

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES**  
 Thursday, August 26, 2021

| Timestamp               | First Name: | Last Name: | Magisterial District:                      | Your written comments for the August 26 work session:   |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------|--|---|
| Aug. 12, 21 -- 8:34: AM | Josh        | Ambrose    | Brookland District -<br>Kristi B. Kinsella | <p>It is with utmost priority that we keep our children safe. The new CDC guidance has big implications for Virginia schools, based upon a state law that was passed earlier this year with strong bipartisan support. Senate Bill 1303 requires schools to follow mitigation strategies from the CDC. Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam held a press conference on Thursday and warned school divisions – like Henrico – that have not implemented universal masking requirements for the upcoming school year. He suggested that school divisions that don't follow CDC guidance related to COVID-19 mitigation strategies will be in violation of state law. What if our kids get sick? Have to quarantine? Or worse be in the hospital? Does the county have plans for students who have missed that much school? Will they be allowed to attend online? I believe online should always be an option year round in case kids are sick and symptomatic and need to stay home so they don't spread their germs, it don't feel the pressure to attend bc they will miss school. If this was your child that is not Eligible for the vaccine yet would you feel comfortable if you sent them to school unmasked so they could sit right next to another student that has full blown Covid??? Would you be ok with that? Could you live with yourself? The choice is clear...protect our kids! The other choice is blood on your hands and every kid that becomes ill or dies from Covid will be bc of the choice you made. Also, masks helped tremendously last year with the flu. What if we have a twin epidemic with the flu and Covid??? What happens then?</p> |
| Aug. 12, 21 -- 9:15: AM | Cami        | Smith      | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea      | <p>This comment was intended for the Aug 12th meeting, but I wasn't able to post for that meeting in time. My concern is regarding students returning to school. With the delta variant of COVID on the rise and the ongoing debate over requiring students to mask up. I believe the option for virtual learning should be extended. While Henrico Virtual Academy was offered, in my personal opinion the registration deadline for this academy was too soon. At that time parents were optimistic that returning to school would be possible because at that time numbers were trending down, however we were still in the 20-21 school year. Which was before the world tried and failed to reopen. The registration date should have at least been pushed out to July so parents could make a fully informed decision based on the virus trend. But as mentioned, since COVID cases are on the rise, some parents are refusing to mask their children, all kids still can not be vaccinated and the Henrico Virtual Academy has a growing wait list, I would like the board to seriously consider implementing virtual learning again outside of acceptance to the virtual academy. Returning to virtual learning for parents who wish to participate will help to decrease the number of students in the building which will make social distancing easier which will help to reduce the chance of a large outbreak in case of a COVID exposure. Plus it also helps to reduce our students anxiety level regarding returning to school and being infected.</p>   |

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| Aug. 12, 21 -- 10:52: AM | Sandra             | Arnold            | Brookland District -<br>Kristi B. Kinsella   | masks for kids need to be optional, it is to be the parents decision.  |
| Aug. 12, 21 -- 3:30: PM  | Chandu             | Nair              | Three Chopt District -<br>Michelle F. Ogburn   | With the rising level of Delta variant of Covid-19, how do you safe guard the unvaccinated elementary kids and the unvaccinated siblings of high schoolers.  |
| Aug. 12, 21 -- 5:20: PM  | Cierra             | Young             | Three Chopt District -<br>Michelle F. Ogburn,<br>Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea | Dear Henrico county school board I am a mother of two elementary school age children this comment is with concerns about Henrico county schools opening during the pandemic. Covid-19 is still at large. my concerns are as follows: what are the backup plans in case your school children come in contact with the virus considering there are no vaccination for children under 12? The teachers would have to watch the children at all times to ensure all children are wearing their mask all the time that means when the teachers are trying to teach the students they would have to stop to correct the children who are not wearing a mask. You have to understand that there are children not Middle School not high school children some children are not going to understand the protocols that are in effect some children might not adhere to set protocols. Considering covid-19 is still at large last year parents of the Henrico county community was given the option to voice their opinion on whether their children should return to school physically or virtually why wasnt the same survey given this year? Thank you for your time and consideration |
| Aug. 12, 21 -- 7:04: PM  | michael            | krause            | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea  | Just wanted to thank all the board members for voting for masks in schools. Keeping our kids safe in school is job #1!!  |
| Aug. 12, 21 -- 7:54: PM  | Tamica             | Goode             | Brookland District -<br>Kristi B. Kinsella   | Please mandate masks in school. This is the best option to keep our children safe until they all are able to receive a vaccination. Once the children are allowed to be fully vaccinated, I think then this topic can be revisited.  |
| Aug. 12, 21 -- 11:04: PM | Takiya             | Jeffries          | Lakeside Elementary  | Why not make it an option for kids to wear masks? I have concerns of my little one keeping it on for the entire day.   |

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| Aug. 13, 21 -- 11:06: AM | Richard            | Owens             | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea   | NO mask mandate! NO covid testing of our children. NO vaccinated our children without parents consent. NO Critical Race Theory .. NO CHILD should grow up thinking they are lesser human beings and don't get a fair shot no matter what color!! These are all violations of human rights and are crimes against humanity itself. "Just following orders" will not be an acceptable excuse for you Representatives, once trials come and judgement is passed. think Long and Hard about the decisions you make.                   |
| Aug. 14, 21 -- 8:15: AM  | Joanna             | Tripp             | Unsure  | What alternative education are you prepared to provide for students that will not comply with the mask mandate?   |
| Aug. 14, 21 -- 2:51: PM  | Bridget            | Napp              | Brookland District -<br>Kristi B. Kinsella, Three<br>Chopt District - Michelle<br>F. Ogburn | Masks must be optional for all students in school. Parents and families should have the choice to send their own children to school with masks. Provide n95 mask for teachers/staff who would like access to them if that is the issue. Otherwise, stop using our children as leverage for politics. Let them breathe, let's families choose for their own children, and get back to educating our students. Extend enrollment for virtual academy for families who would like to opt out for in person school.                   |
| Aug. 16, 21 -- 9:44: AM  | Krishna            | Nair              | Henrico county school<br>District   | For IB students there is no virtual academy options available so opted for in person, but much concerned about people with chronic diseases at home ,if the kid get covid-19 it will be a disaster for the family. So would like to ask if there any chance of giving virtual academy opportunity for IB students?  |
| Aug. 17, 21 -- 2:04: PM  | Geraldine          | Oliver            | Brookland District -<br>Kristi B. Kinsella  | I ask that masks be mandated in schools at this time. There are several good studies including one in NC studying 1 million students that show mandated masks keep Covid spread at 1% or lower and students can move freely about with little fear of transmission. If masks are optional transmission rate climbs. We know Delta variant spreads like chicken pox and impacts children much more than other variants. In the uncertain time with Delta and cooler weather coming I feel strongly that mandated masks are needed. |
| Aug. 18, 21 -- 11:09: AM | Daryl              | Weade             | Three Chopt District -<br>Michelle F. Ogburn  | Please protect transgender children. They deserve to learn with acceptance and in safety.   |
| Aug. 18, 21 -- 11:22: AM | Bonnie             | Fenton            | Three Chopt District -<br>Michelle F. Ogburn  | I encourage HCPS to adopt policies that protect transgender students in Henrico schools. "A national survey by GLSEN has found that 75% of transgender youth feel unsafe at school, and those who are able to persevere had significantly lower GPAs, were more likely to miss school out of concern for their safety, and were less likely to plan on continuing their education."   |

