

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District	Your written comments for the November 12 work session:
Oct. 22, 20 -- 2:32: PM	Sally R	Burgess	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I would like to request the detailed results of the functional performance testing for each air handling unit as well as all corrective actions taken on HVAC units at every school. In short the report card on HVAC requested by Rev. Cooper. My question is will teachers, staff, and students be required to occupy rooms in which HVAC is inoperable? Will teachers and students be moved?
Oct. 22, 20 -- 2:35: PM	Sarah	Mom	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	My almost six-year-old daughter is completely bombing kindergarten simply because her IEP is not being implemented properly through virtual learning and honestly how can you properly implement that anyway? She needs to go back to school if this county wants her to be successful
Oct. 22, 20 -- 5:58: PM	Angela	Jensen	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	Can temperature checks be a consideration to get on a bus?
Oct. 24, 20 -- 10:50: AM	Kelly	Potts	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please confirm: What is the rate of infection as determined as high by VDH? Is HCPS utilizing CDC or VDH "high status" data to determine in person school status?
Oct. 26, 20 -- 8:52: AM	SHARREESE	WOOD	J R TUCKER HIGH	I just want to let you know that all kids learn differently. Making these kids wait until February to return to school is wrong. My child is a senior and she can not handle virtual learning. Her grades are the worst they have ever been the entire time she has been in school. You should let the kids that want to return to school. return before February. Their grades are being impacted and it's not fair to them.

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Thursday, November 12, 2020

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Oct. 29, 20 -- 3:34: PM	Jaime	Tonello	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	<p>I hope the board and school division leaders continue to monitor the health data and make decisions appropriately. Returning little kids to school right before 2 major family holidays and traditional cold/flu season as COVID numbers across the country continue to rise is unacceptable and irresponsible. Have you ever seen the stomach bug fly through a school? That is how COVID will spread. I am also disappointed and shocked at the consideration you have for the staff who will be forced to return to the building. In numerous statements board member have said they valued the HCPS staff, yet no one seems to care about their health, both physically and mentally. We have been working on teaching the children in various capacities since March. I have spent more time on required Professional Development and independent time researching ways to teach children, that I have ever spent in my 20 year career. In addition, I am very surprised that you think that all the logistics of the plan can be put together in place quickly and efficiently. It is unfair to expect building principals to execute so many different aspects of the plan. I am disappointed that both the staff and parent town halls did not truthful answer the questions. You did not honestly come out to parents and say that you child will continue to be doing virtual school, just in a school setting. Shame on you HCPS! Thank you to Marcie Shea for voting for the people she represents even though it was not what she truly wanted. Thank you to Kristi Kinsella for realizing that 3 weeks smooshed between Thanksgiving and Winter break will really not make that big of a difference in a young child's education. I am also puzzled as to why teachers in Middle and High Schools who will continue to teach most students virtually until February are coming to the building to do that job beginning on November 30th. Even Central Office staff are not working full time in their offices. HR is overrun with requests for virtual teaching positions. Yet in the town hall admitted that they are only really work in the office on Mondays. I am NOT proud of HCPS right now and their disregard for staff safety. I am disappointed for my children and heartbroken for their teachers.</p>

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Thursday, November 12, 2020

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District	Your written comments for the November 12 work session:
Nov. 6, 20 -- 12:53: PM	Kelly	Taylor	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I am writing today to express support for HCPS to permit our schools to hold their winter sports seasons. The VHSL worked with Governor Northam to develop 39 pages of regulations outlining how high school sports can be played safely with COVID precautions in place. While sports are allowed per the Governor, each school district is deciding whether or not to participate in the winter season. Recently, Arlington SD decided not to participate in the winter season because it did not align with their schedule for a return to in-person learning. HCPS has not indicated this is a consideration for them, and has in fact highlighted how clubs and activities are allowed and encouraged to keep our children engaged during the virtual learning phase. Sports provide many benefits to our children; including physical fitness, leadership development, positive mentor relationships, team building, self-esteem, and conflict resolution. Team activities are a beacon of hope for our kids right now; lessening the burdens of anxiety, depression and isolation. Please support HCPS's participation in the VHSL winter sports season.</p>
Nov. 9, 20 -- 7:09: PM	Heidi	Philyaw	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>Please consider redrawing the Shady Grove Road lines to leave Kensington, Millrace, and Bridlewood neighborhoods at Twin Hickory ES. These neighborhoods are close enough to the school to bike/walk, which many students do, and there are only 16 students who would be moved (as this is based on last year's numbers, it will most definitely be less as there are 4 students in 5th grade in these numbers). We are closer to Shady Grove Meadows than we are to the townhomes and apartments off Old Nuckols Road, and would not consider those further neighborhoods as part of a community as they are quite a distance down the road. The explanation provided during the info session mentioned the other neighborhood on Shady Grove becoming an island if these smaller neighborhoods remained at THES. Moving 16 students from a school that has plenty of capacity, in order to draw a boundary line that doesn't cause an island, doesn't make much sense as geographically that neighborhood already is an island with the border roads of Shady Grove Rd and Old Nuckols Rd. Based on where the smaller neighborhoods are, moving us to Kaechele would leave us as more of an island, as we don't have a road connection with Grey Oaks backing up to us. Please consider these lines and reducing the impact to this small pocket of students.</p>

