways to allow students to return to sports and play in his press conference on December 10, 2020. We are all about compromise and cooperation to allow for a safe and successful winter sports season for our student athletes.
Jan. 12, 21 -- 4:27: PM	Sabine	Vora	Glen Lea	The 1st grade teacher named Wallace from glen Lea elementary that was seen on Facebook should be removed from teaching at Glen Lea. If this was a west end school she would of already been removed. Do the same for the Henrico east end.

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 14 work session:
Jan. 12, 21 -- 8:05: PM	Jessie	Sanborn	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I am not sure what to say, other than I am extremely disappointed and disheartened by your decision. I am a teacher and was prepared to go back to school without being fully vaccinated, just as my colleagues were. I have spent countless hours over the last weeks preparing for in person learning, and while some of that can be used when, or if, we ever return this year, a lot of it cannot. All of my lesson planning that I was "getting ahead" on for the next three weeks now has to be scrapped because it was geared toward in-person learning. I now have to redo 5 subjects of lessons to be virtual. However, that is not even the part that is most upsetting! We are failing our students! We all know this, yet the school system continues to push back the start date for our students. From what I understand in today's emails it is so that the teachers can be vaccinated to be a more safe environment for the students. The students won't be getting vaccinated. This push for vaccinations is solely to appease the teachers. Our mission as a school system is to serve the students, not the teachers, and as a teacher, it is very frustrating to see the adults' needs put before those of the students! Much like the decision to cancel winter sports, this decision seems to have come out of nowhere. Last week we were assured that it was safe to come back with the mitigation strategies we have in place. We watched the videos and slideshows, and felt ready, but now we are hearing that it wasn't actually safe and that we should wait. The mixed messages are very frustrating to everyone. I think many of us, employees and community members, are very confused about why our nurses can't administer the vaccine in our own schools. We don't understand why our children are losing out in order to do this. Again, it seems like an instance where we are not putting the children first. As I have said before, I am a very vested member in this community, as a teacher and a mother of four Henrico students. As an employee, it is very hard to answer the questions that my friends and community members understandably have, when we are hearing one thing one week and another thing another week. I am struggling to defend our decision making. As a mother, I am watching my children lose all motivation and become apathetic toward school because they will have spent a year out of the buildings. This has gone on for far too long. Please give our students a chance to get back to school.</p>

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 14 work session:
Jan. 13, 21 -- 1:07: PM	Nicole	Passmore	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>I appreciate the collective effort “to reduce disparities among students from varying demographics and backgrounds” (Equity and Opportunity cornerstone). Accordingly, white supremacists are disqualified from the honor of a HCPS namesake... not for the purpose of obliterating history, but for the purpose and hope of continuing our county’s narrative in a positive direction, towards true equity regardless of race, instead of continuing a wrong narrative of white racial superiority. The following high schools are named for such men (largely from Wikipedia): · Freeman - "Lost Cause" historian who saluted Robert E. Lee’s monument daily and overshadowed Lee’s promotion of slavery in his otherwise thorough biography· Godwin - leader of the "massive resistance" movement, which used state laws to close schools rather than comply with federal orders to open them to black students· Tucker - avid white supremacist who asserted his views on the House floor and opposed rights being granted to African Americans One way to “Provide equitable ... physical learning environments that inspire community pride” and “...lead dialogue to ensure equity...” (from the strategic goals) is to no longer allow any physical learning environments (aka, schools) to be named for promoters of white supremacy. These three school names are examples of CURRENT “inequities, implicit bias and aggressions regularly endured by Black people” (from Equity and Diversity page) and are in direct contradiction to these goals! Therefore, I request that the names of the above high schools be changed ASAP. In order to “lead dialogue to ensure equity,” I ask the Board to lead in matters of Civil Rights, which should be governed by visionary justice, not public opinion. I encourage any newly implemented school name not merely be neutral, as doing so is easily construed as an attempt to ignore the ugly parts of history. I would instead suggest new names honor contributors to a changed narrative of history... honoring the resiliency of African Americans, or standing for racial justice, or the like. The important first step is voting to change the names of Douglas S. Freeman High School, Mills E. Godwin High School, and J.R. Tucker High School. As a further question, what is the Board doing to address the issue of our county historically honoring those who promoted white supremacy? In addition to what the Board is doing, what is the schedule of these planned actions?</p>
Jan. 13, 21 -- 1:36: PM	David	Sharrar	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>For the past several weeks, we have received detailed health plans for return to school. Now, we are being told that these plans are on hold because of nursing shortages due to the need to vaccinate all HCPS employees. One week it’s safe to go back & now we are in a holding pattern again. Here is a recommendation - HCPS outsource the healthcare workers to administer the vaccines. Here is another recommendation - finalize a return to school date and place specific restrictions on the HCPS administration’s ability to change their mind at a moment’s notice.</p>