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| Aug. 18, 21 -- 11:24: AM | Martha             | Wright            | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea        | I fully support Henrico County Public School's efforts to accommodate and protect transgender students. Thank you for putting the policies in place to make school a welcoming and successful place for all students.   |
| Aug. 18, 21 -- 11:31: AM | Jackie             | Brown             | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea        | I'm writing in support of the adoption of the transgender student protections and hope HCPS will continue to listen to our transgender students, adapting policies as needed, to provide them a supportive and affirming learning community. Thank you!   |
| Aug. 18, 21 -- 11:42: AM | Brittany           | Rose              | Three Chopt District -<br>Michelle F. Ogburn | Thank you for your commitment to support and protect the rights of transgender and non-binary students. All students deserve to be safe and treated with dignity and respect. Trans and non-binary youth are diagnosed with depression and anxiety at higher rates than their cisgender (i.e., non-transgender) peers, and experience up to three times the rate of suicidal ideation, non-lethal self-harm, and suicide attempts as cisgender youth. Protective factors such as affirming school policies like those that have been proposed in Henrico, peer support, and having trusted adults - which includes supportive educators and staff - in their lives can significantly enhance the health and well-being of trans and non-binary students. It is not hyperbole to say that these policies may save the life of young people in Henrico. Please also consider supporting the establishment of a Genders & Sexualities Alliance (GSA - sometimes also known as a Gay Straight Alliance) in all secondary schools in Henrico. Research has shown that all students in high schools with an established GSA are less likely to be discriminated against and are less likely to attempt suicide. These findings hold true for all students in schools with GSAs, not just LGBTQ youth. When we protect and support our more vulnerable students, all students benefit. |
| Aug. 18, 21 -- 11:50: AM | Donna              | Taylor            | Brookland District -<br>Kristi B. Kinsella   | Fully support protecting transgender students   |
| Aug. 18, 21 -- 12:22: PM | Colleen            | Bohlman           | Three Chopt District -<br>Michelle F. Ogburn | I am writing in support of the adoption of policies that protect transgender students in Henrico schools. Every student deserves to feel safe and welcome in school.  |
| Aug. 18, 21 -- 12:28: PM | Ryan               | Slevin            | Three Chopt District -<br>Michelle F. Ogburn | I am so grateful to HCPS for adopting more trans friendly policies for the 2021-22 school year. As the parent of a non-binary student in HCPS, this goes a long way in supporting my child. Moving forward, I look forward to more conversations around decentering the gender binary and creating belonging and inclusion for all genders. Thanks, Ryan  |
| Aug. 19, 21 -- 3:47: PM  | Anne               | Creasy            | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea        | Vote no and do not adopt the transgender model policy. Please stand up for traditional values and reject these policies that will ultimately hurt our young students and teachers.  |

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| Aug. 19, 21 -- 4:26: PM | Becky              | Bruning           | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea        | When you decide upon what aspects of the VDOE Transgender Policy to implement - PLEASE uphold the rights for ALL, not just transgender students which are a tiny part of the population. Yes, everyone should have equal rights which includes the right to privacy when changing in locker rooms and using restrooms. No person should have anxiety when using restroom that someone of opposite sex can freely walk in. Solution would be to install more single door unisex bathrooms. Parents have rights to their children's mental, behavioral, and physical health until that child is 18, and parents should know about their kids' questions of their sexual identity; the school has no place in harboring any secrets that their children may have. Students should not be held accountable or punished for mistakenly using pronouns for people whose biological parts do not match their ideologies of themselves. It seems a given that you will have more lawsuits if you implement these policies than if you do not. Thank you |
| Aug. 19, 21 -- 7:49: PM | Concerned          | Parent            | Three Chopt District -<br>Michelle F. Ogburn | What specifically is HCPS doing to eradicate CRT from the current agendas? We know it's there, we don't appreciate it, now just explain how you're undoing it. Also masks don't stop viruses therefore you need to tell Northam masking should be up to parents and not abide by his RULING. Lastly, in- person meetings would be much appreciated so I can get and address answers in a timely manner versus this online system.   |
| Aug. 19, 21 -- 8:42: PM | Merrill            | Milani            | Three Chopt District -<br>Michelle F. Ogburn | I fully support the Henrico School Board to adopt policies that protect our transgender students so they can go to school in a safe and affirming environment and focus on learning.  |
| Aug. 19, 21 -- 8:56: PM | Garima             | Shah              | Henrico                                      | Make virtual option available for all elementary kids who want it and non vaccinated middle schoolers. We don't want to risk sending our kids with Delta variant surge currently .  |
| Aug. 19, 21 -- 9:05: PM | Ashok              | R                 | Henrico                                      | Request you to please provide Virtual option for IB program like last year for 12+ years, as the COVID 19 variants are prevalent.   |
| Aug. 20, 21 -- 9:03: AM | Nancy              | Korman            | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea        | Marcie, I have written to you twice about my concern about the transgender model policies. While you are only voting on some policies in the guidelines, o want you to for no on ALL of them. The are against our traditional values and and pose a threat to changing our entire way of living. I hope you will speak out strongly about all of these policies. Thank you.   |

