

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Jan. 26, 22 -- 4:55: PM	Tamara	Broughton	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Please make mask-wearing optional for all students giving parents the freedom to decide what is best for our children. Thank you.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 4:57: PM	Tamara	Leopold	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	In the case of COVID-19, you can not protect yourself from those infected if they are not masked. Your right to personal safety is determined by those around you. Therefore, it is the responsibility of everyone to protect those in their community that are vulnerable. If masks become optional, then my children should have the option to learn virtually from their current teachers. These teachers should have the right to teach virtually and not forced to be in a dangerous situation. It's time to think of others and not just yourself.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 4:58: PM	Evan	Quimby	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Keeping our children, teachers and all school personnel safe must be the number one priority on everyone's agenda. Universal masking is the best way to ensure that schools can stay open for in person learning with adequate staff and a full complement of students. Anything short of a mask requirement shows a total lack of respect for every person inside our schools. Sadly, civic responsibility and community well being need to be taught, emphasized and exemplified by the adults in charge. No parent has the right to jeopardize the health and safety of others in school due to lack of capacity to understand what civic responsibility is.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 5:41: PM	Allison	Carpenter	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Science has shown that mask usage helps contain the spread of the virus in enclosed spaces. Mask wearing is inexpensive and effective. This is a good option to help slow the spread of the virus. Many alternatives are more expensive and proven to be less effective. Keeping schools open should be a high priority so maintaining mandates to help keep the virus from multiplying as quickly should be of the utmost importance.

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Jan. 26, 22 -- 5:55: PM	Keri	Fail	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please keep masks in school in place for now. While cloth masks don't seem to be as effective in preventing Omicron transmission, it's still better than going without. With the transmission rate over 30% anything that limits the transmission rate should remain in place to keep kids in school. I would like to see the School Board start talking about when masks become optional but I'd rather that be based on positivity rates below X% for Y amount of time not based on an EO that is in direct conflict with a bipartisan-passed state law. Kids have been wearing masks all year and while no one is thrilled about it, it's become part of the normal dress code. Yes, we all want to get to a place where masks are no longer needed, but when transmission rates are completely out of control, taking actions that potentially exacerbate that situation is both ludicrous and dangerous.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 7:33: PM	Elizabeth	Hawthorne	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Please keep our kids safe by keeping the mask mandate in place until the pandemic is brought under control, or until declared endemic with all the protocols that will come along with that, such as a mandatory vaccine policy for school-age children (such as with whooping cough and measles). Keep the mandate.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 9:18: PM	Rebecca	Martink	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please consider shortening quarantine for COVID positive students and staff to 5 days, to reflect current CDC guidance. It is past time. I am a parent of 3 students in two HCPS schools and I teach in a third school in the county. The current policy discourages people from being honest about their symptoms and testing results, because most cases are mild and a 10-day quarantine isn't warranted. Students do not disclose this information because they don't want to miss school, and parents don't test children for the same reason. As a parent, I understand this practice even if I find it unethical and would not do it myself. At the same time, please do not require hybrid teaching to accommodate students at home in an effort to "make everyone happy". This practice will not only wreak havoc on an already overwhelmed system, but it will encourage other students in our population to lie so that they can stay home and do nothing.

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Jan. 26, 22 -- 9:46: PM	Kristen	Baker	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	We should continue to wear masks bc it protects from spread of other illnesses like the flu and cold. Wearing masks Travis's kids to care about other people's health and well being. Those who don't want to wear masks are teaching their kids that their individual needs are more important than society as a whole.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 9:49: PM	Megan	Nelson	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Stop muzzling our children like rabid dogs. This madness must STOP. Masks do nothing work and it is a farce. Children are depressed and have the highest rates of depression and suicide since World War 2. (Source: Time magazine). This must end. Stop making our children suffer for an illness for which they can recover in 2 days or have no illness at all. While adults, celebrities, and everyone else in the world carries on freely mask free. Stop this insanity.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 9:50: PM	Heather	Pote	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Follow the science. Keep the mask mandate until Covid numbers (and CDC) dictate it is safe. Otherwise you will continue with horrible staff shortages.
Jan. 26, 22 -- 10:23: PM	Francie	Mann	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Parents should be able to choose how our students learn on classroom. If we choose not to mask our children, our parental decision should be respected. Also, teachers should also have the option not to mask. It hinders reading and speaking comprehension.
Jan. 27, 22 -- 8:05: AM	Rebecca	Bergman	Nuckols farm elementary	I support the decision to keep masking in schools for all persons, especially through the omicron wave. I support science and evidence based decisions. As you know, there are still members of our community that are not eligible to be vaccinated (under 5), and we should mask/mitigate until they are able. Thank you

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Jan. 27, 22 -- 9:05: AM	Eva	Cauble	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please keep masks mandated in Henrico county public schools. Our students need to stay in school, we need them protected, and need to protect our teachers, school staff, and their families.
Jan. 27, 22 -- 10:01: AM	Richard	Owens	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Your office told me it is a state "law" that our children have to wear masks, that is false. I want our children free to breath and not wearing a Useless medical device which causes more harm than good. Take the masks off of our children or I will be taking Legal Action against the school board as a whole and ever person individually. Do not make the mistake of thinking you are untouchable. #SaveOurChildren Just following orders will not hold up in a court of law, so think long and hard about what your doing.
Jan. 27, 22 -- 10:42: AM	Jessica	Haddad	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Please preserve HCPS's current mask policy until the community positivity rate has reached a safe level, as to be determined by public health officials. It is in the best interest of our community to use every strategy possible to prevent transmitting the virus. Please put clear metrics in place that will require the use of masks when the positivity rate is above a determined threshold, and will allow unmasking when the positivity rate is below this threshold. Please also develop a more comprehensive strategy for COVID mitigation that includes better ventilation in our schools. I am especially concerned about schools like Godwin HS and Quioccasin MS that do not have windows to allow for circulation of fresh air. Please also consider providing all teachers and school personnel with high-quality, N95 respirators.