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Thursday, November 12, 2020

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District	Your written comments for the November 12 work session:
Nov. 9, 20 -- 7:26: PM	Joy	Harris	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	There is a cluster of 4, 12, and 141 students being considered for redistricting from twin hickory to kachlee. The 4 and 12 due to size, deep relationships and connection to the Twin Hickory community should/must remain zoned for Twin Hickory.
Nov. 9, 20 -- 7:46: PM	Joy	Harris	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please do not relocate the 141 students from twin hickory to kaechele. It is a neighborhood with deep roots in twin hickory and many student relationships. Please maintain the current zoning
Nov. 10, 20 -- 6:32: AM	Emily	Griffey	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I have no doubt that the return to in-person learning will create bigger gaps in race and economic inequities in our school division. What can be done to reverse or minimize this impact today? I appreciate the role of the board to balance learning and public health and I do believe that a safe return to in-person learning is possible and in the best interest of young children. However, what I see in implementation is the schools with higher income and more resourced families choose to return in person while other families stay home. I hope that the board would prioritize the resources, systems and supports for the families choosing to stay virtual rather than shift resources and attention to the in-person families. Ultimately I believe families and children will have a very different learning experience based on their zoned school-- the ultimate result of an education determined by zip code and the income of the surrounding community. What recommendations will you make today that provide more resources to promote racial and economic equity in Henrico schools? In the future I hope that you can view every decision through this lens.

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Thursday, November 12, 2020

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District	Your written comments for the November 12 work session:
Nov. 10, 20 -- 11:13: AM	Abby	Photiadis	I live in Richmond, but I teach at Tucker High School.	<p>I am in my 5th year of teaching ESL at Tucker High School. I love the students and staff I get to work with, I'm passionate about education and making a difference in the world, and I couldn't have found a better community to be a part of. That is what makes this year so difficult for me. I have felt the daily pressure of unrealistic expectations. I have felt guilty for not being able to control my students' learning and how much they are participating in class, which is not in my control. I have been made to feel like a bad teacher because I want to put my health first. I am now in the process of finding a job in a different field after being told that I must go back on November 30th and teach groups of ESL students - on top of my regular teaching, planning, and paperwork - without receiving any extra compensation. I cannot believe the position I am being forced into by the county. As COVID cases continue to rise, I'm being expected to sacrifice my physical and mental health in order to do my job. I ask the school board: What purpose are you trying to achieve by sending students of higher risk populations (ELs) back into schools as COVID continues to pose health risks? The students in this situation will only be at the school for a total of 35-45 minutes, not to mention the bus rides to and from school. What learning is going to occur in that short span of time? How much of their valuable time that needs to be used for school work or other responsibilities is going to be wasted by this hastily-made plan? How is this helping the students? What purpose are you trying to achieve by forcing teachers to go back into schools before the majority of students are allowed? Are we so expendable that you don't feel the need to listen to our concerns and do something about them? You are about to lose teachers like me over this. Is it really worth it to sacrifice the health of your teachers, students, and their families to appease parents and help our numbers?</p>

