

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 12, 22 -- 5:55: PM	Tiffany	Woodson	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	Bullying Policy. My child attends Glen Lea Elementary and it has been a plethora of incidents where my child has been getting bullied, hit on or banked and no one has reported it to me. October 25th 2021, Principal Campbell texted my personal phone number in regards to Anthony pushing someone in class and followed up with he will face consequences. When we met the next day the substitute teacher came in the office and said Anthony was defending himself. My concern is that he has had this issue multiple times afterwards and nothing has been reported to me until he finally opened up to me today complaining about his cheek hurt because two boys banged his face into the floor. If this issue is not addressed I will be contacting the local media and exposing how the school system is failing my child. How can he learn when he has to be around constant conflict and the school is doing NOTHING.
Jan. 12, 22 -- 7:10: PM	Philip	Jacob	Henrico county	I believe it would be better to give students in henrico county the option to go virtual. These past few weeks with covid rapidly increasing it is unsafe for mass amounts of students to be in the classroom. I do think in person should stay an option to those who prefer it, but virtual needs to be taken into consideration.
Jan. 12, 22 -- 7:15: PM	Seamus	Connell	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I definitely think that going virtual is a very good option and should be taken into consideration. Everyone in my school is getting sick and some people are even coming to school even though they have tested positive. This is not a good thing at all and I feel as though we shall be given the option to be online because I cannot have my whole family getting sick because some kid tested positive the day before and comes to school.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 13, 22 -- 9:15: AM	Denise	Davis	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>As always thank you for your service. I am writing you this morning to inquire about the idea that vaccinated students are less likely to catch and spread the Omicron Variant of Covid. As I'm sure you know Henrico's policy is to allow vaccinated students to remain at school even if they have had an exposure. We were unable to vaccinate our son due to allergies and this week I received a phone call asking if he was vaccinated because he had been identified in contact tracing at school. We were able to deduce that the exposure was from a vaccinated child that returned to his algebra classroom with a covid test in hand from the school nurse. We assume that this child was identified in contact tracing at the school and called to the nurses office just as my child would be the very next day. Because this child was vaccinated he was sent back to the classroom and I'm sure the nurse asked his parents over the phone if they would like him to bring a covid test home. He must have gone home and tested positive that evening. Therefore, everyone who came in contact with him that day at school was pulled into the nurses office that following day and their parents were called to assess their vaccination status. I write you to ask that we take a look at these protocols. Do we have the data to find out how often Covid has actually spread via contact tracing? I know it is only a matter of time before we say goodbye to contact tracing in schools and I ask that Henrico be on the forefront of that change. It is my understanding that New York City schools have already done this. Are we simply punishing the children that are not or could not be vaccinated by sending them home for a minimum of 8 days and allowing the vaccinated children to stay in the classroom when they are just as likely to catch and spread this variant? I believe that we should either be removing the contact tracing altogether or everyone should be following the same protocols regardless of vaccination status. I think the science would most certainly support this statement. Every student that is sent home is being set up for failure. I ask that you look at the data and ask yourself is it worth it? Are we really mitigating risk with this strategy or are we only punishing out children and setting them up for failure? Thank you in advance for looking into this, looking into the available data collected by Henrico County Schools, and considering possible changes in the near future.</p>
Jan. 13, 22 -- 10:59: AM	Sara	Watts Small	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>With the change in Governance and our new governor promising to remove the mask mandate in schools, I just wanted to let you know that my family would like to see the mask mandate remain through the end of the school year. Masks are most effective when everyone is wearing them. We started the school year with the promise that CDC guidelines would be adhered to. Removing the mandate half way through the year is unconscionable. Please do the right thing for all.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 13, 22 -- 12:47: PM	Emma	Gaccione	Shady Grove Elementary, Short Pump Middle, Deep Run HS	Please consider following the CDC's latest guidance on quarantining after close contact for Covid 19 which should be reduced to 5 days. Sending healthy children home for 10 days is not equitable. Also please consider allowing students to submit a negative test to stay in school regardless of exposure. CDC guidelines state that wearing a well fitting mask should suffice. https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html Additionally, allowing the school to call unvaccinated student athletes to the office over the PA in the middle of class to be tested is highly inappropriate and a total invasion of their privacy and should be stopped immediately. It opens the students up to mental health issues (stress and anxiety) and the possibility for bullying from other students.
Jan. 13, 22 -- 4:16: PM	Tania	Thornton	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella, Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III, Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea, Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	Offer virtual learning for kids. Covid numbers are rampant and worse than ever. In-person school is endangering children and their families. The current safety measures aren't enough. In-person schooling must be suspended until numbers have gone back down.
Jan. 13, 22 -- 4:32: PM	Whitney	Hatcher	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I would just like to encourage the board to maintain the current HCPS policy mandating masks for all individuals inside of school buildings. Community spread in our area is still alarmingly high. The scientific data shows that universal masking significantly reduces community transmission, and the CDC currently recommends masking indoors for all individuals over the age of 2. Henrico's low instances of transmission within classrooms is evidence that our current masking mandates work and we should continue to maintain the current universal masking policy. Thank you for keeping our students and staff safe by requiring masks inside of school buildings!

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 13, 22 -- 7:40: PM	Substitute	Teacher	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Hello. I was very interested to see the number of comments about substitute teachers at the last meeting, and I appreciated your questions about substitute pay and retention. HCPS currently pays substitute bus drivers a minimum of \$17.11/hour, and they are receiving bonuses. While bus drivers are important to GET kids to school, substitute teachers are necessary to HAVE school. One is no more important than the other. While subbing this year, I have filled in for teachers other than my assigned one during all of my planning periods. Every school is short subs, as touted by the fact that HCPS central office staff and school board members found themselves as substitute teachers this month. As it is, most subs work in a limited geographic area because with gas prices escalated, it doesn't make sense to drive across the county to fill a role for \$13/hour. With the high number of subs needed, especially right now, does it make sense the substitute teachers are paid only \$13.83/hour (unless they are on a 20+ day assignment)? Subs need at least 60 hours of college credits; most have degrees, and some have advanced degrees. The minimum wage in Virginia is \$11/hour. At a time when many companies are struggling to hire and retain employees; HCPS should pay substitute teachers what they are worth - far more than \$13.83 per hour. HCPS went to great lengths to plan for getting kids to school this year, equal efforts should be made to ensure the "schooling" can take place.
Jan. 16, 22 -- 6:46: PM	Christine	Jones Monaccio	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	A huge thank you for keeping the mask mandate in place. We need to do all in our power to keep kids and staff safe!
Jan. 17, 22 -- 8:32: AM	Tammy	Foster	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	As a long time resident of Henrico County, I would like to encourage the HCPS School Board to uphold Governor Youngkins executive order and allow parents to decide if they choose to mask their children in the public school setting. My understanding is that this goes into effect on January 24, 2022. Studies have indicated that there is merely a 2% benefit in using masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19. New studies show, as verified and reported by the CDC, that N95 masks are the only masks that provide any benefit in reducing transmission, which is still negligible. The scientifically sound and well documented physical, psychological and serious environmental harm (microplastic pollution of our water systems) of mandatory, disposable mask wearing by healthy children ,and the public at large, far outweighs the benefit of these highly ineffective mask mandates.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 17, 22 -- 1:24: PM	Diane	Berger	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I am requesting that the mask mandate be revisited by the school board with input allowed from the parents. The county school board is elected and works for the parents who are taxpayers. I understand that the school board made the decision to mandate masks in august. This is not a decision the board should be making. It should be the parents decision and should be voted on by the parents not the school board. The school board should be representing the parents and how is that possible if the board is not obtaining our formal input.
Jan. 18, 22 -- 3:00: PM	Adelaide	Johnson	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1U7e1IGve5_mS_d6Psp6IAZmMq64aRCSP67Sirn0NkBs/edit?usp=sharing Its too many chracters to type in this.
