

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the March 25 work session:
Mar. 11, 21 -- 9:15: AM	Sayam	Bafna	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	N/A other than I like it.
Mar. 11, 21 -- 9:21: AM	Matthew	Cipolletti	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I was hearing that the school board was thinking about doing away with the Wellness Wednesdays and I was concerned because I really enjoy the wellness wednesdays. I am always very productive on these days because I can do all my work without having to also worry about logging into class. They are also good for students because it gives them a full day during the week to wind down and get off the computer for a while. I hope you don't get rid of them because I am always looking forward to them.
Mar. 11, 21 -- 10:09: AM	LU	GRIMES	Hanover School District	It is a sad day when we persecute people for having an opinion that does not agree with the thought police that continues to evolve in our country. Ms. Ogburn should not have to apologize for her poem about banning Dr. Seuss. Period. This is mind control. We are teaching our children not to have any opinions or thoughts that don't match the mainstream. That is what our schools have become. How sad and frightening.
Mar. 11, 21 -- 11:27: AM	KATHY	WRIGHT	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	This woman just does not get it. She is not aware of her bias in regard to people of color. Ms. Ogburn got caught showing her racial bias toward others, I think she should be fired because she probably would never get it. The fact that she does not want to step down to ease the conflict tells me that she does not see it as a problem. I am a white person and I get it. If she does not get why that would be the wrong message to be sent to others in her position. So when she gets caught "it is a teaching moment for her". How many teachable moments does she have in the past as an adult? What does she say to family and friends off the record. In the past as a white person, I heard sexism and racism comments from other white people. When does it end? It ends when white persons are held accountable. As a Henrico County resident, I am going to the meeting to voice my concerns. Respectfully, Kathy Wright

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Thursday, March 25, 2021

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Mar. 11, 21 -- 12:39: PM	Nyla	Green	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>I am an 8th grade student at Moody Middle School and I have found Wellness Wednesdays tremendously helpful. I get so much work done, get outside a little, and I also have time for volleyball in the evenings. These asynchronous days were such a good idea that now I don't know what I'd do without them. I also feel like this gives us a taste of what college life is like. In college, you only have a couple of classes a day and you also get homework and extracurricular activities done which is what Wellness Wednesdays are like as we only have advisory. It feels great to not sit in front of a screen all day and listen to lectures and still get a great amount of work completed. Please do not take this useful day away from us. I can't even describe how helpful its been.</p>
Mar. 11, 21 -- 1:53: PM	Jeremy	Bingman	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>Hello School Board, I wanted to write about Wellness Wednesday; specifically the benefits of the break. While the day may take away from in class learning, it helps students catch up on late work. If I am being honest, I have only REALLY needed Wellness Wednesday as of yesterday to catch up on work and meet with teachers about projects. However, I have still used the other two Wellness Wednesdays to get ahead in my classes as well as go outside. I personally do not like being in front of a screen all day so to have a day in the middle of the week where I can go play/ do whatever outside is greatly appreciated. Another thing I wanted to mention is the fact that I have witnessed a few of my friends fall behind due to virtual school, though Wednesdays are days where they've been able to catch up and this shows in their grades. In conclusion, Wellness Wednesday has its cons of missing out on instruction time; however, it allows a greater time away from the screen and outside as well as a greater number of student to succeed in an environment where it's easy to fall behind.</p>