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Thursday, November 12, 2020

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Nov. 10, 20 -- 2:56: PM	Kimberly	Walters	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>We have a few comments on behalf of our teachers. First- it seems completely unnecessary for middle and high-school teachers to be required to be in their classrooms upon the return to school for elementary students. While likely this was done out of concern for “fairness”, having secondary school teachers in the buildings does not change the situation for elementary teachers in any way. Secondary school teachers should be able to continue to teach as they have been this quarter until their own students return to school. Secondly- the mandated grading system for high school teachers also seems unnecessary. As they are figuring their way through new new modes of learning, this seems to be an unnecessary burden. I can’t understand why this decision would be taken away from our teachers, the most qualified people to determine the best way to handle their own classes. And finally, we would like to see small groups brought back to virtual learning. This also seems to be something that could be done at each teacher’s discretion. Thank you for your consideration.</p>

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Thursday, November 12, 2020

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District	Your written comments for the November 12 work session:
Nov. 10, 20 -- 9:06: PM	Jennifer	Bowles	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	<p>Is the school board even paying attention to the rising positivity rates in our area? Covid positive cases are increasing every single day. We are approaching the holidays where EVERYONE will be gathering. Are you all still wanting to ignore the risks you are encouraging by fully opening back up for the k-2 grades the Monday after Thanksgiving. You are referring to children that will be wearing masks all day, stuck in one room all day. If they do get to go outside they must stay 6 feet apart and can't play on the playground equipment. I fully understand that these children NEED in person instruction. I have a 2nd grader and 8th grader and this virtual learning is CRAP. They aren't really learning anything. For my second grader he would benefit from in person if it was back to normal learning and not stuck behind a computer still. My 8th grader has straight A's but only because they do everything together as a class so he gets them all right. But if he were to be taught a lesson and had to independently do the classwork, he would fail. So I understand the need to get back in the classrooms. But are you all really willing to risk everyone's life and go against what your parents and schools want and feel is best right now? Are you all really willing to be all over the news because YOU felt you knew what's best and you chose to go against what the surveys stated. Those surveys showed you all that most families were not ready and you all could have cared less. Let's throw the young ones in the ring to be the guinea pigs and see if they make it. Why not send everyone back if you all are so confident you know what's best. Why make the younger kids who are more likely to not follow the social distancing guidelines go back to school. Do our kids even matter??</p>
Nov. 10, 20 -- 9:49: PM	Erin	Parkhurst	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I ask the board to reconsider the timetable for returning high school students to in-person learning. Please allow those students willing to change their schedules to get back to in-person learning in December, or January at the latest. Since you said the decision to DELAY was based NOT on health risk but on ADMINISTRATIVE concerns, it seems reasonable to give those of us desperate to RETURN TO SCHOOL the option to forego continuity with current class schedules to make that happen. My son is a senior at Freeman High School and ALL OF HIS TEACHERS ARE CONDUCTING CLASSES FROM THEIR CLASSROOMS. Why, I ask, can the students the school is designed to serve NOT ALSO BE IN THE CLASSROOM? How can it be that EVERYONE EXCEPT students are allowed to be back in school if they choose? Please SUPPORT STUDENTS WHO WANT TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL!</p>

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Thursday, November 12, 2020

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District	Your written comments for the November 12 work session:
Nov. 10, 20 -- 10:48: PM	Henry	Wiles	Henrico County District	Just curious why Henrico Schools do not close for Veteran Day. The federal government and the vast majority of schools in the US feel the holiday is important enough to warrant closure.
Nov. 11, 20 -- 8:08: AM	Sarah	Carr	Reside in Richmond City, work in Tuckahoe	Secondary ESL (LIEP) teachers have been asked abruptly to return to in-person teaching in addition to their full teaching loads. The proposed plan is irresponsible and does not seem to be rooted in accepted second language acquisition teaching methodology. The students who choose this in-person option will miss part of their regularly scheduled class (which could even be an ESL service class) to bus in and receive at best 40 minutes of instruction in person during the 2:55-3:55 office hours provided. The primary need of English Learners is intricately planned instruction. By reducing ESL teachers' planning time, this plan actually reduces the effectiveness of ESL teachers both in their ability to plan for their regular classes and for the proposed in-person learning. The gains to be had from this additional instruction will be minimal and are not worth the risk. Furthermore, teachers are being asked to plan and instruct beyond the scope of their contract. If the county wants to provide an in-person option for English Learners, it is better to give ESL teachers time to collaborate with content teachers to help students with the classes they are actually enrolled in, rather than throwing poorly-planned "extra instruction" at them. The solution is "more intentional instruction", not just "more instruction". The plan as it stands is irresponsible and highly disrespectful of ESL teachers' time, expertise, and safety. It puts families at risk for no reason.
Nov. 11, 20 -- 11:02: AM	Heather	DeMascio	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Good Day. I am writing to you with my concerns about going back to school to teach Face to Face during a Pandemic. A Pandemic that is not slowing down but speeding up with more and more cases everyday. Covid has been setting new records with all time highs everyday this month but HCPS Board wants to send teachers and students back to school. Today, the news reported the Henrico Voter Registration Office had a covid outbreak but you still want to send teachers and students back to school together. My question to you is do you care about your teachers health and their lives? How can you play with our health and our families health by sending us back to school? We have a safe routine set in place where everyone is staying healthy at home. It will only be a matter of time before a teacher or students gets sick, and it will be on your hands.

