

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES
 Thursday, September 9, 2021

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the September 9 work session:
Aug. 26, 21 -- 10:34: PM	Peyton	Hunter	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Dear School Board, I have recently found out that in the following school year we will have to start school a week earlier. I don't see a singular need for why this needs to be done. I know for a fact that a lot of people never even wanted this and I don't see a reason that anyone can benefit from starting a week earlier. You are cutting students summer vacations short for what?, because you simply want to start school earlier. It's ridiculous especially for those who plan for vacations and now have to cancel them because all of a sudden what they have known for years for when school starts changes and now there kid has to go to school when they are supposed to be on vacation. I have tried so hard to think of one reason that this could benefit anyone and I quite frankly can't think of one. So I would to have this reconsidered because I don't know anyone who wants this and quite frankly why is when school starts up to adults who don't even go to school I think that it should be up to the students. I really do believe this needs to be voted on again because starting a week early makes no sense other than to throw everyone off of their schedule.
Aug. 31, 21 -- 12:12: PM	Lukita	James	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	I'm concerned for my son returning to school, with my recent diagnosis of cancer, which is making my immune system weaken...and with that being said my son mixing with the school at the time, is very detrimental for us....that is why virtual would work out so much better for my son...Him and myself would like it if someone could reconsider letting him into virtual academy atleast until I finish my chemo treatment..
Sep. 1, 21 -- 2:33: PM	Saima	Virani	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I would like the board to find a solution for safer lunch time options. With rising covid rates, it's unsettling that lunch time will be business as usual. Can we consider outdoor lunch, lunch in the classroom, or any other options? Many school districts have already had breakouts so this is our opportunity to learn from their mistakes and keep our children safe. Thank you for your consideration.
Sep. 1, 21 -- 7:08: PM	Julie	Chappell	Deep Run High School	The School Board's decision to not fully implement the CDC's guidance on transgender students is appalling. Your first duty is to the students of this school district. Your own cornerstones state: SAFETY AND WELLNESS: Building an equitable and inclusive school climate that provides for the social, emotional, cultural, and physical wellness of all stakeholders. By putting your own "comfort" ahead of the safety and welfare of the young people of Henrico, you have abrogated your most important function. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

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Sep. 2, 21 -- 11:26: AM	claudia	boddie-wiggins	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I'm very disappointed in the way Henrico school district has handled virtual learning this school year. I'm a parent that doesn't want my child to attend in person learning because of his health. we are still in a pandemic and I'm terrified to send him back as a freshman. something needs to happen as far as this waiting list. us parents should have options. or the 21/22 school year should have been virtual.
Sep. 4, 21 -- 1:56: PM	Daniel	Torres	Chamberlayne, Wilder	<p>I write as a parent and as a people with a vested interest in your recent ongoing mask mandate as it affects my son and daughter. I write to express my great displeasure at the continued policies that do no good and in fact do harm to our younger generation. As such I write to respectfully order you to resign immediately your position as a school board member for two reasons. One you are not a medical professional yet you have taken the position of acting as one in prescribing and requiring my son or daughter wear a medical device (mask) for medical reasons at all times. This with utter disregard or knowledge of their health status which is medical malpractice. I doubt that any of the members of the school board are licensed to practice medicine in the state of Virginia so indeed you are practicing medicine without a license in this case. Two your utter disregard for the needs of young people to perceive the needs of society based on facial cues and expression recognition. According to the American Psychiatric Association, "traumas are defined as events that result in or pose a threat to a person's physical integrity and that cause a reaction of intense fear, horror, or helplessness." - the kind of threat children perceive when they are told to distance themselves from other children and cover the part of their body with which they communicate, express their emotions, and feed themselves. Forcing children to wear masks or distance themselves from peers not only signals that they are a threat to others and/or that others are a threat to them. As Psychology Today reported, "facial expressions of others help us to calm our nervous system, but if we don't receive those signals, we might go into survival mode." Children in masks are also likely to miss out on critical language development. Covid-19 cases among children have increased due to the Delta variant, but according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "0.00%-0.03% of all child COVID-19 cases resulted in death" this past week. Despite sensationalized clickbait news coverage, a child's current chance of death from Covid-19 in America is lower than their chance of dying from a lightning strike or car accident. Do the benefits of masks and social distancing truly outweigh the long-term psychological, physical, social, and academic harm we are inflicting on a whole generation of American schoolchildren?</p>

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Sep. 7, 21 -- 9:38: AM	Christina	Sitterson	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please require mask wearing for all students. Mask wearing is not a personal choice. The actions of others impact us all. I cannot control if my son's classmate participates in high risk activities but we can minimize exposure with a simple mask. My husband has received a kidney transplant and therefore his two COVID vaccines were not effective (this has shown to be very common with transplant patients). His risk of severe disease is also increased if he does get COVID which obviously will a major impact on our family's emotional state. Our family does everything within our power to stay safe and when we made the choice to send our child to in person school, we were told masks would be required. Please stand by this to protect our children and our community. We need to take this time to do the right thing, care about others, and not be influenced by politics. Henrico did a good job last year always choosing safety even when it wasn't the popular choice. Please continue to do so. Keep our kids and our high risk community in the forefront. Mask wearing is not a personal choice. It needs to be done for the good of everyone.
Sep. 7, 21 -- 4:03: PM	Sara	Watts Small	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Do not lift the mask mandate in schools. I'm so angry that you are going to revisit this every 2 weeks how utterly ridiculous. Set it for the semester and leave it alone. Now I have to send this email to you every 2 weeks. Aren't you tired of having to read these emails?
Sep. 7, 21 -- 6:24: PM	Amanda	Morgan	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I am entering into my eighth year of teaching this year. I am extremely worried of what this school year will look like for myself and my students. I am also extremely upset with how football games and other sporting events are being held across the county. There have been social media posts highlighting sporting events with hundreds upon hundreds of students not wearing masks at all! This is uncalled for! What changes will you make to keep us all safe and eliminate these risks not only to students but your staff? We have already had many teachers leave or school and others are also discussing doing so. Please make changes so we all feel safe.

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Sep. 8, 21 -- 12:27: PM	Shannon	McKay	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I am writing to ask that HCPS School Board reconsider and adopt the VDOE Model policies for transgender students, as it is the first day of school and these policies are supposed to be in place. HCPS is doing many things well in regards to LGBTQ students yet without written policy in place, across all levels and every single school, there are many inconsistencies. It should not matter which school a transgender or nonbinary child attends, who is in charge, or what someone believes--policy and proper training to make sure everyone knows how to implement the policies is crucial for the safety and overall well being of transgender students. Every child deserves the right to a safe and quality education in a place where they feel respected and welcome. Please support these children by adopting the model policies. Thank you for all you are doing to get the year off to a good start, please give some attention back to this important issue. I am available to provide resources or have a conversation about gender, if you would like to contact me. Thank you!</p>