

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES
 Thursday, December 9, 2021

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the December 9 monthly meeting:
Nov. 10, 21 -- 4:34: PM	Kristina	Barbier	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I have spoken with Dr. Teigen have shared with her and Marcie Shea via email concerns we have regarding the Covid testing of winter athletes. Please consider requiring this of ALL athletes regardless of vaccine status or make it completely optional. The VDH states the program is optional yet Henrico is making it a requirement for unvaccinated athletes if they want to participate. This is not the right thing to do, separating the vaccinated from the unvaccinated. Thank you for your consideration and all that you do!
Nov. 10, 21 -- 6:01: PM	Kim	Vaughan	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Mandating vaccines or testing for student athletes is illogical and unreasonable given the successful fall sports season and the virtually nonexistent number of positive covid cases at our school. As a former student of HCPS and now a parent, I am concerned that the personal freedoms our county citizens have always enjoyed is being infringed upon by the current administration. Public schools do not have the right or the power to make decisions that impact our students medical choices and are essentially adopting bullying tactics to promote their own agenda. This overreaction by leadership and overreaching beyond the power they've been elected for has got to stop. Anytime we have leadership that makes decisions based out of fear and irrational thinking, it's important to raise awareness and stop the insanity.
Nov. 11, 21 -- 9:59: AM	Christina	Foster	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	The testing of unvaccinated athletes is discriminatory and certainly not best risk stratification. As there are more and more break through cases in the vaccinated population - testing should be recommended for anyone with COVID like symptoms regardless of vaccination status. Over and over again, Asymptomatic testing has revealed very low yield of covid cases. Many students who are unvaccinated are due to parent/family decision and to put that discrimination on an underage student is outright wrong from a public school health board! Please reconsider the current recommendation of weekly testing of unvaccinated athletes.

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Nov. 12, 21 -- 10:17: AM	My Tax Dollars	Deserve Better	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I am appalled that HCPS chose to move forward with the policy of testing non-vaccinated staff and student athletes for COVID-19. This policy forces staff and students to be subjected to differential treatment based on their personal health status. You are psychologically branding those that you consider to be unfit for participation in certain events. Either test everyone or test none one.
Dec. 1, 21 -- 3:10: PM	Chris	Silva	Tucker High school	As of today December 1st, the first person tested positive for Omicron variant is fully vaccinated. This further confirms, besides the numerous data, that the fully vaccinated people are just as likely as the unvaccinated to catch and spread COVID-19 and it's variants. It doesn't make sense at all to just test the unvaccinated athletes. Every athlete and coach, including the vaccinated need to be tested.
Dec. 3, 21 -- 4:17: PM	Lisa	Langberg	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please address the overcrowding at Rivers Edge Elementary School. Waiting years for another redistricting process, while the census continues to rise, is not a solution. One very practical and simple solution would be to move the SIS program to another school. That would free up several classrooms inside the building, which are desperately needed for general education classrooms. Thank you for considering.

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the December 9 monthly meeting:
Dec. 6, 21 -- 12:22: PM	Becky	Crowe	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Our daughter suffers from Dyslexia, Auditory Processing Disorder and ADHD. HCPS did not provide her with a free appropriate public education (FAPE) and we filed a Due Process Complaint on March 26, 2021. On October 25, 2021, the Hearing Officer stated we were the prevailing party: "The Student and her parents are the prevailing party. I am convinced and therefore find that Henrico County Public Schools have not complied with the requirements of IDEA in regard to providing a Free and Appropriate Education ("FAPE") to this student." We could not send our daughter back to HCPS in September when she wasn't getting an appropriate public education. We sent her to a school that specializes in language disabilities, The New Community School, for summer school and she continued there for fifth grade. The New Community School has been helping Dyslexic students since 1974, and Addison is finally getting the help she needs with reading and math. After the Hearing Officer ruled in our favor, we contacted the Superintendent of HCPS to schedule an IEP to place our daughter at The New Community School. HCPS stated they would schedule an IEP "to consider private placement for your daughter." HCPS does not need to consider private placement. We unilaterally placed our daughter at the New Community School because HCPS could not provide our daughter a free appropriate public education. On November 15, 2021, I responded to Dr. Leslie Hughes that our daughter attends The New Community School and her IEP needs to reflect this placement because the Hearing Officer ruled in our favor. We have not heard any feedback from HCPS in over three weeks. We have spent so much of our own money, year after year on tutoring, services and summer school, so our daughter receives an appropriate education. We should not have to do this when HCPS received local, state and federal funds to educate our daughter. Back in March of 2021, instead of negotiating a resolution and considering the best interest of the child, HCPS hired an outside attorney to fight us at the Due Process Hearing and spent thousands of our tax dollars on the Harrell and Chambliss law firm. HCPS could have used that money to provide our daughter with the services she needed to learn to read and perform math. The Hearing Officer ruled that HCPS did not provide a FAPE and HCPS needs to place her at The New Community School. We look forward to hearing from HCPS on this resolution.</p>
Dec. 6, 21 -- 12:46: PM	Alice	Thompson	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	<p>I want to know when the kids will be allowed to use the school lockers. With the weather changing, kids will have to carry around heavy jackets, heavy book bags (which includes computers), instruments, and other items that may be required for school such as projects, collages, etc.. It's ridiculous to have carry all of that around the whole day of school.</p>

