

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES
 Thursday, January 28, 2021

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 28 work session:
Jan. 14, 21 -- 9:15: AM	John	Burford	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	1. Why are these decisions decided in private and no documents are produced? 2. With such a critical decision, is the board willing to use its power to reconsider this decision in an open forum?
Jan. 14, 21 -- 12:30: PM	Karen	Kaldwell	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	The return to instruction plan needs to be revised now that the date has been pushed back multiple times. Once all teachers have been vaccinated the following changes should be made to the in person plan: - The option for FIVE days of in person instruction - NO more wellness Wednesdays - NO more shortened days (resume normal hours) - Ability to play on the playground and remove masks when outdoors. Once teachers receive the vaccine it will be time to shift the focus to our children who have been suffering and falling behind academically, emotionally and socially by the day for almost a year. Our children deserve the same level of advocacy that teachers have had the privilege of receiving for the past year.
Jan. 14, 21 -- 12:50: PM	Rachel	Schrinel	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Children need to be back in the classroom. Working in the pediatric emergency department as a registered nurse, COVID does not affect children the same way as it does adults. I have been silent with every delay and decision made by HCPS, but now I feel it is the time to speak out and stand up for our children. The literature is there, the recommendations from healthcare professionals is there, it is very upsetting that the school board will not go ahead and allow our children back in the classroom. As reiterated by multiple parents, other schools, private or public, have been in the classroom at some capacity since the beginning of the school year. My son has been playing indoor basketball since mid July without any outbreaks. I think it is time for parents to take a stand and insist that our children get back into the classroom so they could learn to their greatest ability.

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Jan. 16, 21 -- 5:23: PM	Jennifer	Bowles	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	<p>I would like the policy of padding students grades to be reviewed. While I understand that HCPS has adopted the process of allowing students ALL 9 weeks to complete all assignments, that doesn't work for every child. I have been fighting and fighting to get my son an IEP due to his ASD affects his grades. My son makes choices not to do work when he doesn't feel like it and when I advised the teacher that we will not be allowing our child to makeup the work, we have a teacher say this "Good afternoon To be clear, I do not take directives from anyone who is not employed by HCPS regarding my grading practices. This is the second time that you and I have discussed your disdain for his grades. If you would like full control over Gabe's grades, then you should consider homeschooling where you would be in full control over Gabe's grades. Otherwise, while he is in Mrs. Brown's class, Mrs. Brown shall determine his grade and his status. If you choose to remove him then speak with Mrs. Alston or Mrs. Hubler because this is the wrong class and the wrong teacher to direct this type of correspondence to. I would hate to lose him but I will not tolerate this behavior every time I put a grade into PowerSchool from you.</p> <p>Secondly, if you are not allowing Gabe to complete the assignments that I advised him to complete then he will receive "exempt" notices on those assignments because he is unable, beyond his own control, to complete them by you. If you would like to administer consequences at home that is up to you; however, I will continue to abide by HCPS grading practices. Thank you and have a great day - Tina Brown-</p> <p>The utter disrespect in this response to a parent that is in charge, not her, is absolutely overstepping. I in no way should have ever been responded to in that manner. Even if I came across rude to her, it's her job to remain professional, but I wasn't even rude. Due to size of this, I am unable to include the entire email; however, I forwarded it to Ms. Atkins as well as as many HCPS execs that I would hope review it. This teacher needs to formally apologize and lose her job if this is how she thinks she can talk to a parent. As well as her thinking she can negate what a parent says. I am the parent not her.</p>
Jan. 22, 21 -- 1:17: PM	Laura	Russell	Colonial Trail ES	Please move Twin Hickory to Twin Hickory ES.