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Jan. 27, 22 -- 10:51: AM	Dee	Good	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	When will Jacob L Adams be reviewed for upgrades. The power at the school goes out on more than once a school year. This is not acceptable and should be top priority. Power outages are a safety issue's especially during these times when ventilation is key to stopping the spread. I feel this school is underserved and ignored by the school board and our representative. Why are these children being ignored?? Also when will the basketball hoops be added back to Adams playground, the children have nothing to play with during recess.
Jan. 27, 22 -- 8:04: PM	Faith	Parkinson	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I want to voice my support in the continuation of the mask mandate in schools until community numbers are low. Parents have a right to feel safe sending their children to school.
Jan. 28, 22 -- 2:16: PM	Yumei	Silva	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	VDH and HCPS have stopped contact tracing and reduced the COVID positive isolation to 5 days, it's time to stop the athlete testing. Omicron takes up 98% positive cases and infects both vaccinated and unvaccinated AND a few counties have stopped school mask mandate, there is really no point in continuing weekly athlete testing. Thanks,
Jan. 28, 22 -- 9:20: PM	Jenny	Ross	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I appreciate you continuing to review covid mitigation strategies and what makes sense based on community transmission. Please continue to require masks as a mitigation strategy when community transmission is high. I hope you will use the health advisory committee to develop guidelines for when mitigation strategies can be changed. Using data to determine these changes rather than an arbitrary date is so important in keeping our kids and community healthy. Thank you for all you do!

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Jan. 31, 22 -- 9:19: AM	Melissa	Reis	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	It has been brought to my attention that a school in Henrico County is allowing students to choose whether or not to wear masks. I look forward to reading your next email to parents with children in the Henrico School District that masks are now optional. You have muzzled our children and denied them their right to breathe clean air for far too long. You have denied parents their right to make medical decisions for their own children for far too long. You have denied my special needs child his right to adequate speech therapy for far too long. Make masks optional for all of Henrico county. It's past time.
Jan. 31, 22 -- 9:23: PM	Tartesha	Bennett	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	School issues effecting my home life and now I need to talk to someone to get these matters in order
Feb. 1, 22 -- 3:01: PM	Kevin	Kubota	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Dear Ms. Shea and School Board members Thank you for your work on the school board. I can not imagine the stress you and the others are under. It is a difficult time for all of us. I just wanted to add my two cents into the matter of masks in schools. Real quickly: Masks do not prevent infection. In fact it causes more harm to us all: physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually. Teachers, along with students, should have the right to determine for ourselves how we want to take care of our health. The ability to self-govern is fundamental to the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. I find it hard to believe that a small group of people can control how so many of us live. Thank you for your consideration. Kevin Kubota, (almost) 28 years at Freeman High School

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Feb. 4, 22 -- 9:13: AM	Judy	Turbeville	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>You have followed the medical advice of various experts to conclude that masks should be worn in Henrico schools by the students, teachers and staff. Dr. Scott Gottlieb, former commissioner of the FDA and author of UNCONTROLLED SPREAD on the pandemic, is speaking out on the mask mandates. Please read his comments made on CNBC.<a href="https://cnb.cx/3ulubHS">https://cnb.cx/3ulubHS</a> Months ago the experts acknowledged that cloth masks were of little use against the Omicron COVID virus. Educators and psychologists have revealed the challenges that masks present children from speech to social to visual impediments. There is also the wasted time teachers spend reminding students to put on masks properly. The Henrico School Board can follow the lead of Dr. Gottlieb and allow the students, teachers and staff the option of not wearing a mask. This positive decision at the February Henrico School Board meeting would be welcomed by Henrico County residents.</p>

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 4, 22 -- 10:54: AM	Gus	Prokopis	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	<p>Board Members, The recent discovery of guns in Henrico County schools over the past several months should and has raised alarms to all of us. In this day and time, there is no reason any gun should be found inside of a Henrico County school. They need to be stopped at the door. How many school shootings over the past years and decades since Columbine happened in schools with metal detectors at the doors? It's a small price to pay for the safety of the children everybody says they care about. You cannot depend on someone telling a teacher or another student that someone showed them a gun or may have a gun. The student that shows off or tells a friend they have a gun are not the ones that are going to use it. It's the ones that do or say nothing to get attention that will get our students and teachers killed. With all the surplus money the County seems to have, I would hope metal detectors is at least on someone's mind. You can certainly keep my real estate tax rebate to put towards the cost and I think a majority of other citizens would agree. We have all been inconvenienced over the past couple years. We have had our heads scanned for fever, asked questions as to where we have been or who we have been around, denied access, and as for me and my wife, who suppose to be retired, became teachers of our 3 grandchildren who were at home learning and now seems like one of them is always in quarantine for one reason or another. I believe metal detectors would give parents and family members a greater sense of security and would be a welcomed inconvenience. Thanks for your time.</p> <p>Gus Prokopis</p>
Feb. 4, 22 -- 7:41: PM	Lesco	Brandon	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>You are a despicable group of people who doesn't care at all about kids! Masks DO NOT WORK and making kids wear them is pure torture. If you cared at all about the kids and not your own agendas you would stop this nonsense! Enough is enough!</p>
Feb. 4, 22 -- 9:50: PM	Angela	Fowler	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>Please listen to the parents and educators. We at this point in the pandemic are ready to move on. Masks need to be optional for everyone. Students, teachers, employees. Enough is enough</p>

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Feb. 5, 22 -- 12:58: PM	Myra	Moran	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I wanted to extend my gratitude and respect for the time and thoughtfulness you've put into keeping my kids safe and healthy this year. We moved to Virginia from southern California this summer and my kids started 9th grade at Freeman and 6th at Tuckahoe Middle. We have been so impressed with the district, school and classroom leadership. My kids are healthy and thriving. I wanted to acknowledge all your efforts in helping us adapt to so much "new." Thank you for doing the hard work, making the hard decisions and dealing with all the unexpected challenges of the past years and months. I and my family are grateful.
Feb. 5, 22 -- 9:53: PM	Laura	Santacruz	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Why did HCPS allow parental choice with masks last summer and when it was suggested by the governor it became rule. Now that this governor has issued an EO, HCPS doesn't allow parental choice. Stop using our children as political pawns. This isn't about health, it's politics and it's disgusting. The masks have been proven time and again to be ineffective and cause more harm than good in speech delays, audio processing issues, anxiety, fungal infections, headaches...they are useless in stopping the spread of a virus. Please wake up and use common sense, not propaganda. You're on the wrong side of history and are children are the victims of these poor decisions.