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Thursday, November 12, 2020

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District	Your written comments for the November 12 work session:
Nov. 11, 20 -- 2:55: PM	Ryan	Kokemor	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I'm a mother to three children at Maybeury Elementary which is one of the schools affected by the proposal to improve feeder patterns for Quioccasin Middle School. I've listened to the HCPS redistricting town halls with an open mind, thought about the pros/cons a lot, but continue to feel that this does not seem like the right time to redistrict Maybeury and other schools unless it's a super high priority issue (like the opening of a school or overcapacity). I say this knowing that my 4th grader could end up getting moved to a different middle school if MES gets redistricted during a broader process, but I still believe that's a better outcome than putting parents, students and program directors through yet another change and big decision this year. I'd rather focus my energy this year on supporting our amazing MES teachers facing incredible challenges and getting my three children through all of the transitions to come. If Maybeury ends up getting redistricted to QMS or split up in the broader process when all schools and programs (like IB) can be taken into consideration, I am at peace with that, and I know the Maybeury community will throw their full support behind QMS. I worry if the school board redistricts us now, the Maybeury community will feel singled out and it's very hard for people to understand why. I'm concerned that instead of throwing their full support behind QMS, Maybeury parents may just get fed up with the school system and make alternative plans for school next year. Parents are exhausted and overwhelmed this year and I am pleading with you to not give us something else to worry about. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Nov. 11, 20 -- 5:15: PM	Leigh	Pickels	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I am in favor of the redistricting to send Maybeury Elementary to Quioccasin Middle School, and therefore clean up the feeder patterns at QMS, provide more active and supportive parents at Quioccasin Middle School, and make QMS more equitable.</p>

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Thursday, November 12, 2020

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District	Your written comments for the November 12 work session:
Nov. 11, 20 -- 5:23: PM	Jon	Buckbee	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>As a father of 3, one of whom has graduated from Freeman HS, another who has graduated from QMS, and a third who will attend QMS in a couple years, I'm writing to offer my full support of the proposed changes which will alter the QMS feeder pattern such that it flows to both Freeman and Godwin. The current proposal to feed Maybeury (in its entirety) into QMS will create opportunities for a strengthened community. Furthermore, the proposal's goals to reduce the number of schools feeding into Tucker (currently 5 middle schools) as well as the number of High Schools which feed out of QMS (currently 3) is exactly what we need to strengthen our communities and to equip our students with the strong, continuous relationships through the K - 12 arc. There is no other high school in all of Henrico, Hanover, RPS or Chesterfield which has 5 middle schools feed into it -- Tucker is an outlier and in order to strengthen that community, I applaud the School Board's effort to bring it more in-line. QMS is also an outlier. Very few Middle Schools throughout the Richmond region break off into 3 High Schools. Again, speaking as a father who has experienced children who have lived through these fractured feeder patterns, I can fully attest to the disruptions that it places on relationships throughout the K-12 arc. While the timing of these changes needs to be carefully considered by the Board, the plan itself is one that has my fullest support.</p>

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Nov. 11, 20 -- 5:27: PM	Emily	Jiancristoforo	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I am writing to express my support for the QMS proposal being considered at this time as a part of the targeted redistricting efforts. My child is a student at QMS (with three younger siblings to follow) and while the school has been a wonderful experience for us; with top-notch staff and the very best administration, this change would solve several issues at hand. Currently, QMS has a range of issues that place the community in a challenging and inequitable position, particularly when being measured against the closest neighboring middle schools: Tuckahoe and Pocahontas. One of the most glaring concerns is the socio-economic disparities that QMS is faced with and this translates to resource constraints, an an over abundance of behavioral supports needed as well as a lack of varied and diversified parental involvement. Re-balancing all of these issues with the Maybeury community is a must for HCPS to consider. Our PTSO is clamoring for some support and having some additional active and engaged families at the helm will only seek to stabilize the entire school community. In addition, this one move would completely clean up high school feeder pattern issues that have existed in this area for decades. If possible, it is my belief that no middle school should ideally feed to three high school zoned assignments. QMS needs this assurance and relief. As does the Tucker community. This change would also enable TMS to have a more even split between Tucker and Freeman, ultimately. Thank you for your consideration.</p>