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Thursday, March 25, 2021

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Mar. 11, 21 -- 1:57: PM	Sydney	Wilson	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	As an 8th grader at Moody Middle School, Wellness Wednesdays are the most productive days of the week. Having a day without having to join more than one Team's meeting allows me to have the entire day, after Advisory, to catch up on work and to work on projects that I would otherwise have to do after school. As an athlete having a day set aside for work makes my week less stressful because I have less work to do after practice and into the night. I strongly recommend keeping Wellness Wednesdays as they have helped many students, including myself, stay on track while we continue to adjust to virtual learning.
Mar. 15, 21 -- 11:36: AM	Lisa	Cipolletti	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	It is my understanding that the board is discussing whether to continue Wellness Wednesday. As a parent of an elementary, middle, and high school student who remained virtual, wellness Wednesday is critical to their mental health. We are still learning during a global pandemic, and expectations for student work load need to be considered. One of the quotes that I have come to hear during this pandemic is Maslow before Bloom. I believe this to be true at all times but especially as we are teaching and learning during a global pandemic. Please keep Wellness Wednesdays in place and even consider a full break from the screen for all levels of students or not assigning any new work to complete.
Mar. 15, 21 -- 12:53: PM	Sekani	Grant	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	I would like for the board to consider keeping Wellness Wednesdays. I have seen an uptick in student work on those days. Wednesdays have also been helpful in keeping up with student progress monitoring as well as one on one tutoring. Please also consider the mental health of your staff, teachers especially in regards to this decision.
Mar. 15, 21 -- 1:52: PM	Kyla	Swaney	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	Keep wellness wednesdays
Mar. 15, 21 -- 1:53: PM	Amia	Sharp	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	We can keep wellness wednesday because it gives the students a mental break
Mar. 15, 21 -- 1:53: PM	Jaelah	Higgs	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	Please keep wellness Wednesday

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, March 25, 2021

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Mar. 15, 21 -- 1:55: PM	Brianna	Christian	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	NO. KEEP WELLNESS WENSDAY AND LET US HAVE A DAY OFF
Mar. 15, 21 -- 1:56: PM	kendely	lopez	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	I need wellness Wednesday because I get to work on what I haven't done take a short break. Help my mother and my dad out. Take care of my bunny. Also a mental break to be able to get back on track on Thursday. So I need wellness Wednesday!
Mar. 15, 21 -- 2:33: PM	James	Clark	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	Please keep Wellness Wednesdays! As a hybrid teacher, I spend hours every weekend crafting lesson plans, updating homework boards, answering emails, etc. Wellness Wednesdays give me time during an already busy week to catch up on the aforementioned responsibilities, which in turn lightens the weekend workload. As a result, I am a more focused, less exhausted teacher during the week. Finally, Wellness Wednesdays allow me more time to work with students one on one, helping them with projects, etc. I've even planned a session for this coming week where I'll be virtually meeting with my mentee to collaborate on an artistic project, something I would not be able to do in the future without Wellness Wednesdays! Thank you for your consideration.
Mar. 16, 21 -- 9:38: AM	Lisa	Robinson	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	Please take into consideration there are real CDC fears of a COVID-19 spike from spring break travels. All theme parks are sold out over the holiday. Travel bookings have increased. Health experts are concerned and so are teachers. Please consider virtual learning for everyone the week following spring break. I'm not sure if this is the answer. However it is one way to transition back to less activates outside of the home environment before coming back in-person. The concern is very real

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Thursday, March 25, 2021

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Mar. 17, 21 -- 9:16: AM	Amber	Ryan	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	KEEP WELLNESS WEDNESDAY!! Students need a day to catch up on work and have a break from an entire day of screen class. They are overwhelmed from the demands of this strange learning setup and a day a week to mentally break and focus on the individual assignments that each need to spend extra time on is very valuable.
Mar. 17, 21 -- 8:02: PM	Lissa	Power-deFur	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I am writing to express my concern about school board chair Micky Ogburn's recent social media about Dr. Seuss Enterprises decision to stop publishing certain books. Her re-posting of a comment, which (according to her comments) she didn't fully read, reflects poor leadership skills. Leaders have the obligation to carefully to read all information related to a topic and carefully consider other points of view - steps Ms. Ogburn clearly did not take. In addition, her action reflects a clear disregard for minority students and families in Henrico Co. I think Michael Paul Williams does an excellent job, in his recent column in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, capturing the offensive nature of her actions the persons of color in the Henrico community. I urge Ms. Ogburn to step down from her position as school board chair.
Mar. 18, 21 -- 8:17: AM	Gabriella	Gelsomino	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Hello I am writing to the school board about Wellness Wednesday, I heard you guys might take it away and I would love for you guys to keep it if possible. I know for me its a day for my self to be at my own pace and not feel stressed, I still see why you guys might take it away as some people don't stay on task. But for me and lots of other people its a day of rest. I like if you are on top of things you can have the day for yourself. I really hope you take this in for not just me but my other people at school who need this day.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, March 25, 2021