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| Aug. 20, 21 -- 12:31: PM | Casey              | Burton            | Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn | Since Henrico Schools have enacted a mask mandate, I am writing to request that the children be given as much outdoors time as is feasible to allow for mask breaks/fresh air opportunities. Children, especially elementary school aged children, should NOT be required to wear masks outside and they should be given other opportunities for mask breaks - whether it be outside classes when feasible, or short break periods to allow for some mask-free time.   |
| Aug. 20, 21 -- 4:14: PM  | Debbie             | Fromer            | Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn | I am grateful for your herculean efforts to make it possible for our children to return to school this year! I have twin 3rd graders who aren't yet eligible for the vaccination, and I am deeply concerned about how lunches will be handled from a safety perspective. Will children be able to be spaced far apart in the lunchroom and facing the same direction? Are there outdoor lunch options? If necessary, can parents/caregivers (who are able) sign out their children for lunch and eat outdoors with them, and then sign them back in? Sending large groups of unvaccinated children into a lunch room unmasked can lead to huge community spread. Hoping to hear specific safety plans for lunches - particularly for unvaccinated elementary school students. Many thanks.   |
| Aug. 20, 21 -- 9:08: PM  | Anna               | Hebner            | Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella   | I am writing to express my support for Henrico adopting policies to accommodate trans students, in keeping with Virginia's model policies. As a retired educator, I know that for children to learn, they need an environment where they are valued and supported. These policies give teachers and administrators appropriate guidance on how to create a respectful learning environment for our precious trans children.  |
| Aug. 21, 21 -- 10:02: AM | Batul              | Bohara            | Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn | Given delta variant, 1) I would request to have plexiglass in all students desk. 2) kids should eat lunch at their desk with plexiglass on the desk 3) how would playground safety will be ensured? Can we keep same as last year hybrid approach in person settings? That looked safer. 4) what protocols be followed if a student is identified with COVID-19, can the student and affected classmates go virtual? 5) if a student identified with covid Will the whole class go in quarantine for 14 days? 6) if there are siblings in the same school and different classes and one of them get COVID what will be protocol for the class and school. 7) Are we mandating vaccines for the kids once it is available? 6) Are we mandating COVID testing for kids before they start the school ? 8) what will be rerun criteria for kids with COVID to rerun ? Will they need to produce COVID negative test ? 9) are teachers planning to take temperatures for all kids ? |

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| Aug. 21, 21 -- 4:20: PM | Nicole             | Jorgensen         | Brookland District -<br>Kristi B. Kinsella | What are the detailed precautions being taken to prevent Covid spread during lunch? How will students be able to distance in the cafeteria? This is especially important since masks will be off while they eat. All of the masking in classrooms helps, but when students have their masks off without distancing for 30 minutes every day (really longer, if you include breakfast) outbreaks will happen within and between classes. There needs to be a detailed plan to keep everyone safe.   |
| Aug. 22, 21 -- 9:53: PM | Kirsty             | Wingfield         | Brookland District -<br>Kristi B. Kinsella | I am 100% against biological boys using the same bathroom as my daughters. How will you accommodate my daughters to have a private bathroom and private locker room space to change in and use the bathroom? Where absolutely no boys will be allowed in.  |
| Aug. 23, 21 -- 8:19: AM | Laura              | Santacruz         | Brookland District -<br>Kristi B. Kinsella | In response to allowing transgender students use the bathroom or locker room of their choice, I vehemently oppose this. Two female students were sodomized in two separate incidents in Loudoun County because boys felt like they were girls that day and given rights to the girls facilities. Do not subject the majority of the student's safety and privacy for the minority.   |
| Aug. 23, 21 -- 4:24: PM | Patricia           | Faini             | Brookland District -<br>Kristi B. Kinsella | I am a teacher at Echo Lake Elementary. I think the county needs to have a plan in place for COVID disruptions to learning, other than having students do make-up work. With today's positivity at 9.7%, it seems reasonable that students will be out and teachers might also be out. i feel we need to add a virtual option to school for these reasons. A temporary hybrid model for COVID absences only would allow both teachers and students to stay on track. Many students will need remediation this year, absences will put them further behind, and to start the school year without a COVID absence protocol seems unprepared. |

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| Aug. 23, 21 -- 9:14: PM | Kristen            | Martin            | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea        | HCPS leadership and the school board must provide better options for lunch. At the elementary level, none of the students are vaccinated, and even 3 ft apart (inside) likely won't prevent spread of the more contagious Delta strain of Covid. We are seeing spread among kids at schools already back where masks are worn at all times besides lunch. A charter school in RPS has had to pivot and find other solutions to a cafeteria with 3 ft. distance after having 10 of 18 classes quarantined. We need a better plan that allows for outdoor eating so that we aren't scrambling to deal with covid spread, quarantines, and staff shortages once school is back. We have been told the kids at our elementary school will be eating in the cafeteria, with a minimum of 100 kids at a time. We have an old building, and it's not a large room. I understand how the assigned seating and cohorts will help in contract tracing, but it doesn't prevent individuals from getting covid. That should be the goal for our unvaccinated students. Outdoor lunch is completely feasible, but we lack staff to oversee it. We have parents willing to volunteer, but it may not be enough. The county should provide more resources to hire aides like we had in the spring to help monitor outdoor lunch. Even at our campus-style school with covered sidewalks, we are struggling to find solutions without more manpower. What options do concerned families have that aren't satisfied with the safety plans, with only 3 weeks left until school starts? The virtual academy is full. I think we need to be more creative for the first 9 weeks until hopefully vaccinations are available to all school age kids. |
| Aug. 24, 21 -- 2:26: AM | Susay              | Leghart           | Three Chopt District -<br>Michelle F. Ogburn | I'm happy to see my County adopting the position that transgender and non binary students will have their gender identity respected. All our children deserve to be fully recognized for who they are and encouraged to be true to themselves as individuals. This is a proud moment for our County.  |
| Aug. 24, 21 -- 8:31: AM | Rachel             | Kirkland          | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea        | Hello! I am a resident of the Tuckahoe District and a teacher in the Three Chopt District. I am concerned that I will have to use my own sick leave for quarantine. As the local numbers of COVID rise and as I enter a classroom daily with 18 kids, I feel that quarantine may be inevitable. I do not feel like it is fair for me to have to use my own sick days (of which I only get 10 per year). Other counties have made the decision to give vaccinated teachers paid leave in the event of quarantine. I encourage Henrico to do the same to protect teachers and their time. We have given and continue to give a lot to our students and school and it is a small thing the county can do to demonstrate how much our time is valued.   |
| Aug. 24, 21 -- 1:17: PM | Kelley             | Hope              | Three Chopt District -<br>Michelle F. Ogburn | I am very grateful that you elected to make masks mandatory for schools. My next concern is about lunches. I understand from the principal of Pocahontas Middle, the school my son will attend, that lunches will be in the cafeteria as was standard before the pandemic. Is there an option for lunches to be outside? If I can coordinate volunteers from parents/guardians to supervise the students, would this be allowed?  |