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 14 work session:
Jan. 13, 21 -- 5:18: PM	Afraid of	Reciprocity	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella, Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III, Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea, Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	At what point is the Henrico County Board of Education going to prioritize educating our children? You have discovered another reason to not return to "in-person" learning. That is your job and you are getting a F for your performance.
Jan. 13, 21 -- 6:49: PM	Audra	Vanderland	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Thank you for your flexibility and willingness to change when the circumstances at hand call for it. Remaining predominately virtual through February will keep the community safe as vaccinations roll out and we move through the post-holiday spike, which is on the verge of overwhelming our hospitals. I was so grateful to hear that HCPS is working with RHHD to expand vaccination as we move into Phase 1B -- which includes, not just teachers, but many of our very important essential workers. Rapid rollout of vaccination is one of the most critical actions we can take to bring our community numbers down and increase EVERYONE's safety. I know that it must have been difficult to change again, but it shows how important the safety of staff and students are to division leadership.
Jan. 13, 21 -- 7:59: PM	Joy	Hays	Kaechele Elementary	I am disappointed in how the back to school situation is being handled. I am in a fortunate situation where I can make arrangements whether or not the kids go back to school but this short term notice puts a lot of families in poor situations where they had to give notice to their childcare and may not be able to go back now that Henrico has changed their minds again. Not to mention the lies that were told about needing nurses. We do not tolerate lies from our children and yet our school leader is putting parents in the situation where we have to explain why someone they should look up to would. Talk with other district to understand how they can give the choice of virtual or in-person and follow their lead since we obviously are lacking in coming up with our own. It can no longer be about pride, it needs to be about our children.

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 14 work session:
Jan. 13, 21 -- 8:03: PM	A	T	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I would hope that the previously stated return date of Jan. 19 for staff will be enforced. If HCPS is saying a return to in person learning is safe, there should be no reason for staff to not return to their buildings. Requiring staff back in the buildings will allow them more time to get use to the new protocols and guidelines that are put in place this year. It will also allow them more time to prepare their rooms for the return to in person learning. Working from home should no longer be an option if you are saying the schools are safe.
Jan. 13, 21 -- 9:15: PM	3rd grade parent	JR	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I continue to be disappointed with the decisions to delay school over and over, and now the superintendent has been blatantly dishonest! How disgusting that you think your position allows you lie to the people you serve, Amy Cashwell should be fired immediately. If we can't trust The superintendent to be transparent how can we trust any other decisions she's making. Our children NEED to be in school. There are plenty of parents and teachers who are willing to return to school and equally that amount wanting to stay virtual so let us try. There are numerous school systems around us and all over the nation that have been in-person since the beginning of school and have had minimal issues. All safety measures are in place and yet you keep pulling excuses out of your hat as to why we can't return, as a nurse that works in Henrico County this was the lowest blow yet by the board and superintendent; using nurses as your excuse was not a good idea. You should all step down for failing our children.
Jan. 13, 21 -- 9:55: PM	Kelley	Hope	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Pocahontas MS, Gayton ES	Thank you for prioritizing vaccinations of our community.

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 14 work session:
Jan. 14, 21 -- 6:10: AM	Rachel	Kelly	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I am writing to you today with first what will be an emotional story, a plea for you to recognize the harm that is being done to our children, the quieter voice in all of the chaos. Then second, the financial reality that our county will face next school year.</p> <p>I reside in a middle income neighborhood, although our school is full of financial diversity. Two of my closest friends have daughters that are struggling. One third grader is an only child, has the full attention and focus of two very supportive parents. She is shy and introverted, does not do well in large gatherings, but flourishes in small settings. However, she has always done well in elementary school because our teachers have been able to give her the focus and attention that she deserves, even in a classroom. This year she is failing. She has just failed her reading test, she has failed other tests in various subjects. Of course it is stressing her parents out, but what has it done to her? It has made her feel like a failure. Her teacher has continued to tell her parents that it will get better "when we return to school in person". So what now for her? She is collapsing and she is EIGHT. Another close friend of mine has a daughter who faces a disorder that affects her physically, mentally and thus, emotionally. It has always been well-managed with the help of a therapist, psychiatrist and two loving, supportive parents. She is currently afraid to come out of the house, fearing that she has missed school work. She is having a hard time sleeping through the night. She cries on a daily basis. She has immense fears about what is to come with school. She is lashing out on her younger brother and then crying herself to sleep over what she said to him. Despite her parents trying their best to keep every other area of her life as normal as possible, she has lost school. I told you I live in a middle income neighborhood. This means that these two children have the financial means to afford the care they need. One is in a pod with other students, attending "after school" martial arts courses. The other attends dance classes, sees a therapist. Both have neighborhood friends that they see regularly and the support of parents' friends, grandparents, their community. WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN WHO DO NOT HAVE THESE RESOURCES. This is for the teachers that continue to ask whether returning to school would be worth one teacher's death. I ask you how many children's lives is staying out of school worth????</p>