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Jan. 22, 21 -- 1:29: PM	Carolyn	Brosnihan	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I am writing in reference to the redistricting plan, which will move students from Twin Hickory Elementary School into Kaechele Elementary school. First, I want to state that I am fully in support of a redistricting process that addresses the overcrowding at Colonial Trail and Rivers Edge. I understand the need. However, I am writing to question the rationale for targeting the Addison at Wyndham, Hickory Grove, and Townes at Shady Grove as the ones to move to KES. Frankly, I have been so preoccupied with the pandemic, the decisions on whether we are returning to school or not going back to go back to school, that this redistricting process Those neighborhoods are not contiguous in any way to the current school Kaechele school districting lines, and is actually cut though completely in one area by the Shady Grove school. In the redistricting plan that was presented on November 17, there were two additional neighborhoods included in the moves to Kaechele, which would have made the district contiguous. Ms. Ogburn even commented on this fact in the November 17th meeting and said they were originally included in order to not create an island, but now those two neighborhoods are coming out. There were only a handful of children in those respective neighborhoods, so why were those neighborhoods taken out of the plan? I would strongly recommend adding them back into the plan.
Jan. 22, 21 -- 2:09: PM	Trish	Mustico	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Can you discuss the reasons HCPS has not allowed a returned to in-person learning option given the overwhelming data and science reported from the Health Committee, including Dr. Avula's video chat message on January 5th? It appears HCPS continues to ignore the recommendations of State and local health experts as wells as top experts in the county to return to in-person learning swiftly. Many public schools across the country have offered in-person learning since September, especially for K-6th grades.
Jan. 23, 21 -- 1:59: PM	Bethany	Johnson	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	On the interactive map, there appears to be an error where approximately 6 houses on Grey Oaks Estates Run are zoned for twin hickory, whereas they actually go to kaechele. Is there a way to correct this on the map?
Jan. 25, 21 -- 8:50: AM	Jerry	Pauly	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Why is Kaechele Elementary district being divided into two sections? How will this affect students time on the bus when they have to leave their district to get to the rest of their district? Why didn't we pull from Shady Grove district since there are houses across the street from Kaechele that are in Shady Grove's district. Thank you. My concern is both in time to travel and keeping the children together in the same neighborhood to facilitate playing with classmates.

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Jan. 25, 21 -- 8:51: AM	Carla	Licscomb	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Does Henrico County Public Schools disavow Critical Race Theory? What is HCPS doing to uncover political bias in its school buildings and protect children from leftist/Marxist indoctrination? Will HCPS solicit reports of bias and CRT from parents and students in order to provide a truly "inclusive" learning community? Is the HCPS School Board educated on CRT and its role in damaging and dividing our community?
Jan. 25, 21 -- 1:20: PM	Joy	Beatty	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	My name is Joy Beatty. I have been teaching at CodeRVA Regional Public High School since 2017. I am one of the original staff members. Since 2017, I have advocated for more support for all students. For example, I am concerned that students who enter as Freshmen wanting to graduate with an Associates Degree, are not reading on grade level. This makes it difficult for students to remain on the Associates Degree Pathway. I am asking that we reconsider the following: 1.The importance of having relevant data that should come with each entering Freshmen. This data can help identify necessary supports for entering Freshmen. 2.The importance of reconsidering the CodeRVA school calendar. I am concerned that there is not enough time to help struggling learners graduate with an Associates Degree if targeted support and time are not available.
Jan. 25, 21 -- 6:07: PM	Sarah	Stewart	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I would like to voice my final support for my section of neighborhoods (census tracts 10314 & 16309) on the NW corner of Staples Mill & Hungary Roads for the current proposal that redistricts us to Echo Lake ES. Myself as well as many of my neighbors have been following the process and submitting our collective positive feedback for this move, as it adheres to all of the original redistricting guidelines set forth from the beginning and rejoins us with our Crossridge community. Prior to the pandemic, both final options D4 and E4 rezoned us for this very same change-to Echo Lake ES. This move will help alleviate Longan ES, which is almost at full capacity, while utilizing the extra space that Echo Lake ES has available to receive us. This move supports continuity in our children's K-12 learning and supports feeder patterns. On behalf of all of us, we thank you for your tireless efforts and goal to provide the best solution for the areas that need it most. Thank you!