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| Aug. 24, 21 -- 3:00: PM | Sarah              | Collier           | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea        | Dear Dr. Cashwell and members of the School Board,<br>Please offer a "virtual until vaccinated" option for students. My children are too young to be vaccinated, and we are extremely concerned about sending them back to school in person, due to the high prevalence of Covid in our community. My children are waitlisted for the Henrico Virtual Academy, but knowing that they are two of hundreds on the list, we are not optimistic that they will be accepted. Furthermore, we do not want to make a yearlong commitment to virtual school when a vaccine for our children is in the works and coming soon. Please continue to offer hybrid classes for students who are too young to be vaccinated. Thank you for your careful consideration of my request.   |
| Aug. 24, 21 -- 3:33: PM | Piyali             | Sarkar            | Three Chopt District -<br>Michelle F. Ogburn | Are there any virtual options for middle school IB students? Please reconsider it.  |
| Aug. 24, 21 -- 3:52: PM | Kari               | King              | Three Chopt District -<br>Michelle F. Ogburn | Thank you so much for taking the time to read my comment. I am an HCPS teacher and the parent of a rising first grader at Nuckols Farm. Since the day he was born, I have been looking forward to when he would be in first grade as that is what I teach. And now I am terrified. I would like to ask the Superintendent and the School Board to mandate vaccines or regular Covid tests for all employees of Henrico County Public Schools. I realize there are some things that are out of your control but with the recent FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine, this is not one of them. We know vaccines are the best way to stop this pandemic in its tracks but too many adults are not rolling up their sleeves and it puts my son in jeopardy. Let's do the right thing. Thank you.   |
| Aug. 24, 21 -- 5:26: PM | Judi               | Fox               | Brookland District -<br>Kristi B. Kinsella   | Henrico acknowledges safety measures like vaccinating, wearing masks, but we know that children less than 12 can't be vaccinated and the first estimate is either September or October 2021. Until that age groups is vaccinated the Delta covid strain is leading to "hyperlocal outbreaks", which means unvaccinated children less than 12 that are in close proximity and eating lunch with their masks off will experience covid outbreaks. It's not a question of "if it will happen", it WILL happen. Henrico county needs more options and plans that acknowledge different learning options for kids less than 12 as the numbers rise with community spread and Delta being more transmissible in children. There are different safety risks for children that are unable to be vaccinated. With that there needs to be more school options and virtual learning flexibility for children less than 12 years old until they can be vaccinated. Please consider opening up a flexible virtual learning option for the first 9 weeks similar to previous year opening to give time for the vaccine to be approved for children. |

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| Aug. 24, 21 -- 6:22: PM | Sarah       | Eddins     | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea        | I have some concerns about how some of your policy proposals could impact the safety, security, and privacy of my children. Specifically, I am concerned with P7-14-001 and R7-14-001. I am concerned how these policies could impact my children in certain settings - such as overnight trips and in the locker rooms before and after their P.E. classes in the secondary grades. Is HCPS prepared for the liability of such policies should a child be violated in some way?! We all want for every child to feel safe in school and everyone detests a bully. My concern is that my children could be placed in extremely vulnerable and potentially unsafe situations because of these sorts of policies. What specifically are you prepared to do to ensure that my children feel safe and are protected? Please reconsider these policies. There is a way to ensure transgender kids are safe while also ensuring the safety of everyone else. We can do both, but these policies are not the way. |
| Aug. 24, 21 -- 7:53: PM | Betsy       | Irvine     | Brookland District -<br>Kristi B. Kinsella   | I am greatly bothered by the new law that would allow boys in my granddaughter's bathroom or locker room. I feel very strongly that we have God given DNA that says if we are male or female and to allow children to pursue changing their sex is wrong and I am even more distressed by the idea that a child's privacy would trump a parents right to be informed by what is going on in their classroom. I urge you to not accept the new law regarding LGBT issues. My understanding is that some Virginia counties are not accepting this horrible bill and there is no current penalty to do so.  |
| Aug. 24, 21 -- 8:22: PM | Lindzie     | Cherry     | Three Chopt District -<br>Michelle F. Ogburn | I am desperately worried about lunchtime. Being unmasked while eating in a cafeteria with so many other children negates the effects of masks being worn at all other times during the day. Why couldn't students eat outdoors weather permitting and distanced in their classrooms during bad weather to minimize exposure? Awnings could even be set up outdoors to protect from sun and rain. At the very least, students eating in their classrooms makes contract tracing more feasible and minimizes exposure.<br><br>For each classroom in general, air purifiers/scrubbers should be purchased. I am more than happy to donate them to each of my children's classrooms, but the expense of HCPS providing one for every classroom would be worth the lives that might be saved and the days lost to quarantine and illness that would be saved.<br>Thank you.   |

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| Timestamp               | First Name: | Last Name: | Magisterial District:                 | Your written comments for the August 26 work session:   |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Aug. 24, 21 -- 9:34: PM | Emily       | Tate       | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea | <p>I am sitting here waiting for our PCR tests to come back. Today my husband and 6 year old son tested positive for Covid. Sam is too young to get vaccinated. My husband and I are fully vaccinated and got our vaccines as soon as we could. We have been diligent this entire pandemic. We didn't go to family events. We did virtual learning last year. We didn't travel. We wore masks well after we were vaccinated to protect ourselves and everyone else. We didn't do anything so we could stay safe. Last week I resigned from my position as an elementary school counselor in Henrico because I couldn't bear the thought of potentially losing my husband or children or for them to lose me because I brought something home. And with all of that, with all of the masking and vaccinations and distancing and over abundance of caution for 18 months, they are sick. And potentially my daughter, Sam's twin, and I could also have it and it just didn't show up on our rapid tests. I am terrified. I am angry. As far away as we have stayed from everyone else, I am having to decide whether or not I can bear to send them into a building of hundreds of unvaccinated elementary school kids in a few weeks. Had we been in school already, I'm sure Sam would have spread it to other kids during lunch or snack or other unmasked times before he tested positive. His symptoms mimic his allergies that he has every single year at this time, so we thought nothing of it until my husband felt horrible this morning. This delta is nothing to mess with. If we open, and I know we have to, parents and faculty need to have more information than we are getting on what specific plans you have for cases such as this, where my child would have unknowingly spread it to many kids at lunch. There's no hybrid or virtual option. There's no option for a quarantined teacher to teach from home. Parents are not allowed to donate air purifiers to classrooms from what I'm hearing today, and many of our buildings can't hold the merv 13 filters that have been recommended by the CDC. There's no position on kids who refuse to wear masks (will they be sent to HVA for the rest of the year? Will they be allowed into classrooms? Because I can tell you now, as a parent, that would not be acceptable). You are asking thousands of parents to send their unvaccinated kids into your buildings with little to no information on how they will be safe and educated if quarantined. Families and teachers need this information. Please keep us safe.</p> |
| Aug. 24, 21 -- 9:41: PM | Ross        | Bruning    | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea | <p>Parents are to be ALWAYS informed of their child's behavior and struggles that are evident at school. To encourage active deception of a child's parents is immoral, wrong, and frankly unheard of in modern history. Please do not fold to the pressures of an awry society.</p>  |