Jan. 18, 22 -- 4:50: PM	Jacqueline	Brown	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella, Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III, Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea, Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	With all due respect to the situation Marci is going through, is it really equitable for her to be able to have her kids learn virtually while she undergoes Cancer treatment? Many other high risk families have requested and been vehemently denied that opportunity. I do not blame Marci one bit for making the decision that she did and I would have made the same choice but that is kind of my point, that PARENTS should be able to make decisions for their children, like Marci did, when it comes to the health of their children and their families. It has been 2 years, our kids are broken and SO far behind that many will likely never catch up. Can this board PLEASE put the politics aside for once and do the right thing by letting parents decide whether to mask their children in school? Let's not turn VA into FL where the governor pulls funding from the public schools because if this is truly about the kids then where will we be when funding starts to get pulled? Our kids will suffer even more and parents that can afford it, will leave the public school system. Please work with the new governor and his executive order so that our schools don't suffer and let him help you to work to fix the public education system. Public education in Virginia will never recover if vouchers start and this board has got to know that. There is a social media group formed that already has 986 parents that are planning to send their children on January 24th without masks. I am sure that # will double or triple by Monday so my hope is that we can get back to brass tacks and teaching and learning and leave familial medical decision to parents, as it should be. I implore you to please leave masking decisions in the hands of parents.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 19, 22 -- 2:46: PM	Paul	Lahoda	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	Since the mask mandates, my daughter has gotten covid, and 2 other separate colds. Considering that omicron is air born, and not dependent on droplet transmission, why are you going against the Governor's orders, and continuing to tell people that masks are somehow doing something? I myself got Covid in a neighbor's garage where every person was vaccinated and wearing masks and that was the Delta strain which is significantly less contagious than the Omicron. I feel it is time to adhere to the science. This is just hurting the kid's ability to read facial expressions and develop properly. I would recommend that the school board start doing what the people that elected them want. It is the parents who showed up to vote Governor Youngkin in after somebody else stated that they knew better than the parents on how to educate their kids. There is a clear public opinion shift that is happening on this subject that was made clear once Governor Youngkin won the race. At this point, it is pretty clear that if you want to be re-elected, please make masks optional and stop muzzling our kids. Thank you
Jan. 20, 22 -- 7:55: PM	Jennifer	Andrews	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	As a Henrico teacher, parent, and voter, I count on masking as a mitigation strategy to avoid spread of COVID. With in-person instruction, there is no way to stay 3+ feet away from students. I keep a daily log of students in close proximity to me if contact tracing is needed. Please keep the mask mandate in place.
Jan. 20, 22 -- 8:13: PM	Shauna	Brown	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I would ask that the board follow Powhattan School Board lead and allow parents the option of mask vs no mask for their children starting January 24, 2022.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 21, 22 -- 4:06: PM	Charles	Neurohr	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Governor Glenn Youngkin, through Executive Order 2, has given the parents back their ability to choose if their children wear masks to school. This ability for parents to make the choice for their children is the issue, not whether they choose or choose not to wear masks. The fact that Henrico believes that it knows better than parents is the problem. Henrico does not own nor have the right to dictate health decisions to our children. Parents pay the taxes to fund all aspects of Henrico including the schools and the school board. Henrico was very quick to adopt the health policies of the previous Democratic governor, yet it will not adopt the policy of the duly elected Republican governor. This is a political decision based on the left leaning Henrico School Board who think they have the right to ignore an executive order by the current governor. Do the right thing as so many other Virginia localities have done and make this change. Perhaps Glenn Youngkin will withhold funding from the localities that continue to not adhere, similar to what Governor Ron DeSantis has done in Florida. I would hate to see the children be the victims of underfunded schools due to the misguided and wrong policies of the school board.</p>
Jan. 22, 22 -- 8:43: AM	Kuntal	Shah	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>Please do not make mask wearing in schools optional regardless of what the VA Supreme Court says. Kids health is your first responsibility.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 23, 22 -- 7:23: PM	Elizabeth	M	Godwin HS	<p>It is historical immunological knowledge that viral infection confers long-term immunity (Slifka and Ahmed, 1996). Recent research has shown that infection with COVID-19 confers greater immunity than vaccination alone (Schmidt, et al, 2021 and Shrestha, et al, 2022). Additionally, evidence shows that vaccinated individuals can spread COVID-19 (Bleier, et al, 2020). In consideration of these facts, why should unvaccinated students who have had COVID-19 be required to quarantine upon primary contact with a COVID positive individual when vaccinated students are not required to submit to quarantine? These questions are asked in light of the detrimental effect of quarantine on student mental health and academic performance.</p> <p>Slifka, et al https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/8993360/ Schmidt, et al https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.08.06.455491v1 Shrestha, et al https://academic.oup.com/cid/advance-article/doi/10.1093/cid/ciac022/6507165 Bleier, et al https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33320052/</p> <p>The HCPS community deserves a more scientific explanation of these policies than reference to CDC and VDH guidelines.</p>
Jan. 25, 22 -- 10:14: AM	Cristin	Traylor	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>1. We need to shorten the quarantine period to 5 days instead of 10, following CDC guidelines. There is no reason to have kids/teachers/staff miss school for 10 days, especially with how Omicron is so widespread and is not causing severe illness. 2. We need to follow the Governor's EO and allow personal choice for teachers and students. We followed the previous Governor's EO without question when he required masks and now we need to do the same for the new EO. The School Board voted to allow for choice last summer. As far as I know, there was no vote to require masks - HCPS just followed the EO which came out after the vote. Technically, once the EO was rescinded, the original decision would be automatically reinstated. 3. We cannot punish students/staff/teachers who choose not to wear masks. At this point, even with masks, Omicron is spreading. We need to learn to live with this virus and get back to some sort of normalcy. 4. We absolutely should not waste taxpayer dollars by filing/joining lawsuits against the Governor.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 25, 22 -- 10:20: AM	Rebecca	Chipman	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	Greetings School Board, I urge you to continue mandating masks in HCPS schools regardless of vaccination status. In the midst of a continued Omicron surge, it is very important that we continue masking in the classrooms. Additionally, I implore you to set specific metrics in place in which schools or classes should move to remote learning. Students are missing critical class time due to illness or quarantine, if we had virtual learning options, students would be able to keep up with their classes more readily. I ask you to please put enumerated guidelines in place for moving classes or schools to virtual learning based on high levels of transmission and staff and student absenteeism. Thank you, Rebecca Chipman
Jan. 25, 22 -- 12:27: PM	Laura	Matthews	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Thank you for allowing my comments. My concern is proactive in nature. IF masks are declared to be optional, what will schools do to provide equitable opportunities for children, teachers, staff, family members who are considered high risk for illness and/or immunocompromised? Are options being explored especially given the high transmission rate? I realize you will be allowed to wear masks if you wish, but research is clear masks work best when ALL are wearing them. Changing this requirement in the middle of a school year presents many issues and even more anxiety for those who are high risk or maybe even not able to be vaccinated. I appreciate your attention to this matter in advance, especially from a parent of a high-risk student.
Jan. 25, 22 -- 12:41: PM	Bergen	Espigh	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Ban masks
Jan. 25, 22 -- 12:45: PM	Laura	Santacruz	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I am deeply disappointed on the blatant overreach HCPS has been displaying time and time again. It was parent's choice on masks last summer, and now you're ignoring the EO and turning a blind eye to all the studies of the harmful effects of them. I teach elementary K-5 PE and witness daily masks being sucked on, stepped on, food and drinks spilled on them, traded in the middle of the day with classmates...the idea that masks are a safe and clean preventative measure is outrageous. I'm also disgusted in the new Test to Stay mitigation program. To normalize these tests being performed at school is blatant brainwashing of these students. School is not the place and you're going down a dangerous and slippery slope. I'm fed up with student athletes who are competing outside, not riding team busses etc being forced to undergo weekly testing. This must be done away with in the Spring, and return to how it was in the Fall for our student athletes but we all know once another overreach is in place, it's here to stay. HCPS is blinded by the funding they're receiving to force our children to submit to these intrusive practices and have no regard for the welfare of the students themselves. You are forgetting time and again you work for your constituents and your greed and ignorance are abhorring.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 25, 22 -- 12:50: PM	Reagan	Roth	Henrico County	<p>Id like to talk about the masks. I think they should be optional because some of us are done with all of this. We have been trying to move on but we cant because we are stuck in our auditorium of our school and facing suspicion if we dont want to wear them. Thats rediculas. It should automatically be a parent and child decision. Id also like to talk about parents being able to have a say in this. These are our parents and people dont seem to understand that they have a bigger say then any school staff here.</p>
Jan. 25, 22 -- 12:54: PM	Ava	Hutcherson	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I'm Ava. I'm 17. I'm a 12th grade student at Deep Run. And I'm unvaccinated. I haven't been to school all week because of it. I get covid tested every week for winter sports because of my vaccination status. Because apparently only the unvaccinated can get covid. However, I bet every person in this room can name someone they know who is vaccinated, yet they got covid. I tested positive last week. And goodness was I sick! I never used a single tissue, took a single drop of cold medicine, or coughed once. Because I never had a single symptom. Yet the school told me I had to be home for 10 days because I am a dirty, germ infested, unvaccinated kid. The wonderful, all-knowing CDC even says 5 days regardless of vaccination status. But Henrico county is smarter I guess. They know better. So for the entire week, I have been denied a proper education, but I guess it wouldn't be better if I showed up. I had a few friends show up to school without a mask on this week. They were treated unfairly by staff, faced rude comments by their friends, and also denied their education. They were sent to the auditorium to do "asynchronous" learning. They were marked absent. And our principal, Dr. Brian Fellows, made the comparison of not wearing a mask and bringing a gun to school. Other admins including our principal threatened the unmasked students with in school suspension. I wish I could have been there with my friends. But I don't wish for anyone to be treated like that. Our state motto is Virginia is for Lovers. But every day I live in this state, I feel like everyone is getting more and more hateful. Where's the love, Virginians?</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 25, 22 -- 4:12: PM	Wildcat	Parent	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	What is the school district going to do about the traffic and parking issues at Deep Run, and when are they going to do it? The congestion on Twin Hickory is horrendous before and after school. With limited entrances and exits from the school - People stop in the middle of intersections; drivers get impatient and drive erratically and kids are STILL late to school, with the first semester ending. One side of the crosswalk in front of the school isn't even painted, despite there being walk signals; so walkers are often not heeded by drivers turning through the intersection. There are not enough parking spots for the licensed drivers this year, The situation will be no better next year, as it is anticipated there will be more senior drivers than parking spots - leaving drivers in lower grades with no where to park - and more unnecessary bus riders and parent drop offs. The parking and entrances/exits at this school are dangerous; and HCPS continuing to not remediate this is asking for accidents to occur.