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Mar. 22, 21 -- 5:17: PM	Patrick	Scholle	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>My name is Patrick Scholle. I teach Air Force JROTC at Deep Run. Let me tell you how I've worked for HCPS for eleven years and how my salary is less today than when I was first hired. - I was hired as a JROTC instructor in 2010 on a 12-month contract with a salary of \$68,641.77 - JROTC instructor pay is set by Congress and is known as Minimum Instructor Pay (MIP) - MIP is based on the rank of the instructor when he/she retired from the military not on teaching experience o I was hired at the salary of an active duty Major. I had no teaching experience o Not all JROTC instructors are paid the same. i.e. a retired Colonel will make more than a retired Master Sergeant o Congress does not provide for longevity pay increases for JROTC instructors o None of the 2021 HCPS pay raises for teachers apply to JROTC instructors - Based on a memorandum of agreement, each branch of the military reimburses HCPS for half of their instructor's salary - School districts may pay more than MIP as an incentive but will not be reimbursed any more than MIP o HCPS JROTC instructors are not paid stipends for summer camps, extracurricular activities, coaching, nor competitions - HCPS has instructors from the Navy, Marines and Air Force - In 2013, during the Obama sequester, only the Air Force cut reimbursement for instructor contracts from 12 months to 10 months. o Air Force JROTC instructors are the only JROTC instructors in HCPS with 10-month contracts. There are two Air Force JROTC instructors in the county - Air Force JROTC instructors do the same amount of work as the other JROTC instructors in the county; our job requirements did not change - I am currently on a 10-month contract with a salary of \$68,117. 80 - My pay is based on that of an active duty Major; same as when I started o The HCPS longevity pay raise does not apply to me o My teaching experience is not recognized by Congress nor HCPS - After 11 years with HCPS I make \$523.97 less than I did when I started eleven years ago. - HCPS should reconsider how it pays and incentivizes JROTC instructors</p>
Mar. 23, 21 -- 8:02: PM	Shantell	Lewis	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	<p>I would like to re address the comment that I left before with the hopes of getting an answer. I wanted to know what did Mrs. Ogburn "LOVE" about the racist post? Thank you.</p>