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES**  
 Thursday, August 26, 2021

| Timestamp                | First Name: | Last Name: | Magisterial District:                     | Your written comments for the August 26 work session:   |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|---|---|
| Aug. 24, 21 -- 10:31: PM | ELIZABETH   | THURMAN    | Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn | <p>Dear REES leaders, I am writing to beg you to consider being creative with lunchtime this year to increase safety. After all the effort and planning that went into mitigation last year, all of that is being swept away during this time of a much greater number of pediatric cases. Being in school in person is more dangerous now than it ever was last year. I was astounded to learn that students would no longer be eating in their classrooms this school year. I do understand that staffing is part of this, and the strain that losing a lunch break puts on teachers. I have been a weekly lunchtime volunteer for years. My child's school lunchroom is extremely loud. Kids have to yell just to have a basic conversation. It is an airborne virus's dream come true. I'd be happy to volunteer and wear PPE and facilitate a classroom lunch period or other breaks for teachers. I'm also happy to volunteer regularly to help with outdoor lunch. I am confident I could rally other parents to do the same if volunteers are allowed outdoors. If volunteers aren't allowed, I hope you can consider some of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encouraging outdoor lunches when the weather allows. Kids can sit on towels or blankets from home.</li> <li>2. Using some of that plexiglass to make barriers down the center of the long tables in the lunchroom.</li> <li>3. Spacing out the lunch room into the gymnasium on days that PE can be held outdoors.</li> <li>4. Opening a window or a door or SOMETHING to help with the stagnant air in the cafeterias. HVAC systems are not enough for adequate ventilation in a space this large and crowded.</li> <li>5. Air purifiers in the cafeterias.</li> <li>6. Showing entertaining videos on a large screen at lunch, to cut down on talking.</li> <li>7. Allow parental flexibility to quickly and easily check out their kids at lunchtime and return them.</li> <li>8. Alternating days/weeks with classes eating in their classrooms and the lunchroom, to spread out kids and keep the lunchrooms at lower capacity.</li> </ol> <p>These kids are in your charge. Please do EVERYTHING YOU CAN to keep them safe until they can be vaccinated.</p> |
| Aug. 24, 21 -- 10:58: PM | Christine   | Coffey     | Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn | <p>HCPS needs to institute the following measures immediately if they do not want to follow the US trends for back to school:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) make outdoor lunch Plan A and provide funding for outdoor spaces</li> <li>2) require teachers to either be vaccinated or provide a negative PCR test weekly</li> <li>3) test a sample of the students/staff/and teachers at random weekly</li> <li>4) clearly communicate the covid quarantine protocols in a quick reference document distributed to all parents so everyone understands when to keep their child home, when to get tested, and when they can return</li> <li>5) Provide teacher quarantine days above sick days for all vaccinated teachers</li> <li>6) Provide a virtual option for all students during quarantine</li> </ol> <p>We have two weeks until school starts, how do we not have the above epidemiologist recommended measures in place yet (all the data says masks and testing and vaccines—these three should be the baseline of what HCPS will do for its families). How do we parents not have clear guidance on quarantine/sick procedures? I want leadership that is learning based on other schools that already opened and will do better than their failures. The time has passed for HCPS to say they didn't know any better.</p>   |

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES**  
 Thursday, August 26, 2021

| <b>Timestamp</b>         | <b>First Name:</b> | <b>Last Name:</b> | <b>Magisterial District:</b>              | <b>Your written comments for the August 26 work session:</b>  |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 6:34: AM  | Kim                | Cochran           | Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn | I'm very concerned about elementary school kids lunch policies. I think having the cafeteria fairly or very full of unmasked unvaccinated kids is high risk. Possible solution: parent volunteers to supervise lunch in classrooms or outside, at least whenever possible. Also I request that hybrid /virtual learning be available for people in addition to in-person if transmission to kids continues to rise. It's well known that the waiting list for the HVA has grown to close to 500 people and that most of those kids will not be accepted, understandably due to staffing. I also want to thank the board for their previous unanimous vote to require masks. Thank you for coming through for our kids.  |
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 8:44: AM  | Christina          | Sitterson         | Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn | Please consider appropriate lunchtime safety options for students this year. Having kids without masks back in the cafeteria together, unmasked, cannot be an acceptable option. The schools already have the plexiglass shields - those worked well at my sons school for lunchtime last year. They give a barrier while unmasked and can easily be cleaned between groups of children. Outside lunch time would also be much safer if possible. There are options to ensure our children's safety. Please do not ignore this important part of their day. It is very concerning that it has not yet been addressed.   |
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 10:03: AM | Farida             | Bandukwala        | Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella   | Given delta variant, 1) I would request to have plexiglass in all students desk. 2) kids should eat lunch at their desk with plexiglass on the desk 3) how would playground safety will be ensured? 4) what protocols be followed if a student is identified with COVID-19, can the student and affected classmates go virtual? 5) if a student identified with covid Will the whole class go in quarantine for 14 days? 6) if there are siblings in the same school and different classes and one of them get COVID what will be protocol for the class and school. 7) Are we mandating vaccines for the kids once it is available? 6) Are we mandating COVID testing for kids before they start the school ? 8) what will be return criteria for kids with COVID to school ? Will they need to produce COVID negative test ? 9) are teachers planning to take temperatures for all kids ? 10) I would like to go virtual until kids under 12 are able to get vaccinated. In person school should begin after Christmas break. |
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 10:07: AM | Harold             | Freeman           | Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins        | Please do not vote for the adoption of the VDE's Model Policies for the Treatment of Transgender Students in Virginia's Public Schools. This policy is just evil and should never be forced on our children nor should control over our children ever been usurped by a government institution.   |

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES**  
 Thursday, August 26, 2021

| <b>Timestamp</b>         | <b>First Name:</b> | <b>Last Name:</b> | <b>Magisterial District:</b>              | <b>Your written comments for the August 26 work session:</b>  |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 10:40: AM | Sekani             | Grant             | Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins        | Hello, I would like for the board to consider research and look into implementation of another step for teacher salaries. Now that teaching virtual is an option and great for those students who desire it, we must consider that those roles are very different. Teaching virtually and in-person are two very different jobs. We have all been in both seats and in-person teaching requires much more labor and hands-on management. I am asking the board to look into this matter and consider creating a new step for in-person teachers. While I understand virtual teachers, may have concerns, they are always welcome to return to the classroom for that additional step and vice versa. Thank you for your consideration.  |
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 10:48: AM | Sekani             | Grant             | Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins        | Hello, I would like for the school board to begin research into mental health practices that will benefit students and teachers long-term. We seemed to be more interested in the topic at the height of the pandemic, which is not over. However, the change to a 4 day school week and shorter days proved to be an effective morale boost for staff and students. The 5 day work week we have been accustomed to over the years simply props up the capitalistic machine. Are we training future workers or learners? I truly believe this past year allowed us to look into how different some things could be. I would like to for the board to genuinely research best practices for this kind of implementation and request feedback from the community. School is not day-care and should be enriching at all times. However, when we cater to certain groups more than others it is reflective. I appreciated the thoughtfulness the board had for our mental health this past year, I would just like for it to remain :). Thank you. |
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 11:34: AM | Jill               | Moye              | Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn | PLEASE for the health of the children and the community consider a virtual option or at least a hybrid option. This variant is far too contagious and many children, teachers, and families will get sick (or worse) if schools go back in person. Virtual may not be ideal, but it's better than what will happen if we send all of the kids back in person. Plus, we will be giving the virus way too much opportunity to mutate and become even more dangerous.  |