Jan. 25, 22 -- 4:53: PM	Ashley	Carroll	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	What is the county's plan for elementary teachers who are continuously missing planning due to the lamp teacher not being there? What supports are in place for schools that have no interventionist on staff as of right now? For future years, has the county considered hiring two full time interventionist to support title I schools (especially for the next 2 years)? Teachers , students and admin are doing the best they can. I hope the county has a plan to support all of us.
Jan. 25, 22 -- 5:10: PM	Health	Committee	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella, Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III, Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea, Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	Why has the health committee stopped posting their meeting minutes? They haven't posted them since before Christmas break. Who is presently on the health committee? Why has the health committee continued to retain 10 day quarantine and isolation periods, when a 5 day period is recommended by the CDC, and was adopted by the VDH on 1/21/22? Are there actual medical professionals on the health committee who "know better" than the CDC/VDH? Is the VEA and/or HEA placing pressure on the health committee to retain outdated guidelines? Does HCPS benefit from withholding a child's in-person education for twice as long as the CDC recommends - when they defer to the CDC guidance as their reason for maintaining a mask mandate? Why does HCPS cherry pick when to follow CDC and VDH guidance when it suits them - usually resulting in keeping kids out of school for longer than required?

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 25, 22 -- 5:36: PM	Casey	Burton	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I am in favor of parental choice as it pertains to masks. Hanover, Goochland, and New Kent, along with other jurisdictions, have voted to repeal mask mandates and follow newly elected Gov. Youngkin's EO2. These Boards have been able to do so despite the language in SB1303, which is the scapegoat that HCPS uses to deny parental choice. HCPS immediately followed the prior Governor's various EOs that previously closed schools and required mask mandates and imposed restrictions that limited parental choice in our child's education. However, with both the updated guidance from the VDH on 1/21/22 and Governor Youngkin's EO2, HCPS still refuses to listen to parents. This Board has consistently failed to listen to the negative impacts of forced masking on student learning. My daughter has struggled through forced virtual Kindergarten, forced masking to end her Kindergarten year in person, and forced masking again in 1st grade. She has struggled to pay attention, to grasp reading skills, and to make connections. She is behind in key reading skills and her self confidence is hurting. She has been taught from day one to view her classmates as vectors of disease. She has been forced to bear the responsibility of adult decisions that ignore her struggles. But this Board still chooses to ignore the plights of parents who are asking for the opportunity to enhance their child's learning experience and academic progress. Hanover County led the way last year in managing to offer in person instruction all school year and they lead the way again in respecting the rights of parents to make the best educational decisions for their own children. Henrico chooses to again sit on the sidelines by following outdated science and guidelines that ignore the downsides of their decisions. It's time for this Board to be leaders and represent all of its constituents, politics aside.</p>
Jan. 25, 22 -- 5:45: PM	Kirsty	Wingfield	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>As a parent in Henrico County I feel we need and should have a choice whether or not our children wear a mask at school. All the health studies and numbers show masking is not the answer and children are the least affected by COVID-19. There is an incredible amount of damage being done to our children emotionally, educationally and socially. We should be able to choose what's best for our own child. That's our parental right and Freedom. Thank you for your time Kirsty Wingfield</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 25, 22 -- 6:13: PM	Casey	Burton	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I support parental choice as it relates to masking. There absolutely are documented and clear downsides for children being forced to wear masks while in the educational setting - there are hearing and speech problems, social-emotional problems, and the overall reminder that they have to view each other as disease-spreaders. Leaders think, illogically I might add, that because they don't hear our children complain that it means they aren't suffering. I now view forced/mandated masking of children to be unethical given the lack of evidence of benefit. I know I am not alone in having lost faith and trust in both the AAP and the CDC for both of their failures to acknowledge the downsides of masking. I find their repeated statements that there are no valid concerns about masking young children to be both irrational and condescending to parents dealing with the consequences of masking. Both the WHO and European CDC agree that children under 6 should not be masking at all. The VDH just released guidance that recognized that masking in schools is not necessary as cloth masks do not work and N95s can't and shouldn't be worn by children. Despite the CDC choosing not to highlight the studies showing no connection with Covid transmission and mask wearing in schools, these studies exist and many scientists and epidemiologists agree that masking is not an effective mitigation strategy as compared to better ventilation, etc. I'll end by saying I find it unethical to be telling our children that we prioritize adults' needs more than their own and by telling them that masks work, we are teaching them to ignore relevant studies that suggest otherwise. Our children are not pawns in a game and we need to be focusing on their positive learning experiences and this means allowing parents and children the choice of whether or not the mask is beneficial to them. I think if HCPS had set end goals or rational objectives regarding the use of masks, we would not find ourselves so divided today. We are reaching the endemic stage of this pandemic, and now is the time to start allowing parents to make choices that best fit their family and child's needs.</p>
Jan. 25, 22 -- 6:34: PM	Amanda	Medina	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>Parents have spoken! OUR children OUR rights. We get to decide if our child wears a mask or not. ALL children should be given the respect with it without masks. It's the PARENTS RIGHT AND CHOICE to do what's best for their child. HCPS is too controlling, when it comes to our children. Teachers are masked if they're afraid. But they can't be that scared if they are out in public living their day to day lives. Social media shows it all. COVID is spreading with or without masks. So the masks are not doing anything helpful. It's actually gross how dirty it can get. And I'm suppose to let my child breath in germs from the mask?! NO! Parents have complied enough over the 2 years and we are done. Kids can go to virtual school or wear a mask if they want. AND now it's our turn to have the option of not wearing one. Let kids be kids!!! Germs and viruses will never go away! Wear a mask or don't. But the choice is up to the PARENTS AND PARENTS ONLY!</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 25, 22 -- 7:17: PM	Sarah	Schumacher	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Please continue the mask mandate. My family has avoided Covid so far and I think a big reason how is because we wear our masks. My daughter recent has surgery and Covid would be especially hard for her as she is recovering from her procedure. HVA was not an option for her because she is in a specialty center. While this pandemic has been hard and mentally my family is having a hard time I believe masks have allowed us to continue safe"r" in person instruction.
Jan. 25, 22 -- 7:36: PM	Zack	Salmon	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Please honor parent choice. It is enshrined in VA law. The "recommendation" of the CDC is simply that - a recommendation. Do your part by recommending masks and then move on.
Jan. 25, 22 -- 7:50: PM	William	Martin	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please do not take away the mask mandate. My wife is a teacher and has not had one student complain about the masks this year. It is keeping her and her students healthier as a whole. With the new test to stay in place, it will allow students to miss less school, if they are no infected, why spread the infection. My wife has shared that in her room social distancing is not possible with 23 students, masks are the only way to keep everyone safe, including our 1 year old who is not old enough to be vaccinated.
Jan. 25, 22 -- 9:01: PM	Elizabeth	Broda	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	I write to support continuing the mask requirement for all who step inside our school buildings. I am a teacher at Henrico High School, and I believe the learning environment is made significantly more safe by all wearing masks. I have several students who are extremely anxious about getting sick or bringing it home to those they live with. I have other students who have serious health concerns, plus colleagues with health challenges. The only way to protect everyone equally is through universal mask wearing.
Jan. 25, 22 -- 9:15: PM	Meghan	Hustt	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I've seen that surrounding counties have lifted their mask policy. Please do what is right and continue to maintain the mask policy to protect all students and staff, but especially those who are immunocompromised, unable to be vaccinated, or who cannot wear a mask themselves.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 25, 22 -- 9:15: PM	Crissen	Hawkins	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	I wanted to comment my support of keeping mask mandates in our county's schools. As Chairwoman Shea said, "Masks, as part of layered mitigation strategies, are currently necessary to accomplish this [responsibility to support in-person teaching and learning]. My board colleagues and I will always consider the latest health guidance and data to make decisions in the best interest of the Henrico community." Currently, the latest health guidance from the CDC is that masks are universally recommended indoors at school. I understand the governor's desire to stand by his campaign for "parent choice" in our schools, but most parents are not experts in public health nor are they making safety decisions for thousands of students and teachers. I implore you, members of the Henrico County School Board, to remain firm in the support of the safety of our students, teachers and staff by continuing the mask mandate and any other reasonable mitigation measures. Thank you for your leadership during these difficult times. Signed, Concerned citizen and soon-to-be HCPS parent
Jan. 25, 22 -- 9:17: PM	Katrina	Saunders	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Please unmask our children. Give back our parental right to choose.