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 14 work session:
Jan. 14, 21 -- 6:12: AM	Rachel	Kelly	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>This is for the teachers that continue to ask whether returning to school would be worth one teacher's death. I ask you how many children's lives is staying out of school worth???? As a woman in long term recovery and a former PICU nurse at a local hospital who still keeps up with nurses in that PICU, the suicide attempts, and successes, and the overdose rate is rising as we speak. What about those children? High school students who didn't have a teacher to identify that depression was lurking behind the screen of the computer? High school students who turned to drugs because their parents aren't home and they are left to their own devices. HOW MANY OF THESE STUDENTS LIVES WILL BE LOST WHILE WE SIT AT HOME AND PAY TEACHERS WHO DEMAND TO BE CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL?? The second thing I would like to shed light on, because I think there is a level of denial in this aspect, is the financial burden that our county schools will face next year. Enrollment is down for this school year. Do you honestly expect that with the continued work of all the private schools to keep their students in school, that more and more parents won't be transferring their children out of public? We are. We have already put in applications to four area private schools. I have always been a proponent for our elementary school. I LOVE our school. But you have failed me. We cannot stand by and tell our children that you have done the right thing by them and that is it ok to return to a school system where they are not put first. We have two current elementary school children and one who will be elementary age for the school year 2022/23. We are also financial supporters of our school, with donations in the thousands every year. We are the family that you will lose. And there will be many, many more.</p>

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 14 work session:
Jan. 14, 21 -- 6:14: AM	Rachel	Kelly	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>The second thing I would like to shed light on, because I think there is a level of denial in this aspect, is the financial burden that our county schools will face next year. Enrollment is down for this school year. Do you honestly expect that with the continued work of all the private schools to keep their students in school, that more and more parents won't be transferring their children out of public? We are. We have already put in applications to four area private schools. I have always been a proponent for our elementary school. I LOVE our school. But you have failed me. We cannot stand by and tell our children that you have done the right thing by them and that is it ok to return to a school system where they are not put first. We have two current elementary school children and one who will be elementary age for the school year 2022/23. We are also financial supporters of our school, with donations in the thousands every year. We are the family that you will lose. And there will be many, many more. My sister in law, who is a hospital physician, who takes care of COVID patients on a daily basis, is floored that you have chosen teachers over students, for no real rational reason. She sent me an article, "Schools and the Path to Zero" from globalepidemic.org that talks about how teachers are of no greater risk than those working in a grocery store. No other profession has demanded to be considered essential, yet refused to return to work. No other profession has demanded that they be given the vaccine before returning to work. Hospital custodial workers, preschool and daycare teachers, private school teachers, nurses, doctors, the list goes on and on of professions who have stepped up to the plate and worked throughout this pandemic. I am saddened for what has become of our teachers. They have been given the right to do this, the right by you. My hope is that you do not skim this. Not any part of it. But that you take it seriously. Thank you for your time.</p>
Jan. 4, 21 -- 3:28: PM	Thelma	Boone		<p>I am very concerned as a grandparent as to why all surrounding schools are still playing sports and Henrico is not. We want our children to be safe from this pandemic but they are still going to gyms to stay in shape. This is the year when colleges would be looking at seniors to give them scholarships. All parents can't afford to pay for their tuitions this is the only way they will be able to further their education. It is my prayer that you the school board will reconsider and allow these kids to play basketball with their parents approval. Please, please vote to play. Thank you very much. A concerned grandma.</p>

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Thursday, January 14, 2021

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 14 work session:
Jan. 12, 21 -- 5:44: PM	Heather	Vassar	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	I would like to know that plans the HCPS School System has to ensure their HCPS Nurses are offered two doses of the COVID-19 BEFORE requiring them to fulfill the role of vaccinating the rest of the 1B group which includes thousands of employees. If this is not going to be taken into account before they fulfill this role, why? If Nurses do not feel comfortable being within 6 feet of thousands of people per day, what accommodations will you give them to ensure that their needs are being met as teachers have been provided during this time.