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES**  
 Thursday, August 26, 2021

| Timestamp                | First Name: | Last Name: | Magisterial District:                     | Your written comments for the August 26 work session:   |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|---|---|
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 12:11: PM | Saumya      | Singh      | Rivers Edge Elementary School             | I'm very concerned about un-vaccinated (less than 12 years) kids going for in person learning without "mandatory" social distancing and other precautions. My expectation is that the elementary schools (and even 6th grade classes), where kids cannot be vaccinated, should be allowed for hybrid learning as how it was for later part of the last school year. The advantages are: 1) This will give families flexibility to choose without much conflict. 2) Will allow schools to have room for social distancing and other precautions. 3) This will avoid break in learning due to possibility of 1 child infecting the whole class. 3) Lesser risk to safety obligation for the school. 4) Kids and teachers are already accustomed to this way of learning efficiently. 5) Kids will not have to sacrifice accelerated learning opportunity. 6) Gives time to re-access situation. It would be good to continue in this mode till winter break and again re-access the situation and possibility of vaccine availability for younger kids. I suggest this to ensure our young learners have the opportunity to advance academically in an environment that is free of fear, uncertainty and stress, because that's what they and their families deserve.   |
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 12:28: PM | haila       | duncan     | Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn | I'm writing to you today to express concern regarding school lunch. My children attend HCPS for elementary school. Before COVID, their cafeteria was completely full, children yelled to one another just to be heard, and this environment would be a perfect opportunity for COVID to spread. I am asking for you to consider stronger lunchtime mitigation strategies, such as: 1. Providing meals in individual classrooms. 2. Outdoor lunch (when weather permits). Picnic tables could be set-up or students could bring in towels/blankets to help with this. 3. Smaller, staggered lunches, with dividers either between students or to separate the center of the long tables, to help encourage social distancing. 4. Utilizing the gym during lunch to allow greater spacing between students. 5. Opening windows and using air purifiers to increase air flow and ventilation in such a large space. 6. Allowing students to be taken home/out by parents during the lunch period. 7. Playing an educational video during the lunch period to encourage kids to do less talking/yelling. Reinstating the mitigation strategies that were used during in-person school last spring could make a significant difference while parents wait for the vaccine to be approved for elementary school age children. I am asking for extra consideration and safety measures to be put into place until this vulnerable group has access to the vaccine. I know many parents like myself would be more than happy to volunteer our time during lunch or purchase supplies (i.e. outside picnic tables, dividers, etc.) to help make some of these strategies possible. |

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES**  
 Thursday, August 26, 2021

| <b>Timestamp</b>        | <b>First Name:</b> | <b>Last Name:</b> | <b>Magisterial District:</b>          | <b>Your written comments for the August 26 work session:</b>  |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 1:22: PM | Paula              | Barlowe           | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea | Why aren't Henrico school employees required to be vaccinated against COVID19? This Delta variant is very dangerous as it is up to 6 times more contagious than the original COVID19 and therefore an infected person infects even more people than with the original strain. Why aren't you concerned enough to require school employees to be vaccinated when so many school age children aren't old enough to be eligible to receive the vaccine? Richmond Public Schools is requiring it. It is only common sense to require all school employees to be vaccinated. What is going on here?  |
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 1:35: PM | Sayelicia          | Sherer            | Henrico                               | I do not believe my child should go back to school because of this virus is attacking are kids i can't keep my son with a mask on at home i know he gonna keep one on at school   |
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 3:28: PM | Megan              | Compton           | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea | I am very pleased that masks will be required for all as we begin the 2021-22 school year, but am still concerned about safety for in-person learners. My biggest concerns relate to lunch, snacks and LAMP activities. For Elementary students, please consider having students eat in their classrooms rather than in crowded cafeterias. At least in classrooms, they are more likely to have some distance from other students, be less likely to be sitting across from someone and will have exposure to fewer individuals. If available, please consider adding options for eating outdoors when the weather permits. For Middle Schools, can outdoor eating be an option when weather permits? At Tuckahoe Middle, with it's outdoor campus it seems ideal to offer that option. If students have to eat in cafeterias, what is the plan to help with distancing and for contract tracing? What is the plan for LAMP and performing arts sessions? Will students be singing or playing instruments? If so, will greater distancing be enforced or outdoor sessions held? How will distancing be maintained? I understand that RPS has added air scrubbers in each classroom. I would like to see HCPS follow suit. Last, I am very concerned about what happens if students need to quarantine. What is the plan? Can they still participate in learning during that period if it is just some members of the class? If so, how? Is there a virtual option? Will they be considered absent? What happens if an entire class needs to quarantine? Will it move to virtual? Can middle school students log into Schoology to complete their work and still be considered present? I appreciate you considering this and taking the care to provide the safest environment possible for our children. Thank you. |



**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES**  
 Thursday, August 26, 2021

| <b>Timestamp</b>        | <b>First Name:</b> | <b>Last Name:</b> | <b>Magisterial District:</b>   | <b>Your written comments for the August 26 work session:</b>  |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 3:37: PM | Tareka             | Mckiver           | Brookland District -<br>Kristi B. Kinsella, I<br>reside in the Brookland<br>District but my daughter<br>is on a variance<br>attending Fairfield<br>Middle School | I want my daughter to attend HVA, however, she is in IB and it's not fair that she has to choose because of something that is out of her control. She's worked hard to be in this program and it's unfair and unacceptable to make us choose between this and her safety! The pandemic is out of everyone's control so student's should not be penalized. I was going to allow her to come back in person but there are too many cases and it simply doesn't make sense to send her out into this danger zone. I am, honestly, surprised that school is still set to open in person but at least give them a fair option. At the least, keep it fair. That is all I'm asking.   |
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 4:11: PM | Chazity            | James             | Fairfield District -<br>Roscoe D. Cooper, III  | As a parent of three children enrolled in specialty programs I have concerns for the lack of options for their safety and academics. As I am also a front line healthcare provider, I would like to know what actions need to be in place to report exposure risks due to my job, and how I can safely mitigate spread both to/from the school and my workplace. Ultimately, I don't feel it is safe for children under 12 to return in person before they are able to be vaccinated and strongly recommend options for virtual learning without forfeiture of placement in programs these kids have earned.  |
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 4:14: PM | Shara              | Short             | Fairfield District -<br>Roscoe D. Cooper, III  | Students should be allowed to opt for virtual education due to the recent changes in the COVID positive cases. Students should not have to forfeit their advanced, gifted, IB or specialty programs due to parents electing for a safe education at this time. Students should be allowed to go virtual and return back in person when the COVID positive cases decrease.   |
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 6:32: PM | Candice            | Owens             | Three Chopt District -<br>Michelle F. Ogburn,<br>Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea   | What are your specific plans to ensure privacy for students in bathrooms and locker-rooms ? This issue is further compounded and complicated by students having masks on their faces which inhibits clear communication. Masks make it even more difficult to speak up if students are feeling unsafe or possibly assaulted, etc while changing for PE class or using the bathroom. What are your specific plans for mitigating this HUGE liability while in school. Body autonomy is not being fostered or protected when you literally take away one of the primary means of communication - your voice and your primary facial features (your mouth) that communicates expression. This is a greater risk to health and well being to students at school and on the bus than a virus that extremely low risk to children and teens. By enforcing this mask mandate and not allowing for choice at school you are teaching students that their voice and their body autonomy does not matter. This sounds more like a lesson learned in a prison environment not an educational environment. How do you justify that? You can't. Masks should not be mandatory. Locker rooms and bathrooms needs to remain private and safe spaces for all children to use at school. |