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Feb. 5, 22 -- 10:06: PM	Tuckahoe	Parent	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I am the mother of TMS and TES students, and I am an 8-year employee of Henrico County Public Schools. I am asking that the health committee lift the mandatory mask requirement. I have been in favor of health mitigations from the very beginning of the pandemic, and for nearly two years my family has erred toward caution. During this time, I have been a close observer of voices on both extremes of the Covid mitigation discussions, and in recent weeks, I feel the temperature changing. The anger between the two groups has reached a fever pitch, and I fear for the future dynamics of our county if we cannot bring people together. Meanwhile, the majority of people I speak to are beginning to feel more comfortable with masks being optional. As the omicron wave subsides, we realize that the risks to our students and children are not what we once feared. We've observed other counties and states go unmasked safely, and we also recognize that many students will continue to wear masks. This time last year we were at a similar point with returning to school in person. For those of us that gave it a try, it was wonderful. Kids needed to be back in the buildings, and even with all of the extra protections in place, it was great. It was also great for just some families to do it. It gave confidence to families that stayed home to come back this fall. So I encourage you to do the same with masks. Allow it to be optional. Let those who are comfortable with unmasking give it a try, and let those that are not ready to continue to wear them. Let us show our children that it is possible to come to different conclusions on an issue but remain part of the same community. Our children and our students are watching us. Let's show them that it's possible to find common ground.</p>
Feb. 6, 22 -- 8:12: AM	Jill	Dunlap	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>MASKS are the most paramount issue facing your families right now. Families deserve CHOICE. Stop the abuse of power, include MASKS on the agenda and own up to your erroneous decisions.</p>

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 6, 22 -- 11:08: AM	Laurie	Melton	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Hanover County Schools had in-person school last year. They have discontinued their mask mandate. According to today's VA Dept of Health Website, their locality has exactly 13 more cases than the locality of Henrico. Thirteen. Our children have suffered and will continue to suffer because of your decisions for 2 years. Other school systems near us are fairing well with far less restriction. You only let up the contact tracing because you did not have the manpower to keep up with it. It is very clear that you will NEVER listen to parents. You have shown that through this entire pandemic. When you have had the chance to lift restrictions you haven't despite seeing the success of it in neighboring communities. If the masks work to protect the children wearing them, then they will be fine. They don't need another mask to protect them if their mask works. Do they work or not? The fact that it is not a choice confirms that you know that an individual mask does not work and does not protect.</p>

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 6, 22 -- 12:18: PM	Banned	Volunteer	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Please revisit the district stance on volunteers in buildings and whether the perceived benefit of their absence outweighs the benefit of their presence. As a sub, I can come into a building without any COVID testing or proof of vaccination - yet parents cannot volunteer in buildings. Why? How much sense does that make? Volunteers provide immense value and relief to school staff. Clearly, schools are increasingly overwhelmed right now - and volunteers could fill a void they traditionally have filled. We have increasing examples of the need for MORE adult presence in schools - Yet HCPS continues to ban free support from willing volunteers. Why is that? Visit any social media platform and you can find videos of fights in our schools, and we had TWO (known) incidents of guns being brought to our high schools just last week. Volunteer presence Could allow for school personnel to work on tasks volunteers cannot do - whereas right now they are doing ALL the tasks while working with fewer resources. Please reconsider your stance that school employees should be doing more with fewer resources. It is not fair nor right to continue to withhold volunteer help from our schools. Recent events emphasize that our school staff cannot effectively manage the risks they are trying to balance; while you withhold ready and willing assistance from them.</p> <p><a href="https://twitter.com/cbseveningnews/status/1451684521947156485?s=21">https://twitter.com/cbseveningnews/status/1451684521947156485?s=21</a></p>

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Feb. 6, 22 -- 4:18: PM	Data	Seeker	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Before making any more statements regarding the number of families who do not want to mask at school, please send out a survey asking families their preference on the matter - and publish those results. This will help set the record straight regarding whether or not only a very small number of families do not want to mask now. Saying that is the case when you haven't asked the families is dishonest. People are showing they are unable to differentiate between the number of students presently showing up without masks and the number of students who WANT to be unmasked. There could be a variety of reasons why a student who does not want to mask is staying masked. It is false logic to assume that just because a student is wearing a mask, that they want to. Also - If you have evidence of the contract HCPS says families signed agreeing to wear masks all year; please share it.
Feb. 6, 22 -- 5:12: PM	Caroline	Budwell	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Please consider lifting the mask mandate. Our children have suffered enough.
Feb. 7, 22 -- 7:37: AM	PRICE	MCLEAN	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I would like to know if HCPS is going to track the number of COVID cases per capita and compare that to counties that have adopted Gov. Youngkin's EO2 to see if there is a quantitative difference? So if the daily average in Henrico is X/100 students what is the same average in counties that are not wearing masks?
Feb. 7, 22 -- 7:54: AM	Daniel	Bonilla	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Hanover and Chesterfield counties have allowed masks to be optional...and this school board needs to get with the program. SB 1303 allows school boards to "update specific parameters for the provision of in-person instruction", and CDC guidelines on mask wearing for kids, is only a recommendation....not a requirement by law or regulation. Out of sheer common sense, and for the psychological well being of our children, this school board needs to grow a spine, and update the safety parameters to make masks optional.