Jan. 25, 22 -- 9:18: PM	Paula	Olive Ames	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Unmask my kid, it is unconstitutional, you are violating her rights as a human being and US citizen. This is a form of child abuse and creates emotional distress. The school board should be sued for all the extra pshycological stress and strain they are placing on our kids.
Jan. 25, 22 -- 9:22: PM	Aaron	Giannini	Pocahontas Middle School	Enough is enough, parents choice should be the only outcome of this meeting. The school board has no legal right to require our children wear mask at all times.
Jan. 25, 22 -- 9:26: PM	Alison	Neviaser	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I believe masks in schools should be optional. Also following the rules of our new governor. Let the kids and parents make the choice. Wear a mask if you want to. But don't wear a mask if you don't want to. With all of the data out there that masks don't work and that kids are still getting COVID with masks and social distancing means the masks don't matter. So please make it a choice now! Follow the other local school districts Henrico!
Jan. 25, 22 -- 9:32: PM	Scott	Neviaser	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Unmask our kids! Give the parents the right to choose what's best for their child! Choose the right thing and follow Governor Youngkins Executive Order now!

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 25, 22 -- 9:32: PM	Ashleigh	Everlee	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Unmask our kids. Vote to make mask wearing a parental choice for students. Make mask wearing an employee choice for teachers and staff. This mitigation measure is ineffective at best. Additionally stop the contact tracing and quarantining. Stop the discriminating policies against unvaccinated students and teachers. You are using discriminatory and coercion tactics to support a false public health narrative. This is criminal behavior. This is what destroys the trust between educators, students, and parents. We point the fingers at each other but you the Board members are voting to continue this. Unmask our kids. Stop policing germs and get back to educating our kids and treating our teachers with greater respect than making them covid police.
Jan. 25, 22 -- 9:48: PM	John	Morgan	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please reject the mask mandate in Henrico school
Jan. 25, 22 -- 9:49: PM	Cheryl	Morgan	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I oppose the mask mandate.
Jan. 25, 22 -- 9:54: PM	Rachel	Druff	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Maintaining a mask mandate is critical to keeping kids in school. While we continue to see high community transmission, it is imperative that we do everything possible to prevent spread in school. Many states without mask mandates have had to close schools because too many staff are sick. Let's not emulate these states!!! Other states/school divisions are requiring kn95s to reduce transmission. These are the divisions we should be following. Please do not allow the Governor's political aspirations and motives to trump safety!!! Allowing parents to override HCPS policy is a dangerous precedent. Doing so sets the stage for parents to decide they can override other policies. What's next? No shoes at school, wearing skimpy clothes, bringing a gun?? If parents are given the message that their beliefs trump school policies, HCPS will lose the ability to provide a safe educational environment. Please maintain the mask mandate until community transmission has dramatically decreased!
Jan. 25, 22 -- 9:59: PM	Pattie	Frick	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	No masks for children at school. Studies prove no benefit. Psychologically damaging for children to cover their faces. Impedes learning.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 25, 22 -- 10:09: PM	Katherine	Shiveley	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Masks should be optional. If parents want to send their child to school with a mask they absolutely can. However, I would like my child to experience school as it should be, without a mask so she can see her friends and teachers. She is now in 2nd grade and has only had 7 months of school without a mask. This is deplorable and we know they also do not work. So why are you still mandating this? Look at the data. You are hurting the children. Please show that you care about THEM.
Jan. 25, 22 -- 10:23: PM	Tracy	Dickerson	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Follow the Governor's Executive Order to have parents make the decision on masks for their children.
Jan. 25, 22 -- 10:32: PM	Keith	Dickerson	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I believe Henrico schools should follow Governor Youngkin's executive order. I respect those that want to continue wearing masks. I also believe those that do not should have that choice.
Jan. 25, 22 -- 10:37: PM	Susan	Tyler	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I have a 10th grade son at Deep Run High School, and am writing to implore you to please uphold the HCPS mask mandate in place, per the CDC recommendations. Per Dr. Fellows, and I agree, "masks are one of the mitigation strategies that keeps us from having to send students home to quarantine if they are exposed to a person who tests positive. If we remove the mask from the three-part equation (masks being worn, asymptomatic, and fully vaccinated), we then have to send students home to quarantine because of the close contact exposure at school." If masks are made optional, I am certain that many Deep Run students and families will throw away their masks, along with caution, and we will have spiking case numbers - the opposite of where they are heading now. I can't even begin to fathom the toll this is taking on our teachers, staff, and medical professionals in the community who must deal with the consequences of this reckless, selfish behavior. Thank you for voting NO to optional masks, and voting YES to continuing the HCPS mask mandate, in the best interest of ALL of HCPS!
Jan. 25, 22 -- 10:46: PM	Andrea	Vidal	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	UNMASK OUR KIDS

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 25, 22 -- 11:00: PM	Cheryl	Loden	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	As a former teacher and a mother of four children going through Henrico Schools, I ask you to please get rid of the Masks Mandates in Henrico. The children can't see the teacher's mouth to learn how to read, to see a teacher smile, or see their friends smile. Many studies show the masks DON'T work and dirty masks are filled with bacterial pneumonia diseases, they bring down the heart rate, they are breathing carbon monoxide, and the virus cells can pass through the mask cloth. Vote NO to Mask Mandates. Thank you kindly.
Jan. 25, 22 -- 11:09: PM	Margaret	Thornton	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	No school mask mandate
Jan. 25, 22 -- 11:16: PM	Jennifer	Andrews	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	As an educator, parent, and person who is immune compromised, I appreciate your vote to maintain mask mandates. Please do not change that position. Trying to social distance in a full classroom (all of my classes are full) is extremely difficult, and impossible in crowded halls when changing classes, which means exposure to COVID is likely at school. If mask wearing is made optional, I fear that we all will be sick very quickly. Please hold the line!
Jan. 25, 22 -- 11:49: PM	Catina	Hadijski	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Drop the mask mandate in schools. Let parents decide for their children.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 12:03: AM	Melissa	Walker	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I am the mother of two students in the Three Chopt District. I would like to know the logic / reasoning behind the test to stay program and it's policy of only testing unvaccinated students? The contact tracing program for the past school year has been a mess as far as the effect on my child's education. My child was sent home twice this school year due to the tracing policy. He unnecessarily missed many days of school, was not able to stay on par with what the class was learning in the building because the school board left no option for virtual learning for those sent home due to no fault of their own. Both times my child was sent home, he neither showed symptoms, nor did we test him because we did not feel the need to do so unnecessarily. He missed out on his education and had to do busy work and check in, instead of being able to follow along at least virtually and keep up with the class. Now I am to understand that my child has to have his sinuses violated 5 days in a row, even if he is not symptomatic, to get his education because he is not injected with an experimental product pushed by the government and pharmaceutical companies. No child should be subjected to having to do that test 5 days in a row to stay in school and get an education. To single out "unvaccinated" students is discriminatory. Vaccinated or unvaccinated, both are capable of spreading the virus. To single out one group to subject them to testing is not right nor does it make sense. My child has never taken a covid test because we have not needed to. To force this on families and children is cruel and unnecessary. Please explain the reasoning behind the testing and the singling out of a certain group? As far as masks, this should be a parents' decision to make. If a parent wants their child to wear a mask fine, if not, that should be fine also. What is your metric for returning schools back to what they were? At what point do we stop subjecting our children to this daily fear mongering and needless protocol that has proven ineffective?</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 12:17: AM	Kirsten	Hanson	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I just wanted to express my deep appreciation to you for continuing to fight for safety in our schools for our students AND our teachers, despite the negative pressure I'm sure you are all receiving. Maybe one day we won't have to be inconvenienced with masks, but today is not that day. Covid spread is rampant and the reason spread isn't even worse than it already is in schools is because the kids have masks on. If we can't go back to virtual learning, which both of my high school children would actually prefer (my high risk mother lives with us and they worry about her in addition to themselves), it is <i>*critical*</i> to keep masks in place. Study after study has shown they make a difference, with the most impact coming when <i>*everyone*</i> has them on. Removing them as part of a layered protection plan, especially in our current environment, is like deciding you can throw away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you aren't actively getting soaked. It's tragically obvious what consequences that decision will reap. Please keep masking in school and continue to stand firm for what is smart, what is best for the greater good, and for what is the law so many demanded be put in place! Thank you for your time and effort. Take care and stay safe...