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES**  
 Thursday, August 26, 2021

| Timestamp               | First Name: | Last Name: | Magisterial District:                      | Your written comments for the August 26 work session:   |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------|--|---|
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 6:52: PM | Sherrie     | McShaw     | Brookland District -<br>Kristi B. Kinsella | <p>As a teacher in pre-K, I am terrified of returning to school in person, not only for myself but for those babies who cannot be vaccinated yet. Last year, when we went hybrid eight children came into the classroom. We had the perfect amount of space to keep them apart, but of course with four year olds that's impossible. The difference this year in the classroom and last year when school started is that I'm fully vaccinated. The teacher in my room is not and the children in my room are not. Positivity rates are up; they are more than 50% higher this year than last. Now we have several variants. Delta is very contagious. Recently the largest group of new infections is in the 0 to 9 yr-old category. I also understand Delta is more treacherous than the original virus. There's less mitigation this year; it's almost business as usual. They'll all be eating in the cafeteria, unmasked. Last year I never saw a random temperature check at all, contrary to what we were told. Contact tracing was non-existent when a student in my room got covid. The teacher &amp; I told the principal that all had been around the child, especially the one next to the infected girl, because he couldn't stay in his seat and couldn't keep his mask on. I wondered why we were continuing to go to school; I was told contact tracing been done. This year we will have 18 in the same classroom. I keep hearing the phrase "3 feet when possible". I dare say 3-ft distancing is NOT possible in any classroom in the county. My sister teaches PE in an HCPS h.s. with 30-45 kids in a classroom for health. There's already a shortage of teachers. I have hlth problems &amp; I am not the only one. Tchrs have short-term or long-term disability, &amp; won't have any problem gtng FMLA. When the vax first became available I was told by my doctor if you get covid you will die. But fully vaxxed: an easier time with covid. So does that mean if I get it now I'll just almost die? I know more people now with covid who are fully vaccinated than I knew people with covid prior to the last 3 months. I even have a friend whose cousin is currently intubated with pneumonia and covid who had the vaccinations in May. I didn't ask for accommodations last year because my 4-yo babies are my world; if I got it &amp; died, I'd die happy. BUT, the CHILDREN are gtng covid &amp; some are dying! Please, delay start for time to prepare for hybrid until the governor allows all-virtual once again. PLEASE. Thank you.</p> |
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 7:59: PM | Robert      | Barlowe    | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea      | <p>All school employees should be vaccinated for COVID. The students deserve no less. This is a public health matter- for the safety of all. My granddaughter is starting kindergarten- I don't want her at unnecessary risk. This should be a no brainer.</p>  |

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES**  
 Thursday, August 26, 2021

| Timestamp               | First Name: | Last Name: | Magisterial District:                 | Your written comments for the August 26 work session:  |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 9:33: PM | Marc        | Verdi      | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea | <p>I have two children in high school here in Henrico. I implore you to reconsider the indoor mask mandate for schools. Not only has it never been proven that masks work to stop the transmission of COVID-19, studies have shown that there are adverse psychological, emotional, and cognitive-developmental effects on children forced to wear masks. The mental health of our children is at far greater risk and likelihood of harm from wearing masks than from COVID-19. Studies have shown that masks are ineffective in slowing the spread of COVID-19. Likewise, the probability of a child catching COVID-19 is very low, and dying from it is nearly non-existent. According to the Virginia Department of Health, as of 8/25/2021, out of a population of nearly 8.7 million people, there have been 124,000 cases of COVID-19 in kids under 20 years old, or 1.43% of the population of Virginia, and 10 deaths of Virginians under the age of 20, for a survival rate of 99.992%. 10 deaths. And this is after over TWENTY MONTHS of living with this virus. This data tell us that not only do children represent a small percentage of total cases of COVID-19, but the survival rate is nearly 100%. While every single life is valuable and every single death is tragic, kids have a greater chance of being struck by lightning, certainly a greater chance of dying by suicide or suffering mental health issues due to the isolation and psychological trauma of having to wear masks and social distance, than from COVID. COVID-19 may be contagious, but it rarely adversely affects kids, and certainly not as badly as wearing masks all day, unable to breathe freely, and inhaling dangerous levels of carbon dioxide, gathering germs and fecal matter from wearing the masks in the bathrooms, etc. Not only are masks ineffective in stopping the spread of COVID, they are unsanitary Petri dishes attached to our precious children's faces, making them vulnerable to far more dangerous health issues for them than COVID-19. Now, I am all for free will. If a child and his or her parents feel strongly that the masks are important for the safety of their child, by all means, feel free to wear your mask if you so choose. However, I follow the science, I know the data, and I have the right to decide whether my children wear the masks or not. My parental rights should not be stripped from me; the mask mandate must be removed. Please follow the science, follow the data, and remove these masks from our children. Thank you.</p> |