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 7, 22 -- 8:17: AM	Stephanie	Felder	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I'd like to thank the Board for maintaining the safety of our schools by requiring masks. Many school boards are not listening to the parents of the children and your decision clearly indicates you are considering all the voices - not only the loud minority. We are so grateful for a district that trusts science and does everything to protect children. Keep up the good work and do not let the strength you have shown dissipate. Many parents and students are grateful to you for all of your hard work.
Feb. 7, 22 -- 9:15: AM	Christopher	deTreville	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	Dear Madam, I am writing to you today to express my sincere disappointment at your decision to continue the mask mandate in the Henrico Public School System. I am a product of Henrico County Schools, as are my three children. Currently my two grandchildren, who I routinely help care for, attend Maybeury Elementary school. I have lived and paid taxes in Henrico my entire life. The Governor of the Commonwealth has rescinded the mask mandate, allowing parents to make health decisions for their children. No one is being told they can't wear a mask, but rather parents now should have the right to decide for themselves. I am deeply saddened by the boards decision to ignore the Governor's Executive Order. This has gotten absolutely ridiculous. There are ZERO studies that show cloth masks work to slow the COVID virus. NONE. The children that you are FORCING to wear masks are the least likely to actually contract the virus. There have been a total of 910 deaths in children from Covid since March of 2020. That sounds like a lot, until you realize that there are 50.7 million students in the US. Maybe you can have the math department tell you the death rate of our children using those numbers. I'll give you a hint. It's shockingly small. And for this you have permanently scarred and terrorized our children. You have let down the people who voted for you. It's YOU who have harmed our children, not COVID. Parents have rights. And you should think carefully before you attempt to bypass these rights. Voters are watching you and I can absolutely say, without a doubt, that there are WAY more parents who want choice than parents who demand compliance. You are on the wrong side of history, and one day you shall have to answer for your actions, from both voters and from God. I respectfully ask you to please reconsider your decision and allow parents to make their own health decisions for their children. It's truly our right, not yours.

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 7, 22 -- 10:50: AM	Nell	Davis	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>It is time for HCPS to give parent's a choice on whether their kids wear a mask in school. This is a not a political statement, this is based on new information that shows the negative outweighs the positives of mask wearing. Just like we learned this hard lesson last year when schools were closed. Masks can protect those who wear them and therefore those who choose to can protect themselves. I urge you to read the the articles and toolkit provided by doctors and scientists at <a href="https://www.urgencyofnormal.com/">https://www.urgencyofnormal.com/</a> and this article <a href="https://time.com/6145291/end-mandatory-masks-schools/">https://time.com/6145291/end-mandatory-masks-schools/</a>. Once again private schools in our area have made this change and it leaves those of us who chose public school to question our decision because we are always lagging behind in these decisions and changes. The last email about disciplinary action after the overruling was harsh and threatening and not the type of email that parents who are trying to stay calm need. Please put this mask topic on the agenda and discuss giving children the CHOICE. This feels like deja vu. Please make a swift decision to allow kids to stop wearing masks who want to. Thank you for your time.</p>
Feb. 7, 22 -- 11:13: AM	Chris	Davis	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>This week there needs to a thorough discussion regarding the choice to remove masks in school. Doctors, scientists and experts across the country are making this recommendation, and HCPS needs to follow suit. Those who want protection can wear a mask and those who want to remove them should be allowed. The science backs this up. Let's not be the last to make this change. The longer it drags out the more negativity that keeps surrounding our school system which I am proud to be a part of. PLEASE make this change NOW. Stop waiting - our children deserve better and the URGENCY OF NORMAL is imperative right now. I know my wife already wrote in, but we both feel this is important. One more thing, our sons are saying they are sweating and breathing in their masks in a gym during PE. Please show me any science that shows that this is safe! It's a disgrace and abuse that they have to breathe their own air during exercise while this debate is going on. It needs to stop now.</p>

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Feb. 7, 22 -- 7:24: PM	K	O	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please respect the freedom of choice for parents and teachers.
Feb. 7, 22 -- 10:54: PM	Jennifer	F	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I was just curious if this budget would include resources for the students related to the damage that is being done with continued forced masking. The WHO does not recommend masking of anyone under 12, European schools have not had mask mandates in months, and entire states have been functioning without mandates . Does this budget include funds for the children that are going to need additional resources due to developmental delays, speech delays, and mental health resources? Does this budget include funds for the lawsuits that will inevitably result from this continued abuse of power and refusal to follow science that is now being widely circulated? It has been made very clear based off the Supreme Court ruling that SB1303 does not force counties to have mask mandates. Does this budget allow for the installation of metal detectors in the schools since Henrico county is clearly failing at keeping our children safe from violence within the walls of the schools? They are clearly more worried about forcing children to keep a mask, that has no scientific backing, on their face than keeping them from getting their head bashed into a floor/wall and/or being subjected to being locked into their classrooms for the day since we can't keep guns out of the schools. Henrico County School's priorities are seriously out of line.

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Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 7, 22 -- 11:45: PM	Tired Of	This	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	You hide behind the SB1303 and say that you have to obey the law. Even the primary sponsor of the bill -Dunvavant -has said over and over that the way you are interpreting it is not-in any way-the intention of the bill. Despite the flexibility the bill offers, as evidenced by school systems all over the state, you choose to lean all the way into it and HIDE behind it. "Our hands our tied-there is a law on the books." Why don't you stop acting like armchair attorneys and be sensible and start leading with a conscious. Maybe the SPONSOR of the bill can tell you what it means? We all know at the end of the day that you are using this SB1303 because you are cowards. Too cowardly to oppose the liberal teachers unions, liberal agencies, who even knows. At least be honest about why you are doing it. It is not the SB1303 that ties your hands. The people voted for this Governor. For goodness sake, it is what the majority wants. I know that you have never had to sit in a space for 7 hours a day and worn a mask. Principals walk in their offices, shut the door and rip them up but my grade school child can't do it. Shame on you for abusing our kids this way.
Feb. 8, 22 -- 9:17: AM	Paige	Hazell	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Students in the Richmond area Private schools are no longer required to wear masks. Please provide parents the right to choose whether or not their children should wear a mask in the Public school system. If it's good for the Private schools, it should be good for our students as well. Thank you!
Feb. 8, 22 -- 10:56: AM	Abigail	Dryden	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	As a concerned parent of 3 young children at Tuckahoe Elementary - who have NEVER experienced a normal school year - I'd like to see a QUICK, well thought out off-ramp of mask wearing and recess social distancing. I want parental choice - NOT what you as the school board deems best - at the center of all discussions.

