

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, May 27, 2021

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the May 27 work session:
May. 25, 21 -- 12:47: PM	Jessica	Smith	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>Myself and many others in our community are concerned about the child mask mandates and plexiglass cubicles continuing into the 2021-2022 school year. I have a daughter who will be attending Kindergarten in the fall and don't believe these policies are in our children's best interest when it comes to their learning and mental/social/emotional well being. As a former HCPS teacher with a Masters in Science Education, I know that children learn best through play, exploration, and interaction with others. Young children also pick-up very important social cues through facial expressions. No scientific data has shown that COVID is severely impacting our children. Vaccines are now available for adults who wish to receive them. COVID cases are at an all time low according to the Governor. High risk families have been provided a virtual school option for next year. States that have lifted mask/distancing mandates in schools have not shown surges in COVID cases. I have spoken with my school board representative and understand that this matter is continuing to evolve and change at the state level. I have also spoken with Rodney Willett our VA Delegate who led me to believe these decisions for next school year could be coming down to the school division. So here are my questions: 1) How will HCPS be advocating with the governor's office for the best interest of our students in these matters? 2) If the decisions regarding masks/distancing does end up trickling down to the school divisions, what scientific data will HCPS be using to inform decision making? 3) What options are being considered for parents who would like their children to learn in a normal school environment for 2021-2022? I appreciate your time and consideration in these extremely important matters.</p>

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May. 25, 21 -- 2:21: PM	Yael	Levin	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	<p>1. It is nearly impossible for working parents to come to daytime SB meetings. Please be considerate and schedule these meetings in the evenings. Please also follow Hanover's lead and schedule a specific time for the Public Forum. For example, instead of just making it a numbered item on the agenda, please schedule a time, or put it as the first item after closed session. That way, community stakeholders can actually come and speak before you. 2. At the top of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion's page recommended books is Ibram X. Kendi's book 'How to be an Anti-Racist.' While we would all like to be anti-racists, Mr. Kendi writes on page 19 (and that is just one of many horrifying examples from the book) "The only remedy to racist discrimination is antiracist discrimination. The only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination." Mr. Kendi has made a fortune as a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultant. Why do we want our teachers and students reading this? 3. HCPS is also boasting SEGREGATED Summer Workshops for teachers. This is in violation of the Constitution of the USA, the VA Constitution, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. 4. At Deep Run High School in March 2021, teachers were trained on a "Land Acknowledgment Exercise" that reads: "Have students type their address into native-land.ca (as Deep Run sits on Monacan Land). Pair with Nate Marshall's poem "Landless Acknowledgment." Have students write a land acknowledgement statement for their homes or Deep Run". Why do our children need our apologize for sins of the past? 5. I, and many other parents are very concerned that HCPS is focused on a curriculum that seeks to segregate our students and staff, to divide our community, and to shame children and punish them for sins of generations past. And all of it is unconstitutional, in violation of the board's own policies and in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.</p>

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the May 27 work session:
May. 25, 21 -- 4:43: PM	Ryan	Kokemor	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	As a parent of three elementary school students in Henrico, I would like to know what guidance will be provided to schools next year in order for teachers to differentiate what they teach to students. This year has been frustrating at times because reading groups, math groups and rotating classroom stations have been replaced by learning apps that may (or may not) be adjusted to reflect each student's prior knowledge. I understand that this year was unprecedented and every teacher did the best they could under the circumstances, but I do not think students will reach their full potential if this continues. I'd strongly encourage the board to consider this feedback in making plans for how the next school year works and potentially allow more classroom flexibility for students to co-mingle to facilitate this.