

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the June 23 monthly meeting:
Jun. 7, 22 -- 10:07: AM	Tabatha	Williams	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Teacher pay scale needs adjusting for more transparency, along with years of experience matching steps. Mind-blowing at 16+ years of experience--ALL IN HENRICO, I am only on step 8.
Jun. 7, 22 -- 10:42: PM	Shane	Gorman	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	The county should be obliged to fund public schooling. Forcing students and students' families to pay school fees and help fund the public school outside of taxation is wrong. Many impoverished families in Henrico County are unable to pay these school fees due to other financial burdens. HCPS should be 100% free for all Henrico families regardless of economic status. Forcing Henrico families to pay school fees is an injustice in the system and does not allow for equality in the education system. Specifically, Speciality Center fees are hurting those that are less fortunate and impoverished. By forcing Speciality Center fees, this makes those of lower economic status forced to not apply. This system only benefits those higher in the economic status, therefore not allowing room for diversity in HCPS.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the June 23 monthly meeting:
Jun. 10, 22 -- 11:12: PM	Tammy	Tomanek	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	<p>My name is Tammy Tomanek, ASSE International Student Exchange Program Area Representative. I am writing to you and the board members today seeking approval for two international students, from Estonia and Poland. They would be attending Highland Springs High School for the 2022-2023 school year. The host family, Mr. and Mrs. Griffth who live in the Highland Spring community would like to host the two students and are eager to begin communications with both girls however, we must get the eSAL to complete the placement before they can begin any communications. The family has previously hosted students in another part of Virginia and since moved to your district. They are upstanding citizen and have had great success in hosting our students over the years. Both students are recipients of the prestigious FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange Program) scholarship award by the US Department of State. These students have gone through a rigorous process to be awarded such scholarship. Each student competed against thousands of other applicants in their country. From the 3,000 plus students who applied for the scholarship only 50 – 100 students receive this scholarship. ASSE is CSIET certified, by the watch-dog organization responsible for securing high quality standards in student exchange programs, and the U.S. Department of State, which continues to support our scholarship programs. International student exchange is a life-changing experience for everyone involved – including the high school communities that welcome them. The students, faculty, and parents at Highland Springs High school will enjoy positive memories and learn irreplaceable lessons about the world because of their personal interactions with a young person from another part of the globe. We ask for their acceptance today as it is proven that the sooner the host families can begin communicating with their students, the more successful their year is. Thank you for your time and consideration. And most importantly, thank you in advance for welcoming ASSE International Exchange Students to your school! “Together we can change the World” Tammy Tomanek ASSE Area Representative</p>

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the June 23 monthly meeting:
Jun. 22, 22 -- 11:12: AM	Amy	Kenyon	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>After reviewing the agenda items for the next meeting, I find it interesting that this board is trying to impose limitations that infringe upon a citizens constitutional right to freedom of speech in agenda item 5.02: "Speakers, during public comment time, public hearings, and town halls, shall respect the privilege extended by the School Board by using commonly accepted rules of courtesy, respect, civility, and decorum. The use of obscenity or defamation is strictly prohibited and shall be ruled out of order by the School Board Chair." Yet, the very next agenda item 5.03, the board " recognizes the First Amendment Rights of employees to engage in political activity when acting as a private citizen on their own time". I am pretty sure any policy change that would limit any citizens right to freedom of speech would be unconstitutional and challenged and I am surprised that your legal department hasn't made you aware of this. I will also add that you are a board comprised of ELECTED OFFICIALS meaning you were voted in by the citizens of Henrico County. By being an elected official, your job, among other things is to listen to and represent your all of you constituents to the best of your ability. It is the job that you signed up for so board members that can't handle the comments from stakeholders during the public comment portion of the meetings should resign and allow for someone else to assume their role and duties. And although I understand their must be a time limit for public comment, (a policy that should have allowed 3 minutes but hasn't been followed since 2020) to set a 2 minute time limit is ridiculous. The citizens and employees that show up to speak during public comment typically bring up the same issues over and over so why not work on fixing those issues instead of watching a clock for the 2 minute mark to pass so you can shut off the speakers mic.</p>

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the June 23 monthly meeting:
Jun. 22, 22 -- 12:35: PM	J	B	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Thank you for revising the draft Citizen Stakeholder Participation policy to protect First Amendment rights and include the display of signs, posters, etc. during public meetings. I am still concerned by the proposed changes to the Political Activities policy and the allowance of teachers to use political materials in their curriculum. While the policy may state that political candidates and parties cannot be treated more or less favorably than another candidate or party, there is no mechanism in place to ensure such fairness. As stated, this policy is formally allowing our classrooms to be political incubators. Furthermore, it sets up more controversy and antagonism between families and teachers. Allowing the use of political materials in a teacher's curriculum in this policy will cause greater issues within the school community. The Political Activities policy must be revised again if the School Board is serious about fulfilling the Relationship cornerstone of "building authentic, trusting connections that encourage collaboration and engagement among students, families, staff and communities".</p>