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the March 25 work session:
Mar. 24, 21 -- 7:44: AM	Ralph	Smith	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	I have a son that goes to elementary school. I want my son to have the best education. Two weeks ago, someone sent me the article about the chairman lady that commented on a post with the grinch with his middle finger up. I thought about my son and how this lady will serve as chairman when she does stuff like this behind close doors. Can the school board fire her? If so please do asap!
Mar. 24, 21 -- 11:23: AM	John	Kang	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	When the Dr. Seuss Estate voluntarily decided to remove six books with racist images from sale, Micky Ogburn shared a Facebook post of the Grinch using an obscene gesture, accompanied by Seuss-like prose with the line "Go to hell snowflakes." When confronted about the post by Veena Lothe, Ogburn unfriended Lothe. This tells me her later apology was one of political convenience and not heartfelt contrition. One of the books in question originally depicted a "Chinaman" with exaggeratedly slanted eyes, bright yellow complexion, and long queue, reminiscent of the "Sick Man of Asia" stereotype. In this day when Asians are dehumanized and targeted with increasing violence, the Seuss Estate made the correct decision in discontinuing this book. Ogburn, on the other hand, either lacked the responsibility and integrity to examine the origin of the post she shared; or she lacked the empathy to understand how hurtful stereotypes are. As someone entrusted with decisions that affect our school system, Ogburn, and every other board member, should exemplify the standards by which we want our children to live. If we want them to empathize with their fellow human beings, and to think and research before they share social media, we should expect the same of our leaders. Ogburn has betrayed the trust of Henrico Public Schools and should resign.
Mar. 24, 21 -- 12:37: PM	J.	Thompson	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	I feel like Michelle Ogburn needs to step down. I dont have any more comments.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the March 25 work session:
Mar. 24, 21 -- 8:02: PM	Autumn	Shrock	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Dear School Board Members, Social workers are the agents of change for students and families whose voices often go unheard. HCPS school social workers remain committed to eradicating racism, racial inequality, and racial injustice. Furthermore, we continue to address racist policies and confront racist practices in education that perpetuate the hurt and harm of the very students and families we serve. An environment of safety and wellness means not just standing with, but moving in solidarity with our Black and Brown students, families, and staff. HCPS school social workers stand and stay ready to do just that. The School Social Work Department consists of 32 Masters level Social Workers, many of whom are Licensed Clinical Social Workers and Certified Trauma Practitioners/Specialists. Yet, the knowledge and expertise of school social workers is grossly underutilized. The performance capacity of school social workers spans further than being truancy officers or completing social evaluations. We are so much more than that. In spite of the fact that there are only 32 school social workers attempting to serve the needs of approximately 48,000 students, we continue to firmly support the Four Cornerstones of our district's core values by addressing student mental health, providing individual and group counseling, assessing crisis situations, developing intervention strategies to increase academic success, assisting teachers with classroom management, facilitating staff in-service training, and coordinating systems of care to help families receiving comprehensive services. The passing of SB 1257 modifies the school personnel requirement in Standard 2 of the Standards of Quality and requires each school board to provide at least three specialized student support positions per 1,000 students. The passing of this legislation is a huge victory for school social workers who are specifically named in this legislation as specialized student supports, but an even larger victory for the students and families that we serve. To support positive educational outcomes for all students, particularly our Black and Brown students and our students who struggle with mental health concerns, when faced with the decision of which specialized school personnel to hire, we ask that HCPS hire additional school social workers.</p> <p>Sincerely, HCPS School Social Workers</p>

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Thursday, March 25, 2021

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the March 25 work session:
Mar. 24, 21 -- 9:49: PM	Brittany	Rose	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>While I appreciated the Board holding a listening session this evening specifically focused on equity within HCPS, I agree with the overwhelming sentiment of tonight's speakers that what we need now is a commitment to action and not simply more discussion.</p> <p>I was disappointed to see that the majority of the School Board did not attend last evening's Stop the Hate rally organized by the Asian American Society of Central Virginia – to my knowledge only Rev. Cooper and Ms. Atkins were there. This event was held in the Three Chopt district of Henrico County and was attended by the County manager, every member of the Henrico Board of Supervisors (despite having an overlapping meeting that evening), a number locally elected officials from the General Assembly, a Congresswoman, and even at least one official from Chesterfield County. I am further disappointed that neither the Board nor HCPS has issued any sort of statement in support of AAPI students in the wake of last week's violence in Atlanta. As one of the speakers in tonight's listening session emphasized, words matter.</p>

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Thursday, March 25, 2021

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the March 25 work session:
Mar. 24, 21 -- 10:35: PM	Veena	Lothe	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I live in the Three Chopt district and am the parent of two recent graduates of Henrico Public Schools. During the twelve years that my kids attended school in the district, I was an active volunteer and remain grateful for the education my kids received. I am, however, shocked and repulsed by the behavior of my school board member Mickey Ogburn for her posting of a racist, inflammatory, and politically charged picture of the Grinch. I repeat again my request that Ms. Ogburn step down as chair of the school board. If a student had engaged in such conduct, he or she would have received some consequence. By letting this incident go, we are sending students the message of do as we say and not as we do. It is hypocritical at best. Moreover, the racist overtones of Ogburn's post are a slap in the face to people of color in the highly diverse area of Three Chopt. Sorry is not enough. This action follows Ms. Ogburn's decision several years ago to forbid students from watching a video about structural racism, a video that was welcomed and received positive reviews all over the country. Ms. Ogburn's views on race appear to be politically slanted and not at all consistent with the notion of the school board being servant leaders who are above the political fray. I'll add that I recently pulled up and reviewed the pleadings (I am a lawyer) related to two lawsuits against the county for inappropriate actions regarding a racial incident. While the county holds more listening sessions and engages in other perfunctory actions, the racism and lack of respect toward POC continues.</p>