Jan. 26, 22 -- 5:24: AM	David	Allen	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Dear School Board I strongly support lifting The Mask mandate and giving Parent's Choice. Children are not doing okay. The suicide rate has gone up and mental health is overloaded. My daughter has been suffering from headaches since the start of the school year from prolonged mask use. Studies are now showing the children are suffering from headaches ,blurred vision, dizziness & trouble sleeping do to long hours wearing a mask. If it was working it would be worth it but masking is not working the school is still overloaded with covid cases. The cloth masks are only 9-10% effective. Kids are not wearing them correctly. That is not worth the mental and physical affects to our kids. Parents should have a right to choose what is right for their child. Those who want to wear a mask have the right to do so. You are infringing upon our rights as American citizens to make decisions for our children. Hcps does a great job praising themselves and their staff but what about our kids? Isn't that why you are here in the first place. HCPS teachers have been caught on social media threatening to physically hit our children if they show up in the car line without a mask and put them out in the hallway. The school board was notified and nothing was done. You need to start doing your job and stand up for our kids if your staff doesn't like it then they need to find another profession this is not okay to threaten a child. You have recieved federal funding for covid use that money to provide N95 masks for your staff. I strongly urge the school board to start putting kids first. Make masks parents choice. Thank you
Jan. 26, 22 -- 7:31: AM	Kristina	Barbier	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Please unmask our children! Please stop the contact tracing.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 7:38: AM	Lynne	Miller	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I am strongly for dropping the mask mandate in our public schools. Our children are suffering mentally and physically. Recent studies are showing children are suffering from headaches, dizziness and many other physical problems due to prolonged mask wearing. Cloth masks do not work to prevent transmission. They are dirty and kids do not wear the properly. Parents should have a choice as their rights to do what is right for their own child. The school board should provide other safety measures for staff like N95 masks to make teachers feel more comfortable. Our kids should not have to suffer or be bullied by school staff or treated any different than another student if their parent chooses for them to not wear a mask. The governor has signed executive orders that parents have rights under VA law to make decisions about their child's care. Hanover and Henrico our closest neighbors have already made masks optional. Please stand up for our children and remove mask mandates in Henrico county public schools.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 7:43: AM	Lindsey	Hastings	Deep Run High School & Short Pump Middle	Please allow parents the right to choose masking their children or not. The mandate needs to be immediately lifted.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 7:45: AM	Abigail	Dryden	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I urge the school board to follow Governor Youngkin's executive order concerning masks. Freedom to choose what's best for our children is a fundamental right. Mandating masks has taught our HEALTHY children to cover their HEALTHY breath in HOPES of saving the person next to them. This is damaging on so many levels and I can only pray their little minds can recover. Parents should choose what's best for their children. Period. End of story.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 7:50: AM	Amy	Jaspen	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Dear School Board- I want to thank you for following the law in regards to masking in school. I appreciate you all following the science and the law; not letting this become political. Masks are an important safety layer to keep kids in school. Not only does it reduce the spread (if masking is universal) but it also reduces quarantine needs. I really appreciate that my son hasn't had to quarantine at all, because he is vaccinated and masked. Science is clear and the law is clear. Please continue to enforce the mask rule in Henrico. Thanks- Amy Jaspen

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 7:57: AM	Bonnie	Moreno	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please keep the mask mandate in place. Do not forget our vulnerable children and those who have not even been given the chance to be vaccinated (under 5). Removing masks increases rate of transmission/likelihood this virus will be spread. Masks work if they are worn properly. Science backs this up and it cannot be ignored because of politics. You cannot jeopardize the safety of our children further, especially at this time when contagiousness of Covid is high. At least wait until the vaccine is available to all. Thank you
Jan. 26, 22 -- 8:02: AM	Becky	Hansell	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I strongly support the continued requirement for mask wearing in public schools to keep ALL kids, teachers, admin, staff etc healthy. Furthermore, we have a dress code that requires everyone to wear pants, how are masks any different?
Jan. 26, 22 -- 8:19: AM	Kristina	Szurkus	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please keep the mask mandate! There will be a time to eliminate this in the future. Now is not the time.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 8:21: AM	Geoffrey	Mann	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	My family and I oppose mask mandates in Henrico County Public Schools. Given the miniscule threat posed to children by covid 19, the now commonly accepted knowledge of negative effects to educational and social interactions of children with each other and with teachers, and the simple fact that there is no legal basis for the school to impose the measures, we urge the board to reconsider this mandate. Be honest, if you're making the same policy decisions as the City of Richmond Public Schools, can that ever be a good thing?
Jan. 26, 22 -- 8:28: AM	Beth	Bickford	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Please maintain the mask mandate for Henrico County Schools. Masks are an important risk mitigation tool in keeping our kids safe from catching Covid. But they also keep those exposed from having to miss school when all are properly masked. I've had 2 children with covid. While not seriously sick, the amount of time they missed from school impacted their grades and made the remainder of the semester very stressful. I had another child who was a close contact at school but because of masking and the fact she was vaccinated, she did not have to miss school. I do not want our kids to go back to online school. That was tough socially and psychologically for them. But if mask mandates are removed, it is likely cases will skyrocket and we may be forced back to online school which would have a bigger negative impact on these kids. Masking is the smart decision and requires only a small sacrifice in having to wear a mask. Please make the smart decision.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 8:31: AM	Nicole	Schaefer	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I implore our school board to continue following the science and recommendations of the VDH and CDC. Changeovers in state government should not be the driving factor to change mitigation efforts during a pandemic. It's up to each of you to meet the health and safety needs of all of our students, collectively and not the partisan issues of the parents/guardians.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 8:32: AM	Megan	Overton	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I support keeping the mask mandate in place
Jan. 26, 22 -- 8:44: AM	Angela	Fowler	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	UNMASK OUR KIDS
Jan. 26, 22 -- 8:52: AM	Arati	S	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Continue mask mandate in schools
Jan. 26, 22 -- 8:53: AM	Andrea	Haxhe	Colonial Trail Elementary	I fully support and would the mask mandate. I don't think our already struggling educators need to face further damage from increased infections. This is a no brainer as it has been shown masks lower the risk of infection. Why put our educators, school employees and children at risk.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 9:06: AM	jennifer	baird	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I am advocating for the School Board to comply with the Governor's directive to allow parents to decide if their children should wear masks to school. I believe my children would still continue to wear masks all, or most, of the time at school. And I think it should be a decision made by parents, and directed by individual circumstances. Thank you for your attention.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 9:11: AM	Gail	Hendrick	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please keep not only our children, but our Teachers safe by continuing to enforce the mask mandate. Do not give in to political pressure; do what is RIGHT.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 9:26: AM	Joy	Laurence	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>Firstly, please stop participating in programs to receive federal dollars. Our children do not belong to teachers, principals, county and state officials nor the federal government. They belong to their parents who have the rights and responsibilities to see to their own children's protection and wellbeing. It's those same parents whose tax dollars contribute to fund schools in the first place. We are in charge. The squeeze of these programs is forcing parents to compromise their knowledge of what is true in order to participate in regular school activities and it must stop. Secondly, masking has not worked to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The whole charade has served no purpose other than to exercise control and stoke fear. People who are insisting upon masks in schools are terribly misinformed and our children are bearing the consequence of their ignorance. Remove this rule and leave the choice to impose masking of children up to their parents. Finally, discriminating among the student body based on private health information renders that private information no longer private! Choosing not to disclose status is not truly an option and that must change. Your policies over an uncontrollable virus are teaching children to segregate and make judgments about others. This is not the duty of the school. Return to former health guidance policies that predate covid: stay home if you're sick, come to learn if you're not. It's time to get over it. Who, by worrying, can add a single day to their life? These kids have one life. Let go and let live.</p>