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Jan. 26, 21 -- 8:50: AM	Kate	Konrad	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Once all teachers have been vaccinated the below changes should be made to the originally proposed plan for in person instruction. We have been putting teacher's needs ahead of children's needs for a year now. With that said, once teachers have been vaccinated, children's needs and the needs of working families need to be put first for once. Once all teachers have been vaccinated the following changes should be made to the in person plan: - The option for FIVE days of in person instruction - NO more wellness Wednesdays - NO more shortened days (resume normal hours) - Ability to play on the playground and remove masks when outdoors The priority and focus of HCPS has clearly been on the needs of teachers and the demands of the teacher's union for the past year. Once teachers receive the vaccine it will be time to shift the focus to our children who have been suffering and falling behind academically, emotionally and socially by the day for almost a year. Our children deserve the same level of advocacy that teachers have had the privilege of receiving for the past year.</p>

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Jan. 26, 21 -- 10:25: AM	Anne	Edwards	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I am writing in hopes that you will seriously consider an in person return decision coming out of this meeting. I am truly frustrated that the date has kept moving. While I understand the need to monitor metrics, you have stated that you have the proper procedures in place to ensure the safety of your teachers and students. This last move made no sense. I am happy that teachers are able to be vaccinated but there is no need to wait until the entire population is fully vaccinated before returning to in person as you had made the decision to go back prior to a vaccine being available to them. While virtual has proven that it works in the short term, the mental toll it is taking not only on my children but others and cross the entire county is not healthy. I have seen my daughter become more and more frustrated as she needs to ask a question but it is difficult when you were on a computer and have to wait for the teacher to see you. This is in no way the fault of the teacher as she is trying to navigate virtual learning with 20+ other students. I want to be clear that I do want to do what is safe for not only the teachers and students but the community as well. But it is time to go back. It has been time to go back. I feel that the measures HCPS are putting in place are the right step to ensure safety. I think all parents understand that in person school does not mean going back to a normal school day from what we knew before. I think that is a misconception that the teachers are making in order to discredit our decisions. This is also the same group of teachers who feel the need to put pressure to delay going back for whatever reason seems to suit them in the moment. Their tactics are selfish and unproductive for our children. I have the upmost respect for what our teachers do for our children and the sacrifices they make. It is also stressful and taxing on the teacher. I know there is no right or easy way to do this and I am appreciative of all the efforts that the county is putting in place to make this work. It has been almost a year since our children have seen the inside of a classroom so my request is simple, please put them back in the classroom as soon as possible and not wait until later in the year or not at all.</p>
Jan. 26, 21 -- 3:43: PM	A	T	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>With every peer reviewed medical journal and every major medical institution stating that with proper mitigation strategies in place, schools are safe and show little to no spread, PLEASE get children back in school. It has recently been shown that with one dose of Moderna, the efficacy is up to 82%. With Virginia having a very slow rollout of the vaccine, continuing to use school nurses to administer the vaccine outside of the school setting is just further delaying children returning to the classroom. With the increasing failure rates within HCPS provided by Andy Jenks and the increase in mental health issues for students, the right and SAFE thing to do is allow children to return to the classrooms. How much longer are we going to sacrifice children's wellbeing for the wellbeing of adults? When will children matter as much as adults to HCPS? 11 months is long enough. Bring teachers and students back to the classrooms.</p>