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Thursday, November 12, 2020

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District	Your written comments for the November 12 work session:
Nov. 11, 20 -- 5:40: PM	Jim	Namoraro	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>My wife and I are fully supportive of the current proposal for the feeder pattern changes into and out of Quioccasin Middle. A couple of thoughts: Reducing the feeder pattern from Quioccasin from three to two high schools will do a better job in keeping some level of consistency for these kids as they move onto High School. It will also eliminate the small percentage of kids (and families) who would have fed into Tucker being alienated from the relationships they have built through elementary and middle school. Moving the two communities from the Trails at Short Pump and the Crossings at Short Pump students to Pocahontas Middle seems to make all the sense in the world given that they are both a stones throw from that school and it looks like it would keep all/most of the kids from Colonial Trail feeding into one middle school. Moving the kids from Maybeury to Quioccasin also seems to make sense given that most of the students live closer to Quioccasin than Tuckahoe Middle. I imagine that splitting up Jackson and Ridge may cause some angst, but using the natural boundary of Three Chopt makes sense, most of those children would have flowed to Tucker for High School anyway. This pattern will allow the children now being zoned into Tuckahoe middle to meet more of the classmates that they will be in high school with, as opposed to Quioccasin which would send the majority of its students to Freeman or Godwin. Thank you for taking the time to consider our opinion. Jim and Cakki Namorato</p>
Nov. 11, 20 -- 5:40: PM	Vana	Chupp	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I want to express my support on the plan to infiltrate Maybeury community is the QMS, make Three Chop a hard like boundary wise, and enable QMS to split between the Godwin and Freeman schools and not three.</p>

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 Thursday, November 12, 2020

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Nov. 11, 20 -- 5:47: PM	Leslie	Friday	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I am in support of the Board's consideration of the proposal that would realign the feeder patterns for Quioccasin Middle School, reducing from three to two the number of high schools that Quioccasin students attend and also reduce the number of middle schools that feed J.R. Tucker High School from five to four. While it is never an ideal time to move forward with redistricting, and I very much understand the additional stress of the current environment, this proposal addresses a number of long standing issues and provides an experience that is more consistent for students who attend neighboring schools. It has been interesting to learn through this process how some students and schools move through their K-12 experience with large groups that stay together through all 12 years and to compare that to students/schools where they are divided, sometimes several times as they progress along their K-12 journey. As a parent of Jackson Davis students our children are divided from their peers in the current state and end up moving through k-12 with a very small set of peers. While the proposed plan does not keep them as an elementary school cohort, it does significantly increase the size of all of their students' cohorts that move from middle to high school. The proposal also aligns several school zones along more natural geographic boundaries and appears to improve the feeder patterns of a number of schools affording a more consistent experience for students across neighboring schools.</p>
Nov. 11, 20 -- 5:52: PM	Jennifer	Romanosky	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>We fully support the redistricting effort for QMS. Using Three Chopt as "hard line" boundary and adding Maybeury Elem to QMS would positively impact the feeder patterns for the high schools and help to create a stronger sense of community for our children.</p>