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 8, 22 -- 12:37: PM	Sarah	Clock	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>When are you going to acknowledge that the Northern VA ruling was only for the counties involved in the lawsuit and that the Supreme Court of Virginia said SB1303 is NOT a mask mandate?? You sure jumped to write a nasty email to us parents but failed to clarify when the truth about N. VA injunction came to light. FOLLOW THE SCIENCE. Article after article on how masking is harmful to kids. This week, there was 493 positive cases in all of Henrico County. That's 0.1% of the population. Are we really keeping our kids masked for that minute amount of positive cases (which statistically speaking, a majority of those cases are mild)?? Stop playing politics with my children. Since when has it been about "keeping the kids safe"? Why should my child deal with headaches, non stop mask wearing, never seeing their friends smile, speech impediments all because they need to "protect" everyone else? (And I use that term loosely.) Entire countries lifted the mandate. Entire states are lifting the mandate. Entire counties are lifting the mandate. GIVE US A CHOICE because we voted in Youngkin to get a choice and we will NOT forget to vote you out.</p>

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 8, 22 -- 2:30: PM	Ashley	George	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I write these comments knowing that they mean nothing to the HCPS school board because they are going to do what they want to do, and what is in the best interest of "them." The school board is money driven and has lost the real interest that is at hand, the children, staff, and parents. Stop masking the kids, stop testing the kids end of story. Focus on education! Focus on how the county has declined dramatically in its test scores. Look at how you can't get people to work for HCPS and now parents are pulling their kids out of the school system as well. Look at the Riots occurring in the high schools- making the news almost daily! Guns coming through the doors, why no metal detectors?? The masks are keeping us all "safe" from covid but nothing is being done to protect the teachers or students from an active shooter. If you stopped contact tracing then why do athletes still need to be tested weekly?? THIS IS A FORM OF CONTACT TRACING! and again does nothing to stop a spread since you don't test them according to their game schedules but just test based on the day and time assigned to them- by the VDH of which HCPS is receiving \$\$\$ for giving each child a test. This is not a mitigation strategy but a grant, 11-11-21 board meeting. We/parents tried to stop it, YOU did not listen then and you are still not listening. Look around states, counties, and countries are dropping the mask mandates, Wake up, its time! Let these kids go back to living a normal childhood of facial recognition. Let parents go back to parenting and you go back to what we elected you for.....drop the mask rule, its pointless, and honestly.... not up to you anymore. So lets do it nicely and not with all the conflicts, we have too many other things to focus on.</p>
Feb. 8, 22 -- 3:03: PM	Dana	Carter	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please unmask our children. Make them optional. Thank you

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 8, 22 -- 3:27: PM	Katie	Morgan	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I commend the Board and the administration for following CDC guidelines and keeping masking in place as one of the mitigation strategies to prevent the spread of covid in our schools. As I've heard argued, I think what private schools do holds no bearing on what a large public school system should decide. I would support a mask choice only if certain guidelines have been met with respect to community transmission levels and vaccination percentages of the school population (including students). I would support the health committee determining that criteria for mask choice and guidelines for when a mandate might be reestablished.
Feb. 8, 22 -- 3:58: PM	Meghan	Pearsall	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	A private school is a much smaller ecosystem than a public school district. What is going on at one end of Henrico is not what is going on at the other. However, if community spread did drop to a very low range and we have all been vaccinated and have medication available I think our local health department should still make the decision based on the data as this is a health issue first and, to me, the focus should be keeping schools open and fully operational in whatever capacity that has be for that to happen. Masks work. Ask a doctor or a nurse who have been face to face with Covid since March 2020. HCPS should be hauling to get new HVACs in all the schools and not take the foot off the gas for airborne illness mitigation practices as it will reduce all sickness of all kinds. I would much rather they put the money toward air cleaning systems in classrooms and on buses and stop throwing out food or wasting it in areas that it does not help everyone. A high tide raises all boats.
Feb. 8, 22 -- 4:53: PM	Miranda	Basdikis	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Parents are demanding that you end the mask mandate for our children. We are asking for parent choice. Hanover and Chesterfield students are mask free, breathing clean air and seeing smiling faces. There is no reason you can't do the same. We will not allow for your lies anymore!!!

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES**  
**Thursday, February 10, 2022**

<b>Timestamp</b>	<b>First Name:</b>	<b>Last Name:</b>	<b>Magisterial District:</b>	<b>Your written comments for the February 10 work session:</b>
Feb. 8, 22 -- 6:15: PM	Gretchen	Graves	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I propose Deep Run HS not be allowed to have viewers at any of their sporting events the rest of the school year. After the last few games students of opposing schools have been threatened and assaulted. The school board needs to take a serious look at how they handle this before a gun is involved in one of the after game assaults.
Feb. 8, 22 -- 8:20: PM	Kristina	Barbier	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	The testing of unvaccinated athletes in the winter should never have happened. But the spring athletes getting tested, is ridiculous! We were told winter athletes were being tested because of the indoors. NO grant money is worth it. Are you planning to test the theater students practicing indoors for the spring musicals and plays? How about the band? The chorus? This is discrimination. Let. It. Go. Do the right thing and stop the testing. And if you can't bring yourselves to part ways with this program, then make it mandatory for ALL or completely voluntary.
Feb. 8, 22 -- 8:26: PM	Amanda	Medina	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Masks should be optional!! Everyone should get a choice!! Masks come home dirty and it upsets me to know that is on my child's face all day. Very unsanitary!! And yet the school board takes a photo of themselves smiling without masks today! What a joke! I'm ashamed of Henrico county's leadership. It's embarrassing.
Feb. 8, 22 -- 11:09: PM	Clint	Diers	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Please end mask requirements. Thank you