Jan. 26, 22 -- 9:28: AM	Jenna	Nguyen	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I support keeping current mask guidelines in place.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 9:32: AM	Stephanie	Paget	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>Dear Dr. Cashwell and Members of the HCPS School Board, We are Brendan & Stephanie Paget, parents of Diana (7th grader at Holman Middle School) and Allison (4th grader at Rivers Edge Elementary School). I am writing to support the continued mandate of masks in our schools. All available evidence indicates that SARS-CoV-2 will spread wildly in schools without mitigation efforts—including universal masking—firmly in place. The CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics agree; both agencies have released guidance indicating that schools should mandate masks for students, staff, and visitors. As a local leader, you should listen to them. Add to that, infections in our state and county continue to be at the highest levels we have seen yet during this pandemic (the past two years). The positivity rate for Henrico County is currently 22.9%. This means our Henrico County is now at a SEVERE community transmission status per the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) - the highest level possible. In addition, the age distribution of new infections and hospitalizations has also shifted downward, with young kids representing a greater proportion of infections and hospitalizations than in previous months. This will only get worse if kids attend school without required masking and other mitigation strategies in place. Families are depending on you to follow the science and protect the health and safety of our kids and community. Our kids deserve to go to school without worrying about getting sick and spreading the virus to their immunocompromised, unvaccinated, or otherwise vulnerable family members, friends, and neighbors. We shouldn't ask our young kids and their parents to choose between going to school and staying healthy and safe. The science supports masks in schools. Wearing masks is a small sacrifice to make in order to ensure that our kids can remain safe while going to school, which we know is important for their intellectual, social, and emotional development. We are asking you to listen to the experts, follow the science, and reject making masks optional. Masks should continue to be required, especially for our most vulnerable unvaccinated students. We are happy to be in touch with any comments, questions, or concerns. Sincerely, Brendan M. & Stephanie H. Paget</p>
Jan. 26, 22 -- 9:35: AM	Edyta	Polkosnik	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I strongly believe that masks should still be mandatory at schools to protect our children. The vaccine is not preventing our children from being sick and we need other measures to keep kids safe.</p>
Jan. 26, 22 -- 9:43: AM	Robert	Kulak	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Remove the mask mandate. The decision whether to wear a mask for health reasons is up to parents per Commonwealth of Virginia law. Persons who want to wear a mask can still do so but the school system has no place in mandating it for every individual.</p>
Jan. 26, 22 -- 9:49: AM	Claudia	Serwe	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>The mask mandate hurts my child. Please refrain from boycotting EO2 and give parents their rights back to make health decisions for their children.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 9:52: AM	Sarah	Stewart	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I am a parent in Henrico County that demands parental choice on face coverings for our children in schools. The issue of face masks is based on facts- not opinions. The VA Dept of Education and the VA Dept of Health both voted on 1/21/22 to amend their current COVID mitigation plan to providing parental choice for face masks in K-12 schools. Additionally, our Governor has made an executive order allowing parental choice. Siobhan Dunnvant's SB 1303 which requires each local school division to make virtual and in-person learning available to all students by choice of the student's parent or guardian has been misinterpreted and used as a reason for necessitating face masks. Siobhan Dunnvant herself sent a letter on August 18 to you- superintendents and school boards- arguing that the law she sponsored (SB 1303) had been misrepresented by Northam to implement a mask mandate. On January 16, 2022 the CDC updated its guidance on face masks, saying loosely woven cloth masks offer the least protection against COVID-19 and N95 and KN95 masks offer the most. According to the FDA themselves, N95 masks are not designed for children because a proper fit cannot be achieved, may not provide full protection, and can cause long term pulmonary effects. Masks are not stopping or preventing the spread – they are ineffective. They are delaying speech, reading abilities and social interaction because kids cannot see the faces of their friends and teachers. The VA Dept of Education, the VA Dept of Health, and the GOVERNOR have all voted for parental choice. What leg do you have to stand on to require otherwise? Our children – our choice.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 9:57: AM	Cliff	Serwe	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please stop your mask mandate immediately. Allow parents to make health choices for their children. If masks work to stop the spread of the virus (which your mandatory policy suggests) then people who decide to have their children wear masks have wonderful protection for their children. If my unmasked child would endanger masked students and staff members, you are admitting masks are ineffective. Make masking optional based upon parental decisions immediately.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 10:04: AM	Erica	Nurse-Connell	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please keep the mask mandate for the rest of this school year. We have come so far and with the high positivity rate, high transmission and high absentee rate amongst teachers and students, we do not want to falter at this point. Masks work to protect the wearer and others! And in person school is crucial for our children's development so we should continue to employ all mitigations, especially the wearing of masks, that will reduce the spread of Covid in our schools. The health of our children, teachers and staff must come first and should not be a political matter.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 10:07: AM	Aruna	Francis	Henrico County	I would like to request choice for face masks. Please stop the mandate.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 10:08: AM	Elena	Huber	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I feel that the school mask mandate should remain in place, especially now, when Covid cases are higher than they have been at any point in the pandemic. I had hoped that we would see Covid cases plummet before starting the conversation to remove masks. Our medical providers, including pediatricians, are overwhelmed. We know that both vaccinated and unvaccinated children and teachers can spread and contract the virus. We count on the safety measures provided by our school system to help keep our children and families safe. Please keep mask requirements for Henrico County schools so school and community transmission do not become worse. Thank you for your consideration.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 10:13: AM	Sarah	Hinderliter	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	As the parent of an HCPS student, I ask that you please maintain the mask mandate for all school administrators, staff, faculty, students and visitors. I would even go so far as to encourage HCPS to join the lawsuit filed by other Virginia districts to overturn Gov. Youngkin's mask related EO. Thank you.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 10:34: AM	Nicholas	Tyler	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please uphold the mask mandate at HCPS!! I attend Deep Run High School. I fear for my safety and the safety of all the vulnerable students, as well as teachers and staff, if masks are made optional. Virginians have proven time and again that when given the choice, they DO NOT make the wise choice nor follow science. Too many people, particularly unvaccinated students, will forgo masks if given the choice. As Henrico's elected school board member, I ask you to listen to the people in your district and keep the mask mandate at Henrico schools.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 10:44: AM	Elizabeth	Florek	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	Please continue to support our educators and students by requiring masks for in person schooling. We are in the middle of a surge, for goodness' sake!

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 10:49: AM	Duncan	McCoxiner	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I would like to know what is being done about these violent fights going on in schools! Monday was Hungary Creek Middle and yesterday was Tucker High School. Other students film and put these on social media. (Parents, ask your kids to show you the videos as they know where they are housed on social media) Teachers and admin are prohibited from breaking up these fights. And you want to sit there as a school board and try to push police officers out of our schools?????? This board better hope none of my children are ever violently attacked on school grounds by another student. You all know this is going on and by not doing anything about it, you are allowing it to continue. SHAME ON YOU HENRICO COUNTY SCHOOLS! Unmasking these children would be only the first step in getting children back to a more normal sense of life. You are ruining our children. If you can't do the job of protecting our schools and children then PLEASE step down from your position(s) and allow someone with a backbone to whip these schools back into shape. Every single one of you that sits on this board including Cashwell should be ashamed at what these schools have become under your advisement. FIX IT NOW!!!! Public schools will defund themselves with the loss of pupils and if school choice ever becomes an option, public school will be ruined forever! Stop the politics, do your jobs and protect ALL of our children. It starts today!
Jan. 26, 22 -- 10:51: AM	Elizabeth	Hazlegrove	Ruby Carver ES	Please keep the mask mandate. We are right in the middle of a huge surge and this is not the time to make masks optional. Please keep our kids, teachers and staff safe. We have a younger daughter who is not eligible for vaccination as well as many older and vulnerable adults in our family that we rely on for childcare. Removing the mask mandate puts our families, kids and communities at risk by making schools a potential super spreader event.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 11:00: AM	Krsistin	Hutcherson	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Please consider revising the COVID Quarantine policy for the unvaccinated and vaccinated. Please follow the CDC recommendations along with the REVISED VDH K12 recommendations that students may return to school after day 5 if no symptoms. My daughter has missed learning for 10 days due to this policy. The school does NOT provide virtual learning, so she is on her own trying to keep up with teachers and their assignments. Teachers need to be responsive to students that are out for quarantine. I also believe it should be parent's choice to choose NO MASKS in school. They are a hindrance for learning, engaging and teaching. Students have suffered long enough and people need a choice. Depression is not being considered and kids are HIDING behind masks due to their lack of confidence. MAKE MASK OPTIONAL!

