7:00 pm  1. Opening/Recognition
       1.01 Invocation
       1.02 Pledge of Allegiance
       1.03 Establish Agenda Order

7:15 pm  2. Presentation
       2.01 Fall 2020 Reopening Plan (R)

3. Motion to Enter Closed Session (if needed)

The Board will accept written public comment for those items that appear on the agenda. Such comment can be sent via email to BoardOffice@aacps.org or dropped off at the Parham Building, located at 2644 Riva Road in Annapolis, beginning on the Friday before a Board meeting and no later than noon on the day before a Board meeting.

Testimony on agenda items must be 250 words or less and must include the name and community of residence of the author as well as any pertinent group affiliation. Testimony will not be read aloud during Board meetings but will be compiled and provided to Board members prior to the start of the meeting. It will also be posted online at www.aacps.org/boardtestimony in advance of the meeting. During the meeting, the Board and the public will be apprised of how many comments were received for each agenda item.

Key:  (I) Information   (A) Action   (R) Review

Information on agenda items can be obtained from the Board of Education Office (410-222-5311) or at www.aacps.org
The following testimony was submitted for the July 22, 2020, meeting of the Board of Education. The “...” designation indicates the cutoff of testimony due to it exceeding the word the limit. The full version of such testimony has been provided to the Board.

**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR ITEM 2.01, FALL 2020 REOPENING PLAN**

1. **THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR LOOKING OUT FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN! AS A PARENT I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU CHOOSING TO KEEP THE KIDS AT HOME FOR THE FIRST SEMESTER.**

I was really concerned about sending my child to school in August. I contemplated home schooling her just to make sure she's safe. No one could have ever predicted that we'd be going through these terrible times and be living through a global pandemic. This is definitely something we should not take lightly and although the kids won't get the in person learning, their health and safety is more important.

Thanks again, a thankful and appreciative parent

Katherin Trigo
Glen Burnie, Maryland

2. **Good afternoon,**

Thank you for choosing to utilize virtual learning for the entire first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. I believe this is the best decision for the safety and wellbeing of our students, families, faculty, support staff, and the community.

As a parent with two children attending AACPS, I want nothing more than for my children’s educational experience to be in the schoolhouse, personally interacting with their teachers and friends. However, I am not willing to sacrifice their lives or the lives of others for that experience.

Thank you for referring to the subject matter experts and choosing facts and science to inform your decision instead of politics and baseless talking points.

Sincerely,

Laticia Hicks
Crofton

3. **My name is Matt Chabot and I am a rising senior at Broadneck High School. I have been a very active member of the band at my school for the last 3 years and band is very important to my life. Colleges, and especially conservatories, often use the importance of marching band experience, All-County band seating, and other ensembles to assess who is the most acceptable for their music program. Missing a whole year of music could have a strong negative impact on a student’s chances of being accepted. If other schools across the nation open and allow for musicians to gather and perform, it may put AACPS students at a further disadvantage.**
Marching band, in particular, would be safer than indoor classes because it is a fully outdoor activity. It doesn't require contact with other people and would be one of the safest activities to open at the school. If adjustments are made to be sure that marching band remains completely outdoors where it is safest and safety protocols are put in place, then this is a very feasible option for the Fall. As a person who goes to a performing arts school and hopes to have a future in music, I hope you will seriously consider allowing marching band to take place this Fall with appropriate safety measures in place.

Thank you very much for your consideration

Matt Chabot
Arnold, MD

4. My child made it into CAT-South. In the mornings of the first 2 semesters. How is this going to happen? Not to mention her anxiety of not being in the classroom. Feel free to call me.

Janice Moreland

5. My name is Ellyse Davisson and I am an upcoming sophomore at Broadneck High School. I am writing today to voice a concern that I, along with many of my peers have about extracurricular opportunities this fall considering the news of a complete semester of virtual school coming out. I know that whatever decision you make will be necessary and in the best interest of the students in Anne Arundel County, so, for mental health purposes, I hope that you'll consider keeping certain extracurricular activities, especially music, available to some extent this year.

Band and marching band are activities that, for me, make the entire year. I know several of my peers feel the same about a variety of other activities as well. Band is a way to relieve stress, and spend time with my friends while doing something I'm passionate about. Throughout the months of e-learning this past year, many of us struggled with mental health from not having a social outlet to help us cope with these difficult times. I feel that students would be less discouraged about virtual learning plans if there were still opportunities for these important activities. Band is an activity which involves no physical contact, and there are several options to keep it safe and socially distanced. It is such an integral part of many of our lives and high school experiences, so I ask that you consider this when making a final decision for the year.