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES**

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 8, 22 -- 11:53: 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	For the 1/27 meeting, public comments were submitted asking why the Health Committee had not posted meeting minutes since prior to Christmas break, and why meeting attendees are not provided as part of the meeting minutes. A list of attendees is a very basic and standard expectation of things to include in meeting minutes. Minutes are an official record of actions the board or committee took at a meeting. They serve both a historical and legal purpose, documenting the group's adherence to proper procedures. Since the 1/27 meeting, HCPS has boldly not only NOT posted any additional health committee minutes; they have removed ALL Health Committee meeting minutes from their page. Why is that? You have public comment indicating this information is sought after; and the response is to remove the access point you previously used as a past practice? Why would you do that? Is something being hidden? Is the committee not meeting? Do you feel county tax payers do not have the right to this information? Why won't you publish who is on it, and who attended each of the meetings they say they are having? The information is discoverable and available via FOIA requests. It is disappointing; however, not surprising nor out of character for HCPS to demonstrate "power" by removing free public access to records the community they serve has indicated they value.
Feb. 9, 22 -- 8:12: AM	Jessica	Snodgrass	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	It is time to end the zero-exception masking requirements. SB739 has passed the Senate and will soon be signed by Governor Youngkin. Our General Assembly agrees that parents have the final say in their child's disease mitigation strategy. You have been given two years and millions in federal aid to implement other mitigation strategies; the masking charade is over. You can save a lot of face by choosing to end the requirement before you are legally bound to do so.

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 9, 22 -- 8:50: AM	Katherine	Davis	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Thank you for following CDC guidelines and keeping masking in place as one of the mitigation strategies to prevent the spread of covid in our schools. Everyone is eager to get past this, but masking should only be optional when community transmission and hospitalization levels are lower, and vaccination percentages are higher. We do not yet understand the long term impacts of the virus on our population, and it seems irresponsible to prematurely remove this simple but important piece of protection when the virus is still prevalent.
Feb. 9, 22 -- 10:42: AM	Sarah	Hinderliter	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I am strongly in favor of keeping the mask mandate in HCPS. And, yes, I have a student in an HCPS school.
Feb. 9, 22 -- 10:43: AM	Becky	Hurst	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	I appreciate HCPS's quick response to the court ruling against Governor Youngkin's EO 2. Thank you for maintaining the mask mandate for students. I hope you will continue to stand strong and protect the students and staff of our schools, regardless of political pressure. School boards are charged with making decisions for the safety of their school systems, not the governor's office. Please keep our community safer by maintaining the mandate.
Feb. 9, 22 -- 10:54: AM	Elizabeth	Clark	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Thank you so much for being diligent on enforcing mask wearing while the pandemic is still ongoing. We all look forward to the day when all the Covid protocols will no longer be necessary. Until then, we thank you for having common sense and utilizing all the tools we have available to fight Covid from spreading.
Feb. 9, 22 -- 10:57: AM	Michelle	Kimberlin	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Thank you, HCPS, for keeping the mask mandate!

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES**  
 Thursday, February 10, 2022

<b>Timestamp</b>	<b>First Name:</b>	<b>Last Name:</b>	<b>Magisterial District:</b>	<b>Your written comments for the February 10 work session:</b>
Feb. 9, 22 -- 11:01: AM	Elizabeth	Thurman	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	TL;DR: Pro-mask comment. Please keep mask requirements for now, and make your decision to drop them in the future based on community transmission levels, access to the vaccine for all ages, and local hospital capacity. Establishing and communicating clear metrics for dropping future requirements would likely cut down on the amount of time the county is having to spend on this issue, and allow you to focus on education.
Feb. 9, 22 -- 11:03: AM	Bonnie	Fenton	Deep Run HS	For the safety of our students, the staff and the community, PLEASE uphold the mask policy!
Feb. 9, 22 -- 11:10: AM	Aneal	Krishnamurthy	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Thank you for your efforts over the past few years during an unprecedented pandemic. Subject to the proposed change in state law, I encourage all of you to continue to follow the existing law and CDC guidance on masking. Our family is the primary care giver for elderly parents with underlying health issues. Our family has also lost several close family members and friends to COVID. Yes, other families have been more fortunate and don't face some of these issues but as a community, we need to look out for one another. Thankfully, we seem to be at a point where there is an end in sight- let's be thoughtful about the transition back to normal and not react to a small vocal minority that prefers their own happiness to the detriment of everyone else around them including teachers and staff. Thank you.

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 9, 22 -- 11:10: AM	Lisa	Nelson	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>HCPS has a shortage of teachers and substitutes. There has been quite a bit of speculation about that. Pay? Safety? Public Health? It is different for everyone and may be because of more than one reason. I too think the pay is terrible but I will absolutely apply to be a substitute teacher (I have my M.Ed. from UVA) as soon as I can be sure that I don't have to wear a mask all day. Mask optional schools for students is in our near future with a few more legislative jumps but there has been no mention of a mask optional workplace. I will be happy to support our schools, despite the low pay, during this critical time when I physically feel like I could handle that. Our teachers are heros that they endure wearing a mask 8 hours a day!</p>
Feb. 9, 22 -- 11:17: AM	Kirsten	Hanson	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	<p>I just wanted to thank you for standing firm on keeping masks in school. I know it hasn't been easy for you lately, but your continued stance on the side of health and science instead of yielding to high pressure tactics and politics is so very appreciated. My family includes a high risk grandmother at home with us and every layer of defense we can get for our kids, especially when it comes to them having to spend all day inside with so many others, is so very important! Additionally, our teachers, admins, and staff deserve the same kind of protection and care! Thanks for all of your effort at this challenging time!!!</p>
Feb. 9, 22 -- 12:07: PM	Emily	Jiancristoforo	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Thank you for all that you're doing to represent your students, schools and staff. It does not go unnoticed, and I know on a personal level just how hard these decisions have been. As a parent of four HCPS students, and the spouse of a current employee, I have been able to rest assured that your decisions have been made based in fact, science, and student/staff health and safety. You have not waived from that despite the intense political and community pressure, and frankly, some downright sustained craziness. All the more impressive that Mrs Shea stays abreast, responsive and proactive, despite a personal health crisis. I just wanted to say thank you. A resounding thank you! Our family is grateful.</p>