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Jan. 27, 21 -- 7:42: AM	Jessie	Sanborn	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I am writing, yet again, to ask for my children and students to have the chance to return to in-person learning. From the beginning of the school closures, we have heard "listen to the experts" over and over as a defense of keeping our buildings closed. I would consider the CDC experts on the topic of the COVID pandemic and the response to it. In an study released this week, the CDC states "schools should reopen as soon as possible if social distancing and mask-wearing can be maintained to keep in-person learning safe, health officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a study published Tuesday." Our schools need to be open for those who chose in-person learning. We have delayed enough and allowed our children to miss too much already. We cannot wait any longer, and I say this as a teacher in Henrico County. While no plan has been communicated to our staff or families, I am assuming that we are waiting until teachers have been fully vaccinated before allowing students to return to school. The CDC recommends mitigation strategies, such as "wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, increasing ventilation indoors and using a "hybrid" approach that combines in-person and online learning when necessary to avoid crowding in classrooms." The CDC absolutely does not say that all teachers need to be vaccinated in order to return to in-person learning. In fact, they go on to say, "there has been little evidence that schools have contributed meaningfully to increased community transmission," they wrote. And keeping schools closed "could adversely affect students' academic progress, mental health, and access to essential services," which many of us have been saying for months. We all know that the vaccine roll-out, while coordinated beautifully, is subject to the supply of vaccines, which is not reliable. If we are waiting to have all staff fully vaccinated, our students won't return this year, which would be a huge disservice to our students. If other counties in our area are able to return their students to the building, what is keeping HCSP from doing the same? Please make and communicate a plan that we can actually make happen to get our students back into the buildings before an entire year has been unnecessarily taken away from them!</p>
Jan. 27, 21 -- 12:58: PM	Christi	Hart	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>The collateral damage occurring ranging from education gaps to mental health of students continues to be ignored by this County. Henrico is doing an injustice to the children and families finding themselves subject to their poor lack of planning and inability to create an addenda to safely return to school. We need leadership that priorities problem solving and getting everyone back in the buildings in a safe way. It's been almost a year. Why is there no plan?</p>

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Jan. 27, 21 -- 4:50: PM	Ardis	Fishburne	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I have written my district rep and spoken to someone in the Admin office; however, I wanted to ask my questions in the proper format. They are as follows: 1) When was vaccinating the teachers before returning to in-person ever one of the stipulations to opening schools? 2) Our Governor, Mental Health Experts, Doctors, CDC, etc. have all expressed, with science to back it up, that schools are safe to open and should open, prior to the teachers being vaccinated. So, has your decision to continue pushing back in-person learning changed? Why or why not? 3) Are you waiting to return after both doses have been administered? 4) VA, Henrico and the City of Richmond are expected to only receive about 1/4 of the doses they ordered. Now that we only have 1/4 of the doses coming, do we need to deploy all of our school nurses? I don't hear of any shortage in volunteers and those able to administer the vaccine. It seems with less doses, you would need less staff to administer them? 5) What is the date that in-person learning will open for Elementary, Middle and High? 6) What are the factors that can change these dates? 7) What happens if the vaccine shortage causes either dose to be delayed? When will they go back? 8) Basically, what is the plan? People would like to know the date of return if A) The vaccine is in ample supply and everyone gets vaccinated on time. Or B) The backup plan if something goes wrong and there is a delay? At this rate, you'll have not finished administering the first dose and the public is not confident that things will go off without a hitch since all we are hearing is that we are not getting the amount expected. However, if things go perfectly, you are looking at a rollout time of about 2-3 weeks, per dose. That puts near the end of March if you wait for both doses and the two-week time after the 2nd dose. So, for those that chose in-person learning back in November, that's a loss of another two months. That's a lot of time for these kids. These are not all of my questions, but these are the ones that people who chose in-person instruction would like some direction, planning and clarity on.
Jan. 27, 21 -- 6:23: PM	Yael	Levin	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	So now that you have established no school until all teachers are vaccinated, what will be the next goal post? The Fairfax Education Association is demanding virtual until all students are vaccinated. The Pfizer vaccine is only approved for 16+. The Moderna vaccine is 18+. It will be at least another year until it is approved for the 12-16 age group and who knows how long it will be until it is approved for under 12. So what, we're going to stay virtual for at least another year or two? Is that the plan? Do you know that suicides in under 19 in Henrico county jumped 400%? Will you ever listen to the recommendation of your own Health Department Director, Dr. Avula?
Jan. 27, 21 -- 9:28: PM	Yahaira	Sheikh-Yassin	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Will considerations be taken for specialty center applications? A lot of typically good students have had dropped grades this year due to the virtual format.