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES**  
 Thursday, August 26, 2021

| Timestamp                | First Name: | Last Name: | Magisterial District:                        | Your written comments for the August 26 work session:  |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|--|--|
| Aug. 25, 21 -- 11:17: PM | Laura       | Lee        | Three Chopt District -<br>Michelle F. Ogburn | <p>I am a parent of two children at HCPS- one at Kaechele Elementary and another in the IB Program at Moody Middle School. I am absolutely terrified at the thought of sending both of them back to school right now. My son is in 7th grade and is vaccinated but my 7 year old 2nd grader is not able to be vaccinated yet. I want them to be able to return to school and have as normal of a year as possible, but every day I am growing increasingly worried. Covid cases and positivity rates and are much higher now (9.8% as of today) than they were this past spring when the kids were virtual/hybrid. It seems that this Delta variant is much more contagious and damaging and now kids (especially in the 0-9 age range) are getting very sick and even dying. How many kids have to get sick and die before something is done? How can we safely send our unvaccinated children back into classrooms of 20-30 kids? I did not choose the HVA option when it was originally offered as things seemed to be looking much better at that point for a more normal return to school. I am so upset and disappointed that there are no other options but to send them back into this mess and pray they are safe. I am not feeling that confident as there has been almost no communication as to specific mitigation strategies that are going to be in place. How will lunch be handled? What happens when our kids are quarantined? If they will not be able to join their class virtually, how on earth will they be able to continue to learn if they are out for 10-14 days at a time? Does anyone know the answers to these questions? I understand that maybe staffing is an issue but would ask you to PLEASE reconsider and go virtual or at least offer hybrid classes until these younger kids are able to be vaccinated. I added my 2nd grader to the HVA waiting list which from what I understand is extremely long now. This is not an option for my 7th grader since he is in IB and that is not offered in HVA. If my 2nd grader does not get accepted, I feel like now my only option is to pull my younger child out and homeschool. I don't even know where to begin with that and I want him to be in a school environment with his friends and his school's teachers. Please at least consider hybrid classes again or going fully virtual until it is safe.</p> <p>Thank you,<br/>                     Laura Lee</p> |

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES**  
 Thursday, August 26, 2021

| Timestamp                | First Name: | Last Name: | Magisterial District:                        | Your written comments for the August 26 work session:   |
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| Aug. 25, 21 -- 11:33: PM | Lainie      | Hinnant    | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea        | <p>All efforts must be taken to keep our children safe given the CDC recognition that we are dealing with the more dangerous and transmissible Delta variant. We all want our children back in school but taking further precautions for 1-3 months is only reasonable as their safety is the priority, not per-student funding or politics. With 18 months experience of virtual school, and a disease in Henrico that's 5 times more likely to infect the unvaccinated, and 25 times more likely to cause hospitalization, we are told no virtual option, not even for 1-3 months while these children wait to be vaccinated. •All over the country schools are being forced to shut down w/ children and staff forced to quarantine days after re-opening •A district in Georgia, open less than a week reported 76 new cases among students and 679 students in quarantine. They also reported 67 new cases among school employees and 150 people under quarantine out of 950 total employees. •In South Carolina, nine days into reopening, one district reported 163 new cases among students, and 26 cases among employees. More than 600 students and 30 employees are in quarantine. Additionally, four staff members are currently hospitalized with two on ventilators, along with one hospitalized student. •Does the School Board understand the effects of uncertainty and inconsistency caused by unexpected shutdowns and quarantines on children's mental health, the mental health of teachers, parents and families? Inconsistency, uncertainty and increased disease cause increased anxiety, feelings of helplessness, learning difficulties and worry in all members of our community. The FDA's full approval of a COVID-19 vaccine has provided school systems in states and cities across the country with grounds to require teachers and staff to get vaccinated. • The Richmond City School Board is intent on protecting children by mandating vaccines for all adults around them (the next best thing till they can be vaccinated) •Other localities and states since Full FDA Authorization: D.C.; Arlington; Montgomery and Prince George, Loudon, etc. California issued a state-wide school vaccine mandate w/ more on the way • Henrico County has been designated a 'hot spot' for the Delta Variant. Why isn't our school board doing all it can to protect our children, teachers and families by mandating staff vaccination until all our children can get vaccinated. x</p> |
| Aug. 26, 21 -- 2:46: AM  | Maria       | Kirtley    | Three Chopt District -<br>Michelle F. Ogburn | <p>I am extremely concerned at the concepts of indoor lunch and lack of options and solutions provided by HCPS. My child's school is fortunate to have a PTA and other community organizations that began purchasing items to make outdoor lunches possible, but so many schools have no funding support for this. This should have been planned for and resources provided by HCPS for all schools. Also, I am extremely concerned for elementary students switching between classrooms for small groups. I believe we should limit exposures for unvaccinated students and make safety the priority when differentiated and successful learning can take place within their classroom until things look better with cases in our community. Please help us advocate for limiting exposures to protect our unvaccinated students.</p>  |

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES**  
 Thursday, August 26, 2021

| <b>Timestamp</b>        | <b>First Name:</b> | <b>Last Name:</b> | <b>Magisterial District:</b>          | <b>Your written comments for the August 26 work session:</b>  |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Aug. 26, 21 -- 5:56: AM | Anita              | Koch              | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea | I had to jump on and comment prior to today's board meeting about starting school pre Labor Day. I hope that the board sees the disaster that is unfolding in Chesterfield County Public Schools with masked children in buildings with inadequate HVAC systems and buses without A/C. Many of you are parents so considering the temperatures just this week, would you feel good sending your child on a 30 min bus ride 2 times per day with a mask on and no air conditioning in the bus. And spending the day in a hot school? I never thought we would still be wearing masks almost 2 years in but there is no sign of them going away because Covid is never going away so the responsible thing for the board to do is to keep the current post Labor Day start dates. Maybe revisit after the masking of children is over but I for one will sue the school board if my child becomes ill or passes out from riding on an unairconditioned bus in August, the hottest months of the year. The bus drivers could also pass out wearing a mask and subjected to driving multiple bus runs in extreme heat as we know most of the people that drive for Henrico County are 50+. Unless Henrico wants to upgrade every bus and school system with proper air conditioning, this board better be ready to face the consequences if you subject our children to extreme heat just to make an unnecessary calendar change. |
| Aug. 26, 21 -- 6:06: AM | D                  | Hopkins           | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea | Please do not remove fines for returning library books. Our libraries are being depleted at an extraordinary rate and these entitled parents and children don't bother returning books already and certainly won't if there is no repercussion of a fine. We cannot further reinforce bad behavior with no consequences if we want to keep our libraries stocked for everyone to enjoy.   |
| Aug. 26, 21 -- 6:21: AM | Jackie             | Brown             | HVA                                   | So HCPS has the lowest salary for bus drivers while being the wealthiest county on the list, and unsurprisingly also has the highest number of openings. HCPS will be unnecessarily risking our kids lives on overcrowded buses because they can't pay a living wage. That's shameful. I expect every school board member and the superintendent to step up, get a CDL and get to driving as to be part of the solution.  |
| Aug. 26, 21 -- 7:18: AM | Vallie             | Woods             | Tuckahoe District -<br>Marcie F. Shea | Dear Mrs. Shea, I would like to voice my concern over the upcoming vote on the Department of Education's Model Policies for the Treatment of Transgender Students. There are many violations of freedoms contained within these policies. Parental rights, students' rights of privacy and physical safety and religious freedoms are being threatened. The outcome of establishing such a policy as this will not be beneficial for any students or parents. Please vote 'No' to refuse the implementation of such an evil protocol. Thank you. Respectfully, Vallie Woods   |