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 9, 22 -- 12:08: PM	Dominica	Campbell	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	I am strongly in favor of maintaining the mandate for all students, staff, and teachers to continue to wear masks. I am strongly in favor of the mandate being upheld at all HCPS schools, facilities, and events through the end of this school year. In addition, each teacher should be provided supplies to help sanitize their rooms and provide hand sanitizer, etc.
Feb. 9, 22 -- 12:34: PM	Kimberley	Skowysz	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I would like my voice as a parent heard and respectfully ask that the mask mandate be lifted. Thank you for considering my request.
Feb. 9, 22 -- 12:35: PM	Lisa	Dyer	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I'm a teacher, and I am scared. I'm scared because of so many factors outside my control that directly affect my ability to teach. I feel like the voices threatening the way and what I teach are loud and powerful. But, I feel they are misguided. As an educator, it's my job to educate all of my students. As an educator, it's my job to understand and support the beliefs of my Muslim, Jewish, Hindi, Athiest, and Christian students. As an educator, I make it a priority to connect to my students and get to know who they are as young people and what they want and need to attain an education. As an educator who is also a parent, I'm scared about the rise in the mantra of "parent choice" in our schools. Parents have lots of choices to help teachers- like limit cell phone use in the classroom or make sure their kids get to bed at a reasonable time- but censoring our curriculum, saying rules at home surpass rules at school, and constantly second-guessing grading practices and assignment requirements is NOT helping our kids! Teachers are terrified right now. We feel completely alone and attacked. Please be our advocates when confronted with a vocal minority who are not in the classroom and don't fully grasp the consequences of their incessant calls for "parent choice".

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 9, 22 -- 12:37: PM	Jennifer	Poindexter	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I appreciate the consistant stance the School Board has taking this year in regards to masking for staff and students. By continuing to stand with the agreement that all families made to mask for the duration of the school year, you have defused a potentially conticious debate. Especially since the COVID transmission numbers remain high at this moment in time, masking just makes sense from a health perspective. Thank you!
Feb. 9, 22 -- 12:48: PM	Kelley	Hope	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	I am grateful for your email last Friday in response to the injunction against Youngkin's EO. Thank you for maintaining your mask policy that protects many. Wearing a mask is so little inconvenience and bother that I have to remind my daughter that she can take off hers when no longer in close proximity to others. Its a small thing to do to keep others safe.

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 9, 22 -- 12:50: PM	Sarah	Eddins	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>I see that part of your agenda for today's meeting is to celebrate School board appreciation month. Having attended numerous meetings at this point, I am appalled that you continue to celebrate yourselves rather than acknowledge and address what your policies have put our students (and families) through the past couple of years. I have attended meetings and watched beautiful children sing in front of you, while you force them to cover their faces. When I sit in the audience to celebrate their performance, you ask me to cover my own smile so they can't see that I am so happy and proud of their efforts! Every single decision you make as a board should be about those precious kids and their academic achievement and well being. At this point, Covid mandates are not about caring for the community, they are about control. With that said, I continue to ask for you to rescind your mask mandate policy. Even while lawsuits are thrown out and laws are being drafted in the General Assembly as we speak, you continue to double down. You even went so far as to threaten our children with disciplinary action should they come to school without a mask. Children who defy your mandates are isolated and unable to receive the proper in-person instruction that they are legally obligated to receive. Meanwhile, across the county, local high schools have reported guns in school and fights appear to be on the rise. Have those students been formally disciplined? Do you really believe that mask mandates should be your top priority at this point? Do what is right and eliminate the mask mandate.</p>
Feb. 9, 22 -- 12:51: PM	Sarah	Collier	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	<p>Thank you for holding firm on the school mask mandate. I feel so much better sending my kids to school each day knowing that they're well-protected against covid due to universal masking. I know we need a covid mitigation off-ramp and ask that you continue to make science-based decisions, free from emotion and politics. Please create a plan for lessening covid restrictions that is based on metrics and then make that plan transparent and public. Thank you so much for all you do to support the students and staff of HCPS.</p>

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 9, 22 -- 12:59: PM	Melissa	Dart	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Thank you to the School Board for your continued leadership and following the science and the metrics to protect our kids, teachers and staff! My family and I are very grateful.
Feb. 9, 22 -- 1:00: PM	Lucy	Berger	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Once again, I ask that you end the mask mandate. It's unreasonable & unfair that children in Henrico County Public Schools have to continue on with this charade while students in the surrounding counties have a CHOICE. That's all we are asking for. Although masks at school do VERY LITTLE to stop the spread of covid, I respect the rights of those who want to be masked. I don't understand it but I want them to have the choice. Now PLEASE Respect the rights of those who want to show their faces, to breathe, and to be free.
Feb. 9, 22 -- 1:15: PM	David	Allen	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn, Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Unmask our children! Covid Numbers are going down. Many Studies have shown masks are not effective way to prevent covid among children. You are doing permanent damage and mental harm to our children. You are breaking the law. The governor has ordered an executive order you are not following it. You are using the lawsuit in Arlington as a excuse. Henrico County Public Schools was not part of the lawsuit so the judge's ruling does not apply to you. You all should be ashamed of yourselves talking about school board appreciation month and celebrating all your teachers when our children are suffering. Step up and do what is right for our kids
Feb. 9, 22 -- 1:19: PM	Lynne	Miller	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Enough is enough! Our children have suffered long enough. Unmask our children!
Feb. 9, 22 -- 1:22: PM	Deb	Harper	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Please vote to keep masks in schools at least through the end of this school year, to revisit for fall of 2022.