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Thursday, March 25, 2021

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the March 25 work session:
Mar. 25, 21 -- 12:10: AM	Andrew	Ferguson	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I'd like the school board to consider usefulness and necessity of Wellness Wednesday's for Pre-K - 2nd Grades. These children should not be directed to virtual classrooms with additional "tablet" use as a substitute for critical lost education and preparation this year.</p> <p>In my particular case... My Pre-K child has serious needs that his IEP has not met and the HCPS Early Learning program has not fulfilled. He should have qualified to be in-person along with special needs and ESL students but was excluded by the Central Office as non-essential in person. His teacher recently recommended an Occupational Therapist evaluation be performed despite this exact need being discussed during our application and interview process. His teacher balked at the idea that he struggles with potty training and we dared send in pull-ups rather than underwear, not considering that he has a medical issue that requires PT to help his body learn to control functions. He is currently taking speech therapy, but we received communication I shared with the board on how his behavior is unacceptable. I had his currently Occupational Therapist write me a letter that I can share showing the progress she's made with his weekly appointment and how the school should be participating in collaboration to help him. Wellness Wednesday in the Early Learning at Crestview is about sticking kids on the tablet for 2 hours, while mom or dad have to proctor, oversee potty breaks, and then engage in after-school apps. ITS A SHAM AND A SHAME YOU ARE NEGLECTING THESE KIDS WITH YOUR PASSIVE ACCEPTANCE OF WELLNESS WEDNESDAY AND CONTINUE TO ALLOW DR. CASHWELL TO MOVE GOALPOSTS, IGNORE SCIENCE AND SUBJECT THE DISTRICT'S NEEDIEST TO LIMITED EDUCATION WITHOUT SECOND THOUGHT. Please consider a motion to move all Pre-K through 2nd Grader to an immediate 5-day in-person schedule. Thank you! Andrew Ferguson</p>

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Thursday, March 25, 2021

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the March 25 work session:
Mar. 25, 21 -- 12:18: AM	Andrew	Ferguson	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I would like to ask the board to consider a question to Dr. Cashwell and the medical committee/professionals as to the new CDC Guidelines for Covid protocols in schools and if the obstructive barriers can be removed and the 6' spacing in classrooms can be reduced to allow more in-person learners into the schools. The continued use of these protocols, along with a day dedicated to "deep cleaning" show a lack of our central office to move and pivot while parents, teachers, and school admin are asked to be patient and adjust our lives constantly and unreasonably. It's time that the board advocate for us and push the Central Office to update protocols and react quicker.
Mar. 25, 21 -- 12:25: AM	Andrew	Ferguson	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Recently, a communication from HCPS was sent to the community at-large asking to please refrain from the public use of school playgrounds while school is in session. My children in Pre-K are NOT ALLOWED to use the playground equipment at Crestview Elementary and I have heard similar comments from parents. I respectfully ask the Board to provide some clarity as to why this policy exists when the science clearly states that this virus is very unlikely to be transmitted via touching surfaces. If the concern is that kids will congregate on equipment or be closer than 3', then they should continue to wear masks. Kids have been very diligent in doing so, and the frustration I hear from one of my twins is disheartening. Telling a 5-year-old that they can't play on school equipment, but can go to daycare afterwards and play there or go to the park and enjoy that equipment simply does not compute. This policy is barbaric and needs to end.
Mar. 25, 21 -- 12:31: AM	Andrew	Ferguson	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	My 6th Grader at GYSA would like to know when he can have PE. Currently, he is in-person and PE is spent in a small room adjacent to the gym with 5 other classmates on their tablet. He was getting more fitness through virtual PE and is not allowed outside or to exercise during the school day. Coupled with 45-minutes on the bus to school and 1 hour on the buses home, this seems like a punishment. Can the board get clarification on the PE curriculum being administered by the Central Office and see if secondary schools are having an appropriate break for students across the district?