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Dec. 6, 21 -- 10:41: PM	Lay	Advisory	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I am very concerned about the proposal to retire P11-03-002, the HCPS Policy mandated Lay Advisory Committee. This committee has been in place since 1956, and prior to HCPS failing to support the committee since 2019 - was a valuable avenue for parents and community members to participate in the school process. While the agenda items says this policy is "redundant" due to Policy P8-02-002R; this is not factually correct. P11-03-002 says there MUST be a Lay advisory committee, where as P8-02-002R says this is a committee the superintendent MAY have. This is a stark contrast, and does not fall under the characterization of 'redundant.' Removing a policy mandated committee in favor of one that a superintendent 'may' choose to have is not like for like; and removing parental and community input is not appropriate.
Dec. 7, 21 -- 7:55: AM	Frustrated Brookland	Resident	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	As a tax payer and a parent it is extremely frustrating and disappointing to see yet another HCPS school board defer taking any real actions on redistricting. Covid has been a convenient excuse on taking no action, when the reality is that no one on this board or on previous school boards wanted to jeopardize re-election and do the right thing. The current school assignments are clearly riddled with gerrymandering and inequity. Adding specialty centers or special programs in less populated schools does not solve the issue of over crowding and often increases the inequity inflicted on students that live in older established or less wealthy areas (example--- Moody houses 400 students that mostly come from the West end forcing neighborhoods a mile from the school to be "zoned" for Brookland). It is shameful how wasteful the school board was in investing millions of tax payer dollars in Cropper to come provide redistricting recommendations only for all that money and time to be tossed aside. It is far past time for the school board to do the right thing and the hard thing to commit to a comprehensive redistricting that provides equitable access to schools for ALL neighborhoods....not just ones that have an HOA.

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Dec. 7, 21 -- 8:51: AM	Becky	Crowe	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Please consider a "Science of Reading" program for HCPS. Through research, the Fountas & Pinnell (F&P) reading program, which is based off balanced literacy has only 40% of children learning to read. Edreports just did a review and this curriculum FAILED in ALL areas to meet ANY standards. Please change this curriculum. If a child doesn't learn to read by the time they are in fourth grade, it is extremely difficult. There is so much research on how the brain learns to read and it is NOT through immersion, using pictures or context of the story. Reading is a code and it should be taught as such. I saw the F&P curriculum in progress at Pinchbeck Elementary School several times. My daughter's Special Education teacher asked her to read a passage. She came to a word she didn't know and tried and tried to sound out each letter. The Special Education teacher said, "well, you know it's something the animals are eating." My daughter was in fourth grade and she was supposed to learn to read a word based on the context of the story. The word was 'pretzel' and that is a ridiculous way to teach a child to read. Please don't wait until the Department of Education tells you to base your curriculum on the Science of Reading. Start at the top with your Reading Specialist and make sure they are all trained in the Science of Reading. Please be a leader for the region and invest in a new reading curriculum that will help all students, including those with reading disabilities. I would be happy to assist in this endeavor as a private citizen. I would encourage the Board to visit Upper Arlington School District in Ohio and learn how they changed their entire reading program to align it with the Science of Reading.</p>
Dec. 8, 21 -- 3:25: PM	Concerned	Parent	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Please consider dropping the mandatory student quarantine for close contact if there are no symptoms. Virginia Beach has changed their policy. It's time for a Henrico to do the same. Students, especially those in high school, can't afford to miss days when they are completely healthy. Thank you.</p>