Thank you for your time.

Ellyse Davisson

6. Hello, my name is Austin Greenlee, an upcoming senior at Broadneck High School. I am writing today in regards to the Board meeting that is to happen on July 22nd. I would really like to emphasize the importance of still having a cross country season this fall, and an indoor track season leading into the winter and spring. As a previous captain of my school's track team, I know how much having a season means to everyone on the team, and even the coaches. Without a season, all of our training would go to waste, and our bond to each other and as a team would be broken. We would be discouraged by not having another chance to show how we've grown physically and as an individual. I feel as it's my duty to
the team and the school to speak on behalf of having running seasons this fall and into the winter, because of how much it means to the team as well as the coaches.

Thank you for your time, and have a great day

Austin Greenlee

7. I'm happy to hear the first semester of school this year will be completely online. I am, however, concerned, as I'm sure are many other parents, at the possibility of resuming physical in-school attendance at some point later in the year despite the ongoing pandemic. While I'm sure the school will do its best to assure the safety of the children, and I suspect we'll likely see a hybrid option prior to full open attendance, I am hoping the school will still provide the option for children to attend completely online while staying with their current school until the pandemic has ended.

My wife is a RN working in the local area and has worked in the COVID units personally and does not feel it would be safe to send our children back until cases have gone down significantly. With our home situation in particular, the children's grandmother lives with us and is at high risk for infection as she is 96 years old. Our concern is not only for the children, but the increased risk for family members and the general populace. Is the option for continued online full attendance being considered for when the schools do reopen for any form of physical attendance? I hope if this hasn't already been approved that this is addressed in the 22 July meeting.

Please respond at your earliest convenience.

Thank You,

Tony Modica

8. I am a student in Anne Arundel County, and I am really hoping to go back to school in the fall. I learn much better in school instead of online, so please reopen schools. Also please authorize fall sports. Thank you,

S. Lewis

9. Please reopen schools in the fall five days or at least two days per week. Healthy kids belong in school. 68% of citizens who submitted testimony for the Board’s July 8, 2020, meeting were in favor of in-person reopening. Parents in favor (15 out of 22) included a single mom and parents of special needs kids.

School Board, please instruct Dr. Arlotto to release full results of the online survey we took.

Center for Disease Control (CDC) Director Robert Redfield said July 9 “the reality is that this virus really is relatively benign to those of us that are under the age of 20” and pointed out that “having the schools actually closed is a greater public health threat to the children than having the schools reopen.”
Rebecca Grant  
Parent, Southern Cluster

10. We adamantly disagree with Arlotto’s decision to hold virtual school during the fall semester. Parent’s input from the recent survey showed only 20% desired virtual learning while about 80% desired some form of face-to-face, with the plurality desiring full reopening. We’re concerned reputable opposing views aren’t being considered, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, and experts at Johns Hopkins, among others, stating it’s imperative children get back to face-to-face learning, and the health risks posed by COVID, particularly to children, are minimal and should not preclude reopening schools.

We have four children in AACPS, our experience with online learning was disastrous, we have little faith their learning needs can be met in future iterations.

One of our children has an IEP, self-teaching online assignments was nearly impossible, they made zero gains last semester. Another child with a 504 was unable to coordinate their work or complete assignments. In addition, they failed every single graded assignment in math but still received an “S.” Helping with schoolwork included hours of tears, unresponsive teachers, hundreds of emails, all while working full-time. Thousands of kids in AACPS have special education needs that are not being met. Virtual learning has been detrimental to all our children in numerous ways. It’s heartbreaking to have activities they’ve put hundreds of hours of work and practice into, cancelled. In addition, it’s been frustrating, and depressing to have no social interaction with friends and mentors. We urge you to reject Arlotto’s decision for virtual learning in favor of expert opinions and Parent input.

Matthew and Rebecca Evans  
Riverdale Forest, Severna Park

11. My spouse and I disagree with Dr. Arlotto’s plan to conduct at least the first semester of the coming school year in a “virtual” environment. The student experience of the past few months of the 2019-2020 academic year were not in keeping with what we expect as parents for our children’s education. They need an IN-PERSON, social learning environment, not a cloistered online experience.

Aside from our daughter’s music class, it was almost impossible to keep our son and daughter on task. Each week they would receive assignments, with no interaction with teacher or other students. My understanding that a significant number of parents are in favor of in-person school this upcoming academic year; please look out for the students’ welfare by conducting at least some of the first semester in an in-person environment.

William Nielsen  
Parent in Southern Cluster