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, March 25, 2021

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Mar. 25, 21 -- 1:38: AM	Jack	Lacy	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>My name is Jack Lacy and I am a senior at Tucker High School. I also represent the student-led social justice group Henrico Justice. Today, Black and Asian Americans grieve the gruesome deaths of people in their communities. With increasing Anti-Asian Racist Hate Crimes caused by Anti-Chinese sentiment with the COVID pandemic and continual anti-Black hate crimes every day, for a person in power, specifically white, to share heinous descriptions of the communities affected by the racism perpetuated in children’s literature, it seems as if the Henrico County School Board condones this behavior. These communities are not “haters”, nor “whiners”, nor “snowflakes”. These are people who have been hurt by the sentiment perpetuated by this chairman and we will continue to stand for it no longer. As students, we have endured an education influenced by this chairman’s decisions. If her decision-making permitted the condoning of racist imagery in children’s literature, we no longer see fit that she should make decisions for which the communities she is implicitly against. For this reason, we call for Chairman Michelle “Micky” Ogburn’s resignation. To the school board, the message you have given to students and families of this county has time and time again suggested that this school board turns a blind eye to the racial and socioeconomic disparities within this county. We have been in discussion for almost a year now, and it is appalling to hear that discussions of cultural sensitivity training are only now coming up amidst a scandal that has wounded hundreds of students and community members. We know that teachers and staff were permitted to undergo this type of training last year, but to hear that the school board members had not participated in this training themselves alarms us. As key decision-makers in the equity, inclusivity, and opportunity of the students and families in Henrico County, it is your first and foremost responsibility to look out for all students of all communities, including those greatly affected by Mickey Ogburn’s actions. Please consider your own actions in permitting Ms. Ogburn’s continued participation as you yourself perpetuate and stand for the behavior that Ms. Ogburn has egregiously associated this county with by not calling for her resignation.</p>
Mar. 25, 21 -- 7:38: AM	R	Lane	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	<p>After the meeting last night, it is clear that parents are asking Micky Ogburn resign. So am I. I did not feel comfortable with her in last nights meeting without addressing the parents asking her to resign. Why does she feel entitled to sit on the school board and not address parents telling her to resign? I want to hear from each school board member as to why she deserves to still sit in that seat. I want for the school board member to respond to parents, not just sit there as if you are not allowed to speak. You all are ELECTED officials.</p>

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Thursday, March 25, 2021

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Mar. 25, 21 -- 7:56: AM	Douglas	Broome	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	Based on the recent actions of Ms. Ogburn, I don't think it is appropriate that she continue to serve as chair of the Henrico County School Board. I don't have confidence that she has equal regard for all of the children who go to school in our county. This is not acceptable. Every family of any race in Henrico deserves to have equal confidence that the school system is looking out for their children and wants them to succeed. I don't believe this is possible when the chair of the board has not yet completed racial sensitivity training.
Mar. 25, 21 -- 8:03: AM	Hannah	Goldenson	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Michelle Ogburn either needs to resign or go through an intense diversity training. She is the leader of a diverse county and needs to act like it instead of being a bigot. It was one small social media post that revealed her opinions loud and clear. It is not ok for a leader to post something like that. Political beliefs are one thing, but endorsing racism when the county has actively been trying to include more equity into their programs is ridiculous and not appropriate for a leader. She needs to resign.