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 9, 22 -- 1:43: PM	Rupali	Pendse	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Mask mandates will not last forever, and please consider dropping of mask requirements to be aligned with rates of community transmission and not arbitrary political posturing or angry demands. The goal should be to keep all in the education system safe and healthy, they include teachers, administrators, students and supporting staff and facility maintenance. This is similar to peanut allergy of a few students - still teachers prohibit snacks for all students that contain peanuts as a few students have allergic reactions that could be severe. To protect few, we must all be masked.
Feb. 9, 22 -- 2:01: PM	Nancy	McGuigan	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you that I recognize that your job is not an easy one, and we have come a long way since March 2020, learning so much together. Thank you for helping to all safe and healthy in our community. The reason I am writing today is to let you know my feelings regarding layered mitigation including masking in schools. There is no doubt that what we are doing is helping students and staff stay safe and well. I also feel that at this time infection levels are still historically high to make masking optional. With current trends I have no doubt soon enough transmission levels will subside making the choice an easier one to make. What I would like to see from Henrico Schools is a definite plan/parameters where we feel we can begin to pull back on mitigation and what will be relaxed. This i feel will give student families something concrete to count on as well as staff to plan. Again, thank you so much for your care and consideration during this trying time. You all are truly the best! Sincerely, Nancy McGuigan
Feb. 9, 22 -- 2:14: PM	Sara	Watts Small	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Leave mask mandates in place for our kids.
Feb. 9, 22 -- 2:23: PM	Kathie	Cho	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Thank you for continuing mask wearing in schools. This decision helps keep our teachers and students in school learning. Science support their use.

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 9, 22 -- 2:54: PM	Keith	Dillard	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	I strongly hope that Tuckahoe Elementary will let parents have the option to mask their children. I am work at St. Christopher's School and my daughter attends St. Catherine's School. I applaud the two schools for giving parents the mask option. In just three days, I can see the benefit this change has made not only with my daughter, but also for the student body at St. Christopher's. There are plenty of students that opt to still wear a mask, which is completely understandable. But, the choice needs to go BOTH WAYS. I personally think it is way healthier for our children not to wear masks, and I am grateful that I can now make that choice for my daughter. I Hope TES will consider changing their mask policy ASAP. The cycle NEEDS TO END!
Feb. 9, 22 -- 3:00: PM	Johanna	Farrell	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Dear Board Members I ask that you remove the political ideology from the mask issue and instead use transmission and infection rate data as the basis for requiring masks in schools. I'm so hopeful that in the near future we will not need masks to ensure the health and safety of our students and school staff but at this point in time, we need masks and we need to keep our students and staff safe. Please continue to require them.
Feb. 9, 22 -- 3:08: PM	Kurt	Awtree	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	No forced masking of students and teachers and staff. Stop testing, tracing, and violating students, teachers, and staff personal medical privacy and choices. Stop requiring student athletes and coaches to submit personal medical information to participate in and coach sports. Stop testing students to play school sports and/or any other school activities. Stop discriminatory mitigation school procedures that require students, teachers, and staff to declare personal health status publicly or privately to school staff. Get out of the medical political science business and back to teaching and coaching our kids. Leave your personal politics out of our schools.

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 9, 22 -- 3:09: PM	Elizabeth	Broda	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	As a teacher in Henrico County Public Schools, I would like to thank HCPS and The Board for their strongly worded email earlier this week that left no gray area as to mask usage. I sincerely appreciate the concern for the health and safety of our students, staff, and teachers. I am hopeful that the mask requirement will continue.
Feb. 9, 22 -- 3:10: PM	Angela	Taylor	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	Good day and thank you to everyone for the effort and work put into making sure that our students, staff and faculty are as safe as possible. While I understand the controversy around our mask policy, I would like to express my gratitude and support for continuing this policy in our schools. As we all know, kids are continuously exposed to all sorts of viruses and other illnesses, especially during the winter. The impact on student of the COVID-19 strain(s) may not seem high, but if we consider who those students to go home to, the teachers/staff/administrators in the buildings and the greater good of our community, I urge you to keep the mask policy in place. Our mitigation numbers are still high, cases are still presenting (even though we know students and parents are NOT reporting cases), and the health of our community should be a priority. Our students have managed to make it this far in the school year and can continue a bit longer to help aid in the reduction of the spread of a virus that continues to mutate and change. I urge you to NOT give in to the pressures of a hand full of parents that are the 'loudest' or 'squeaky wheel' but to the science and the advice of the CDC. Being a parent with a compromised immune system, both of my high school students understand the importance of keeping us all healthy and covid free. While other families may have different circumstances and feel that their rights are important, I plead with you to keep the right of all of us in mind as you navigate this difficult discussion. I can promise you that the loudest voices are NOT the majority and those are the same voices that continue to cause a majority of the conflict in our community. We can make a difference and follow the science, the guidelines and keep our schools safe a bit longer. Be strong, be smart, be brave and remember that you have the support of so many parents behind your decisions. Thank you.

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FORM RESPONSES

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your written comments for the February 10 work session:
Feb. 9, 22 -- 4:03: PM	Hannah	Whisenant	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	We all, HCPS parents, agreed as a community that our kids would wear masks for the 21-22 school year so they could go back for in person instruction. To rescind that agreement halfway through the school year would be a slap in the face to teachers and parents who only agreed to come back in person because they had peace of mind knowing all persons in the school building would be masked. There is only one right answer for HCPS and that is for everyone to honor the commitment we made as a community to finish out this school year with all persons masked in school buildings.
Feb. 9, 22 -- 4:23: PM	B	T	Three Chopt District - Michelle F. Ogburn	If you are going to do away with contact tracing (which I think was a terrible decision), you should at least let allow elementary school kids of the same grade level to play all together at recess. There's no need to separate classrooms when you aren't making other efforts at mitigation, and when recess is already outdoors. Decreasing viral spread was the only reason this was being done in the first place. Let our kids play with their friends from other classes and get to know others in their grades.
Feb. 9, 22 -- 4:26: PM	Julie	Atlas	Brookland District - Kristi B. Kinsella	Please keep masks mandatory, science over opinion. Protect books for all children. Protect our librarians. Raise wages. Protect planning time. Give fair planning time to all grade levels, none in pre-k and 25 min or less a day in elementary is not equitable. Protect all teachers from harrassment.