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Thursday, November 12, 2020

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Nov. 11, 20 -- 6:05: PM	Paula	Chambers	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I write in support of the proposed redistricting changes that would address the feeder patterns both in and out of Quioccasin Middle School. We moved to Henrico County in 2004 and have had at least one child enrolled in HCPS ever since. All three of our children attended this middle school: the first two when it was still Byrd, and the youngest during the name change. Our oldest was a 7th grader at Byrd when the last county-wide redistricting occurred in 2011, and we saw first-hand the changes that followed as a result: a significant drop in overall socioeconomic indicators, which strained teachers and administrators as they sought to meet every student's need, and a decline in parental involvement that was clearly seen through the PTA and in the parent volunteers who were willing and able to assist in the front office (a program I coordinated for a number of years). Bringing students from Maybeury Elementary would help elevate socioeconomics at the school as well as boost parental involvement. As students exit, it would be tremendously helpful for them to feed to only two high schools. With placements now divided among three high schools, students often feel overwhelmed by other friend groups that have been in place for years, whether through middle school or even elementary school. Given the physical location of QMS, it's logical for it not to feed entirely to one high school, but it's not logical for it to feed to three. In the input session I attended recently, I appreciated that the Maybeury parents who spoke did not seem to argue against the changes based on QMS being undesirable. To those who have that concern, I say this: Our zoned middle school provided a solid foundation for all three of our children, all of whom went on to specialty centers for high school (one to Maggie Walker Governor's School). They had the opportunity to meet students from a variety of backgrounds, which is excellent preparation for life in general. They worked with teachers who brought their all to their jobs. Byrd became a very different place -- unfortunately, not for the better -- after the 2011 redistricting. This plan would also change the school -- but for the better.</p>
Nov. 11, 20 -- 6:39: PM	Virginia	Johnston	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I am in support of the plan to transition QMS to a two feeder school plan for Freeman and Godwin and making Three Chopt and permanent transition border for Freeman and Godwin.</p>
Nov. 11, 20 -- 7:00: PM	Jennifer	Romanosky	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>We fully support the redistricting effort for QMS. Using Three Chopt as "hard line" boundary and adding Maybeury Elem to QMS would positively impact the feeder patterns for the high schools and help to create a stronger sense of community for our children.</p>

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Nov. 11, 20 -- 8:38: PM	Terra	Balla	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	As a resident of the Brookland zone my son is currently zoned to drive past a middle school Moody-2 miles from my home to attend Brookland Middle- 6 miles from my home. The same can be said with the students living in the Magnolia Ridge Community near VA Center Commons driving past Brookland Middle- 3.5 miles away to go to Hungary Creek-7 Miles away. In the age of Covid-19 where riding a bus past a school makes absolutely no sense. Is the board abandoning the comprehensive redistricting? If so when will you officially be letting the community know that countless hours and millions of dollars will be abandoned? Will you be relaxing the variance rules so that families can access the school closest to their home? Further, Comprehensive redistricting should not be abandoned and it is time to set forth the time line for when you as board will truly address it. ALL the students of Henrico deserve to go to the school closest to their home, the gerrymandering and pandering to developers and or neighborhood associations must stop.
Nov. 11, 20 -- 9:54: PM	Laura	Van Bylandt	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	Please delay in-person for all students and staff until after winter break. Cases are rising everywhere. This is only a difference of 12 instructional days for elementary. Please help us keep our families safe. Please do not make us come into the buildings and expose ourselves with record high cases just before the holidays.
Nov. 11, 20 -- 10:20: PM	Sara	Anderson	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Please look at current Covid data and reassess starting F2F instruction the Monday after Thanksgiving. Dr. Avula was on the news this evening telling people not to gather inside to eat for Thanksgiving because of limited air flow in enclosed spaces but we are sending students back to school to eat 2 meals a day inside. Why is his advice to Richmond City schools Different than his advice to Henrico School? The percentage of positivity is higher now than in the summer. I understand giving the loud parents in my neighborhood (most of whom have a nonworking parent) a “choice” but the teachers have no choice and you are putting them at great risk.