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 11:15: AM	Desiree	Hopkins	Live in Three Chopt, Work in Brookland, Two children in Brookland & Tuckahoe schools	You know masks work because if they didn't, you wouldn't be wearing them right now nor would you require them for everyone in this room. You also know that masks work because even if you lifted the student mask mandate, you would still require staff to wear them. We all want in-person school to remain and taking masks away would risk it. The school board was elected to make the best decision for all staff and students in Henrico county. Your job is to listen to medical experts of infectious diseases not the loudest parents screaming about "choice". If my car is broken, I seek advice from a mechanic, if I need help with my taxes I seek advice from an accountant, if I need help with a legal issues I seek advice from a lawyer. Why would you seek advice of lay people over epidemiologists? It is your job to keep your students and staff safe. You know masks work. Make the choice to keep schools open and protect all of HCPS. Period.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 11:19: AM	Jessica	Snodgrass	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Please remove the requirement for student masking on school grounds. Yes, SB 1303 states that you are expected to follow the CDC guideline; however, CDC *recommends* universal masking by students. Parents made the decision to have their child(ren) attend HCPS. Parents voted you into office. If you believe that parents are incapable of making the right decision for their family and community, then you are casting doubt on their choice to elect you and continue supporting HCPS.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 11:21: AM	Krithika	Krish	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	To mask or not to mask seem to be the hot button issue. While I don't envy your job, my suggestion would be to come up with a plan to de-mask eventually. Share with the community what criteria needs to be satisfied in order to eventually de-mask. For example you may announce to the community that when the daily new count goes down below a certain number in the county you would make masks optional. Or CDC/ federal guidelines change. Whatever it is share the plan with the community. A gradual change is the way to go without getting either side riled up.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 11:25: AM	Rachael	Kulak	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I am requesting that you choose law and science and common sense, and respect our rights to choose if masks are best for our children as per US Constitution, rulings from US Supreme Court, article 1-240.1 Rights of Parents in the Commonwealth (2013), Executive Order 2, and updated guidance from VDH. We have been wearing masks for nearly two years and there is an abundance of evidence in studies from CDC (2018), WHO, Sweden, Israel, Denmark, etc. supporting that masks do not work as a mitigation technique any more for Covid than they do for flu and other viruses. Numbers and data show no lessening of cases in communities where mask mandates/guidelines are followed. Speaking of numbers, deaths and hospitalization rates do not support masking our children and trampling our rights. Our children were never at a high risk for covid, and now with omicron variant, it is essentially a cold. Cases may rise and fall because this is a virus. Viruses spread, it is their nature to find a host. The SB1303 law says that our children have a right to an in-person education; it does not mandate masks. It was passed to ensure that our children have a legal right to learn in a classroom with their teacher instruction. For those children whose parents exercised their right to choose "no mask" beginning Jan 24, the students have been retaliated against and told to sit in the auditorium to work asynchronously without ANY instruction from teachers day in and day out. This is enough; it has to end. Last summer school boards were voting mask optional until Northam said no. School boards jumped up and listened to the governor; six months later, Youngkin reinforces parents' rights to choose what is best for their child, and all of sudden the school board will not listen to the governor. Even with the best of intentions, a school cannot make sound medical decisions for every individual child. Much of one's medical information is private and should be shared by the parents with a trusted physician. To make a blanket statement for all children and what is best for them without truly knowing, is unethical and dangerous. Beyond this, the parents' right to make medical decision has been reaffirmed by laws in our Commonwealth and most recently, by Governor Youngkin's EO2. Please let us all move on and get back to focusing on educating and preparing our young people, and allowing them to live life, as we move forward with personal responsibility and hope.</p>
Jan. 26, 22 -- 11:50: AM	Kelly	Edwards	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	Our children need to take the mask off!
Jan. 26, 22 -- 11:53: AM	Margaret	Bratton	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I support Youngkin's removal of the mask mandate 100%. Stop abusing our children by requiring them to remain masked.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 12:37: PM	Susan	Arnols	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Please do NOT change the mask rule in our schools. Parents signed the acknowledgment at the beginning of school agreeing to this, and they should be held accountable until the end of the school year. Especially when there is no virtual option for students who are not comfortable being at school when others are not required to wear masks. We need to be smart and listen to the fact that, even with masks, there are large numbers of students and teachers out sick. Taking masks away will only increase these numbers and put the education of our kids at risk (in a time when it's already not up to the level pre-pandemic!) Don't burden the already over worked administrators even more. Protect the most important people of this story-the kids and the employees.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 12:46: PM	Andrea	Berkshire	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Dear Henrico County School board, I have two children attending Freeman High School, and I am writing to express my dissatisfaction with Henrico's school board and the decision to mandate wearing masks at school. I ask you to reconsider your position. Mandating masks is not within the scope of your responsibilities- it is the parent's choice. The law requires our children to attend school, thus making attendance mandatory and not optional. If the students do not wear a mask as supported by our Elected Governor, they are subjected to retaliation by teachers and administration. They are attending school living in daily fear of retribution. This mandate effectively forces students to adhere to a totalitarian policy. The school board and administrator's subjective and inconsistent decisions have frustrated parents. For example, students must wear masks all day but are not required to wear them at school-sanctioned events after hours. Hundreds of students can dance in the stands at a football game-unmasked immediately following wearing them all day. Show choir must dance and sing with a mask yet sports aren't required to wear them. Abolishing this mandate does not prohibit anyone from choosing to wear a mask to protect themselves. We expect our elected school board members to honor our Governor's Executive Order as we've respected the previous Governor's Executive Orders and not make politically motivated decisions. After Hanover, Powhatan, and Chesterfield have voted to place mask-wearing in the hands of parents, it is time for Henrico to step up as well. I believe strongly that, like in the state of New York, the Virginia Supreme Court will deem this unconstitutional and place this decision back in the hands of the people and parents where it rightly belongs. As elected school board members, it is my sincerest hope that you will choose to operate within the constraints of your role and responsibilities and not endeavor to take away parental rights. Sincerely, Andrea Berkshire
Jan. 26, 22 -- 12:52: PM	Catherine H.	Jones	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I support the mask mandate for public schools. Until the threat of covid has dramatically declined,I believe it is in the public interest to take every precaution. I believe teachers and staff deserve the added protection the mandate can provide. Other than an annoyance and an inconvenience,I see no harm in requiring masks while failure to require wearing one puts others at risk.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 1:02: PM	Lucy	Berger	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please make masks optional. This has gone on long enough. Mask wearing is detrimental to the mental and emotional well-being of children. Furthermore, most masks are doing very little to mitigate Covid. This is a virus that will be around for a long time and we need to live with it and return to normal. If there are parents and students who wish to continue wearing masks, that should be their choice. They can wear multiple masks, face shields, etc. But those of us who are ready to move on should have the same choice. At this point we need to return to the days of common sense. Parents should have the ability to make all decisions regarding their child's health. Thank you.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 1:13: PM	Andy	Tyler	Deep Run	We need to keep wearing masks to keep everyone in our schools safe.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 1:17: PM	Paula	Chambers	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I write in support of maintaining mask requirements for everyone in the school setting: administrators, faculty, staff, students, coaches, etc. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, we knew masks were useful in preventing the spread of germs -- which is why those working in hospital operating rooms were always masked, gowned, and gloved. We are nearly two years into this pandemic, and the virus continues to spread and mutate because we have people who refuse vaccination and mask-wearing. If our students are to continue to learn in an in-person school setting, which is where many students learn best, we need to do everything we can to protect them and one another from the spread of the virus. This isn't a matter of personal freedom; this is a matter of public health and for the good of all.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 2:03: PM	Andy	C.	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	It's beyond time to unmask our students. Masking is unsanitary, unnecessary, and detrimental to learning on every level. And, with that; no bullying, no coercion, no segregation, no discrimination! Let's stop with the unnecessary and discriminatory testing, too. Enough! Let's get back to common sense; stay home if you are sick, return when you are well. No more quarantining of healthy students. It's absurd!