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Jan. 27, 21 -- 10:43: PM	Lara	Rayburn	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I am in support of the current proposal to redistrict my section of neighborhoods (census tracts 10314 & 16309) on the NW corner of Staples Mill & Hungary Roads to Echo Lake ES. This move adheres to all of the original redistricting guidelines set forth from the beginning and rejoins us with our Crossridge community. Both final options D4 and E4 rezoned us for this very same change to Echo Lake ES. This move will help alleviate Longan ES, which is almost at full capacity, while utilizing the extra space that Echo Lake ES has available. This move also supports continuity in our children's K-12 learning and supports feeder patterns. Thank you so much for staying dedicated to this initiative.
Jan. 27, 21 -- 11:18: PM	Keith	Lippa	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I just wanted to take a quick moment to say thank you to the school board for the redistricting efforts. I am a resident on the North West corner of Staples Mill & Hungary Roads and the current proposal has our neighborhood being redistricted from Longan ES to Echo Lake ES (our middle & high schools remain the same). I again want to re-iterate our support for this change. It follows all the redistricting guidelines from the comprehensive redistricting process. I wanted to thank the school board for listening to our feedback and again offer some positive support for the redistricting proposal. We are excited for the change. Thank you.
Jan. 28, 21 -- 12:14: AM	Jennifer	Cahoon	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Once again, I'd like to thank you for moving forward with a targeted redistricting approach for 2021-22. Our small group of neighborhoods at the northwest corner of Staples Mill and Hungary Roads (Census Tracts 10314 and 16309) fully support moving forward with the proposed plan which shifts us from Longan Elementary to Echo Lake. This move not only helps increase utilization at Echo Lake, which is under 80% capacity, but also frees up space in surrounding elementary schools, allowing for the cascading changes necessary to reduce overcrowding in several neighboring West End schools. In addition, it supports all redistricting guidelines by utilizing the major roadways of Staples Mill and Hungary Roads as boundaries at all three school levels, which ensures safe and efficient transportation, maintains existing feeder patterns, and keeps our children's K-12 progress intact. Redistricting is an extremely difficult issue complicated by the unprecedented challenges of the past year. I am thankful for your efforts to immediately address specific hot spots while minimizing the number of students impacted, and I appreciate that you have taken the community's feedback into consideration and provided transparency throughout the process.

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Jan. 28, 21 -- 8:00: AM	Connor	Dolson	Henrico Teacher	<p>I would like to frame the information from the health committee and the information available about the coronavirus in the news in terms of: meeting essential needs, opportunity cost, and turning a massive organization. One consistent pattern in the coronavirus is that the timing of spikes in infections and deaths has been unpredictable. Moreover, local school districts like Henrico are forced to deal with the unpredictability of state and federal health policy and the variability of success of those policies. There is a new element of unpredictability being added into the system: new virus variants. When will they become dominant? How resistant to vaccines are they? How with state and federal governments react? Will we just be back in widespread lockdowns to avoid catastrophe? Each time Henrico has made decisions aiming to deftly split the difference between virtual and in-person and gear up for hybrid teaching, virus events and governmental considerations have shut down those possibilities, leading to widespread resentment of the back-and-forth. Instead all of this time could have been spent dedicating all the resources to improving virtual instruction AND identifying/meeting the unmet needs of students and families that would usually be met by having students in a school building. That is the course that makes the most sense in the face of such uncertainty. Recognize that the only way for the school district to exert meaningful, predictable control to ensure consistency and resilience for school programming is to commit to all virtual and being an assessment of community needs and thereby develop novel solutions to those challenges.</p>