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Thursday, November 12, 2020

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District	Your written comments for the November 12 work session:
Nov. 11, 20 -- 10:42: PM	Melanie	Tazza	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>We are a dual working family with 4 children in HCPS schools. We do need our children back in school, but NOT 4 days after Thanksgiving. Dr. Avula is on record saying that if you gather for Thanksgiving you should quarantine for 14 days. How does that align with sending pre-k-2nd into the buildings for the first time 11/30? Many of those children will never have worn a mask before and most likely will not have worn them for 6-7 hours.</p> <p>Let's put aside the health concerns. My KG can finally make it through her day with no assistance from me. Now you want to send her to school for 3 weeks where she's not going to be learning to read as Mrs. Ogburn implied when she declined Ms. Kinsella's ask for a delayed start. She is going to be learning the rules and restrictions of in person school. Once she finally gets that down she is going to go on break for 2 weeks, then BACK to virtual learning, then back to in person where her teacher is going to have to spend a tremendous amount of time getting the kids used to the F2F restrictions again. It just makes no sense. These little kids aren't going to have any continuity of learning with the F2F transition beginning at 11/30. Your decision to offer a "choice" and make it binding for the entire year took away my families choice to remain virtual until the 3rd 9weeks. We are using the FFCRA so now that F2F is an option that goes away. We have to send our kids despite our concerns for their health, and the overall communities health. We have to send them despite the FACT that the timing with the holidays makes it completely disruptive to their learning.</p> <p>The choice you offered to the rich, WHITE vocal west end has pushed many families into positions that they would not choose otherwise. Please consider Ms. Kinsella's proposal of expanded K-5 needs based in person expansion until 1/11.</p>
Nov. 11, 20 -- 11:39: PM	Dyvawn	Stone	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	<p>Hello, The number of cases are increasing. Please consider virtual until February for all students and staff. We need to think about the safety of our students. The number of cases in the schools around the county are increasing. Please keep us safe and keep</p> <p>Us virtual until February</p>

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

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Nov. 11, 20 -- 11:44: PM	Audra	Vanderland	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	As we move forward with considering the budget, PLEASE consider providing ALL instructional assistants with health insurance, sick leave, and personal days. They are always one of the most important people in many children's education. But in this year, they have shown that to be even more so. They have been working face to face, often in conditions that may be less than ideal for social distancing, risking quarantine and illness because of their love for their students and schools. These professionals deserve a living wage and benefits, lest we continue to lose more and more of this precious resource. Even as teachers receive stipends for eating lunch with students or simultaneous teaching, instructional assistants deserve hazard pay and recognition for the work they have done and continue to do. We are who we are because of our instructional assistants.
Nov. 12, 20 -- 6:37: AM	Sarah	Schumacher	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	How are we opening schools when the numbers are breaking records everyday? Dr Avula has stated not to gather for thanksgiving but it's okay to gather in schools and eat unmasked two times a day, 4 days a week? Please reconsider a reopen AFTER winter break instead of after a mass spreading Thanksgiving holiday.
Nov. 12, 20 -- 6:39: AM	Genevieve	Eldredge	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	As a member of the scientific community who works with the World Health Organization I urge the school board to push back in-person learning until after the holidays and flu season as cases are rising at an alarming rate and schools with similar plans (e.g., Chesterfield) have demonstrated a complete failure to stop the spread of COVID-19. Reopening during such a surge demonstrates a complete lack of empathy, logic, and adherence to science and signals to staff, students, families, and community that HCPS is comfortable with people getting sick and dying or living with the debilitating aftereffects of COVID-19

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Nov. 12, 20 -- 7:51: AM	Maria	Kirtley	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I am extremley concerned as a parent and as an educator of the increasing cases of COVID-19 just within Henrico County employees and our community since your last School Board meeting. I am apalled that Dr. Avula is asking people to quarantine after the Thanksgiving Holiday and yet HCPS students are returning the Monday after Thanksgiving Break. The current county policy would create the scenario that if anyone chooses or is in need of getting tested for COVID-19 after spending time with family over break, which is the responsible thing to do before returning to in-person learning, the employee can not return to work until they have received their test results. We all know that HCPS does not currently have the infrastructure to allow people to be out the first week of school or any weeks of school in such a potentially large capacity, which therefore will DISCOURAGE people from getting tested and avoid potential exposures. The return to school after this holiday season is extremely irresponsible. Mrs. Ogburn, I know you realize that because you pushed for school to remain virtual after Winter break. I pray you all reconsider the return to school on November 30th and December 7th for ANY students. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
Nov. 12, 20 -- 7:59: AM	Amanda	Smallwood	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	<p>Using the most up-to-date VDH data, trends across the country from places with colder climates and schools back in session, and the School Board/County Leadership's OWN metrics, schools should be moving back to prior phases of in-person learning. The VDH data (as of 11/12) shows the two primary indicators reported by the VDH in highest and moderate ranges. Other schools are closing. Day cares are closing. Hospitals are filling up. Starting the return to in-person learning the day after Thanksgiving break is putting staff, students, and our community as a whole in a very dangerous situation. *Especially for those of us in the east end, where there was recently a testing event at which the positivity rate was 30%! Continuing to put more and more on the shoulders of principals and teachers and expecting us to just get it done and make it safe is impossibly unfair and unsafe. Please protect all of us.</p>