Jan. 26, 22 -- 2:15: PM	Ken	Robertson	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please follow the CDC guidelines to provide the safest environment for everyone. I understand that some find it inconvenient, but please keep the mask mandate in place until the guidelines change.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 2:35: PM	christina	foster	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Almost 2 years into this pandemic it is time to return our schools to normal. This is not the emergency of 2020! While the number of COVID cases remain high, this variant is much milder, especially in children. Every teacher, staff member and school age child has now had access to the vaccine, had COVID or decide not to get vaccinated. There is no reason to continue to keep doing the same risk mitigation strategies from last year. The school should not have to be responsible for contact tracing. Our children are exposed more outside of school with their social lives and extra-curricular activities. There is no need for schools to be contact tracing students from unknown students in unknown classes. Vaccinated students vs unvaccinated students no longer need to be treated differently -- both can get COVID and transmit COVID. This is well supported by science and the CDC. Masking with cloth masks is also unnecessary . Numerous studies have supported this. Parents are best at knowing what is best for their child's health. It is up to them if they want their child vaccinated or not. It is up to them to have them wear a mask or not. It is not HCPS who has to be responsible for this anymore. Let's return the schools to normal. Our children need HCPS to do this for their mental health and well being.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 2:42: PM	Kathy	Boughton	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	The contact tracing needs to please stop. The staff at schools can not keep up with this pace and this workload. They are overworked, underpaid and tired. Omicron is now a common cold or the flu. Parents need to keep kids home if they are sick and send them back 24 hours after fever free. Just like we used to do. Vaccinated or not it doesn't matter. Stop the testing and let the staff do their regular jobs now. The VDH has given up contact tracing the NFL isn't even testing now why are we...Private schools are just sending letters home if a positive case is in their class like we used to do for lice. Why not try that approach so parents know to watch their kids even closer for those next five days? Please stop giving admin and staff more work with this contact tracing, it isn't their jobs anymore. Thank you.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 2:43: PM	Jaffar	Al khudhur	Henrico	Mask is important to prevent spread of virus and protect children from disease
Jan. 26, 22 -- 2:45: PM	Jeannine	Chewning	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	This comment concerns Governor Youngkin's new "tip line" for parents and students to report teachers of "divisive subjects." I am very worried about how the state will use this against educators and what conflicts this might present to HCPS employees in terms of due process. What can the Henrico School Board do to protect its employees from this harassment? I would love to see the School Board make a statement of support for its employees and offer direction for staff related to these concerns.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 2:57: PM	Jessica	Wade	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	1. Masks are prohibitive of students learning. Students can hear more clearly, speak more clearly, and interact more clearly without the use of masks. 2. Masks are unhealthy. Students need to breathe air other than their own. 3. We need to stop instilling fear in our children by making them wear masks. They are believing that if they do not wear the mask correctly, then they may hurt themselves or someone else. We cannot allow them to carry that.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 2:57: PM	Jules	Irvin-Rooney	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Keep masks in the school—I live in the Tuckahoe district, and I work in the Three Chopt district as a brand new English teacher at Tucker HS. I am immune compromised, and I also care so much about the health and safety of my students and my fellow staff. It will not be a safe environment to teach in or for students to learn in if we make masks optional. Please respect this teacher’s voice and concerns—I want to be teaching in person, but the only way I can do that is for us to require masks.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 2:59: PM	Lindsey	Guirgues	Kaechlae elementary school	To the HCPS School Board: please vote to maintain the face mask mandates in all HCPS. We know masks are not the be all end all in COVID mitigation but we also know nothing as a singular mitigation strategy is. Please vote to keep the current measures in place while we continue to rise the wave of Omicron. I work In Healthcare and see the overcrowding and other patients waiting exorbitant times for care. I see families suffering when they can’t be seen or are gasping for air from COVID. Don’t take away a critical tool in the scientific mitigation of COVID transmission. This is a public health crisis and we should continue to treat it as such. Thank you for your consideration.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 3:35: PM	Colin	Rooney	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	My wife and I reside in the Tuckahoe district, she works as a teacher at HCP. We have seen first hand that masks protect everyone from COVID. We implore you to keep the mask requirement at HCPS. My wife is immune compromised, and in order for her to be an effective teacher she needs to be safe and her students need to be safe: this is accomplished through the multilayers mitigation process HCPS has currently in place. Essentially, keep the mask mandate. Thank you.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 3:40: PM	Dionne	Kumpe	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>Thank you for continuing to advocate for our children and those who educate, advise, and otherwise support them through our school system. HCPS has done an incredible job under difficult circumstances. That HCPS is continuing to follow CDC guidelines, while also taking into consideration recommendations of the American Association of Pediatrics, means so much to me as a parent. We took advantage of the district's virtual learning when offered. The only reason we were comfortable going back to an in-person environment was universal masking and other mitigations. Even though my children are vaccinated and boosted, I would not feel comfortable sending them to school if masks were merely recommended but optional. We have someone in our family who is at risk and who we are trying to protect them. Also, we come from a family of teachers so we are sensitive to their burdens and risks as well. Universal masking helps minimize the risk of symptomatic and asymptomatic spread of COVID-19, which is why the CDC and AAP strongly recommend it indoors. If someone is unable to mask for medical or religious reasons, you already provide allowances for that. We are still in a pandemic even though we all very much want it to end. Let's do our part to help that happen by committing to reducing the burden already on healthcare workers and systems in our community and by using all mitigation measures available to us. State law now says we must keep schools open while adhering to the CDC recommendations. Those guidelines have not changed, so please do not change your stance on universal masking. Thank you!</p>
Jan. 26, 22 -- 3:50: PM	Sharon	Carlyle	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I strongly urge you to keep the school mask mandate in place for the safety and protection of all of our children. Thank you.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 4:03: PM	Maureen	Hicks	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>Given the happenings of the last couple of weeks and HCPS's decision to defy Governor Youngkin's Executive Order #2 allowing parents to make decisions for their children regarding wearing masks, I am asking that the board discuss a plan for removing the mask mandate as soon as possible. I am asking that the discussion and plan begin as so many localities across the country lost the mask mandate months ago, local counties have been dropping the mask mandate over the last week. HCPS hasn't even communicated a plan for removal in the future. I am also asking the Board to please inform parents as soon as possible with updates regarding the test kits to implement the Test to Stay plan. Is it in a week? Is it in three months? HCPS is lacking communication in these areas. I would also like to express my concern and disappointment with the timing of the announcement regarding the decision to change the quarantine for close contacts from ten to five days. Why did it take the Health Committee three days after their meeting on January 10th to announce it to the school board and four days to implement it (after already waiting several days after the CDC and VDH changed their recommendations to even make a decision for HCPS)? Do you realize that children were unnecessarily in quarantine during that time merely waiting for your decision? Do you realize every unnecessary quarantine day is a day lost for live learning? Again, HCPS lacked communication as well as efficient planning in this.</p>
Jan. 26, 22 -- 4:06: PM	Jodi	Roth	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I'm writing regarding HPCS mask mandate. I truly hope that HPCS follows the science and Governor Youngkin's executive order #2. When will enough be enough? Every child and teacher has the option to be vaccinated and boosted. HPCS says every decision is based on what's best for all kids, well I could not disagree more. What's best for my child is to be in an interactive classroom setting without her mask. For those who claim they are still afraid, they can wear a mask or two or three if they so chose since they so believe that the mask work. We the parents have been patient enough while HPSC sat our kids at home for 365 days while science and the Academy of American Pediatrics both said kids are safer in school. We are fed up and tired of the politics this board is playing when it comes to this virus. Let this be a personal choice to wear a mask or not. Why is it that only one side of this issue is running the entire show for all HPSC students and parents who wish to not have their child wear a mask. My daughter has done her part and is fully vaccinated and yet still continues to pay at the hands of this board. Again, those who wish to wear a mask can still wear one. I hope HCPS joins all the surrounding localities that have now made it a choice.</p>

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 4:10: PM	Noah	Laurence	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Hello - thank you for taking the time to read this comment. I appreciate the time and energy the board spends developing policies for the students in Henrico county, particularly in this challenging and divisive environment. It is meaningful work, and I commend you. I'll make two more specific comments/requests. First, I appreciate the weekly communication from my student's principal that includes the number of COVID cases and close contacts. I value this weekly information. I would also find helpful knowing the weekly number of hospitalizations and deaths arising from COVID in those weekly communications. Does the county maintain those records? If so, please share. If not, why not? More broad awareness of the hospitalization and death rates of COVID among the student and staff population may help align parents and staff behind selected policies. Second, I see that the school district's mission is focused on students, and I wholeheartedly agree. The board was elected for their expertise on students and education, not on their public policy or public health expertise. Please keep in mind that your remit is to maintain student safety and wellness. It is not to implement policies intended to protect the community as a whole. We have other government agencies/offices more qualified for that task. Thank you again for reading this comment, and I would be happy to speak further upon request.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 4:23: PM	Ali	Holmes	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I encourage the board to follow science and not parent preference, as is the case with other public health issues. We need to protect teachers, students, and those they go home to who may be more vulnerable. An infection that may be assumed mild for one child could be deadly to a parent or other loved one. Please think as a community and not a political statement.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 4:26: PM	Katie	Morgan	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I support keeping masks on everyone (students/staff/visitors) as a mitigation measure in our schools. I thank the administration for stepping up right away to state their position clearly and with explanation. I hope the School Board will also continue to support the mask mandate as one of several effective mitigation tools as recommended by the CDC.

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the January 27 monthly meeting:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 4:28: PM	Rachel	Kelly	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Regarding COVID protocols in our schools: In an article from the Richmond Times Dispatch 1/25/22, the Virginia Department of Health is no longer using contact tracing, "embracing the fact that the practice is no longer effective". It is time for Henrico County to lead the way and do the same. I also encourage each of you to read a toolkit put together by local physicians titled "Children, COVID, and the urgency of normal". "This toolkit is intended to help everyone who needs to make evidence-based decisions for pre-K and K-12 schools and extracurricular activities. It summarizes the most important data regarding COVID and children of all ages so you can be empowered" and is intended for "parents, students, mentors, teachers, and administrators". I have attached the link - https://static1.squarespace.com/static/61e5afd7a33d334ec9f84595/t/61f15309afea78477fa58787/1643205385781/Urgency+of+Normal+Toolkit.pdf or it can be found at www.urgencyofnormal.com</p> <p>One thing that it frequently refers to is the continued and escalated fear of COVID that we are overwhelming our children with. By discontinuing some of the COVID protocols that are just for show, we can minimize that.</p> <p>Thank you for taking your time to explore every option with the best interest of our children at stake.</p>
Jan. 26, 22 -- 4:30: PM	Jennifer	Farmer	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>Unmask our children! IF you as a school board have any concern for children this needs to be a parental choice not forced by an unscientific mandate! This board is picking and choosing what "science" they follow. The CDC has very specifically stated that cloth and improperly worn/unfitted mask offer no protection. Have you seen children wear mask? I can assure you they are improperly worn and not well fitted. Most are cloth. You are choosing to let irrational (unscientific/ non data driven) fear of some parents/teachers drive your decision for all students. This is completely unacceptable. Once again Hanover leads the way from ensuring open schools last year to letting parents determine the need from mask based off of their own family's assessment. It is very clear that this board does not stand for children! It is not our children's job to shoulder the fear of adults and continue with practices that are not scientifically supported.</p>