5:30 pm 1. Motion to Enter Executive Session
   1.01 Agenda

7:00 pm 2. Opening/Recognition
   2.01 Invocation
   2.02 Pledge of Allegiance
   2.03 Approval of the Minutes
   2.04 Establish Agenda Order
   2.05 President’s Update
   2.06 Superintendent’s Update
   2.07 Scholarships for Scholars Report

8:00 pm 3. Presentation
   3.01 Summer Recovery and Fall Reopening Update

9:00 pm 4. Departmental Reports
   4.01 Safety and Security Report
   4.02 Bullying Prevention Report
   4.03 Diversity and Inclusion Report
   4.04 Transportation Report

5. Public Comment
   To ensure the opportunity for public input during the public portion of the meeting, 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, by noon on Tuesday, June
   2, 2020. 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 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.
   During the meeting, the Board and the public will be apprised of how many comments
   were received for each agenda item. Concerns that are confidential, such as student-
   specific and personnel issues, cannot be published as part of public testimony.
   Testimony that exceeds the 250-word limit will be trimmed to meet the criteria before
   being posted online. However, the full version will be provided to Board.
   Testimony on topics not on the agenda can be submitted under the same criteria as
   above and will also be posted online.

9:30 pm 6. Review Items
   6.01 Award of Contracts

10:30 pm 7. Action Items
   7.01 Administrative Personnel Appointments
   7.02 Personnel
   7.03 Citizen Advisory Committee – Code KBA
   7.04 Appointment of Ethics Panel
   7.05 New Course Approval
   7.06 FY2020 Fourth Quarter Operating Budget Supplemental and Fund Transfer

11:30 pm 8. Consent Items—Award of Contracts
   8.01 Materials of Instruction – Discovery Education Experience Streaming
   8.02 Materials of Instruction – Reading Intervention Materials
   8.03 PA System Replacement - MacArthur Middle School
   8.04 Roof Replacement – Odenton ES

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 June 3, 2020, meeting of the Board of Education. The “…” designation indicates the cutoff of testimony due to it exceeding the word limit. The full version of such testimony has been provided to the Board.

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR ITEM 3.01, SUMMER RECOVERY AND FALL REOPENING UPDATE

1. I would implore the county school superintendent to set more standards and guidelines that all AACPS faculty must follow when designing how fall curriculum should be structured. My children have spent 3 months downloading assignments and third-party videos to complete on their own. No real-time, remote instruction has taken place by a single one of their teachers. Other teachers within the schools have done it so it must be up to the teacher. This is unacceptable going into the fall. If the real goal is to eliminate the learning gap caused by this health crisis, the present methodologies of "remote learning" (really "self teaching") are untenable for the long-term educational health of our children.

Sincerely,
D'Ann Vermilye
Broadneck Peninsula Parent

2. I am the mother of 2 middle school and a high school student in the Northeast Cluster. The eLearning program developed by our state is shameful to say the least. My once honor roll students are now lucky if they get the complimentary ‘D’. They are beyond frustrated and the week typically ends in tears. They are not receiving engaged lessons or even lessons that make sense. I watch the videos and I’m unable to explain what lesson is trying to be conveyed. The teachers try to be supportive but it’s not the same as being in a classroom environment. My children NEED the classroom environment to be engaged. My children NEED the classroom environment to ask questions so they can be guided to the correct answer and understand the material being taught. My children NEED social activities. If AACO schools do not reopen AS NORMAL in the fall, I will be forced to look for other options for education. I cannot have my children falling behind due to a virus that has a 99% survival rate.

Shannon Rudolf

3. Good afternoon,

I understand that we are all trying to adapt in a safe manner to our new circumstances, but chances are I will be homeschooling my child on a different accredited program next year. He is currently in the third grade at Bodkin Elementary School. I will not send him to school if it is every other day or one day a week. Kids need routine and consistency to thrive. I will not send him to school if he has to wear a mask all day. He is asthmatic and this is not safe. I will not send him to school if there is no recess or he has to stay in the same room all day. That’s not healthy for anyone especially kids, like mine, with learning disabilities like ADHD. I won’t continue the counties e learning program unless serious improvements are made because it is not sufficient. I appreciate the effort our teachers are given and wish they could be given more autonomy for lesson planning. After all, they know their students best and it is ridiculous that all children in grades K-5 are reading the same books. My son is in third grade and he needs more of a challenge. He’s bored and he hates them. I would rather pay for a better program. I will say that we have enjoyed the science and art assignments. It is my hope that homeschooling with a better free
option will be available in Maryland like it is in other states if we have to reopen under these conditions. Thank you for hearing my point of view.

Sincerely,
Amanda Allender

4. I am writing in opposition to your proposed changes to the 2020-2021 school year. I understand these are very much unprecedented times. I am not a teacher and have no skills in education. Although our specific teacher is doing her best to provide as much instruction and learning as possible it is not adequate on any long-term basis. Numerous studies have shown that children need the interaction and instruction from their teachers.

The MD school system is failing our kids. In our class along there is at least 7 children that are MIA and not engaged, that is simply one classroom in one school. This is unacceptable. My 2nd grader has been on the Principals honor roll all year, gets excited about school and loves his teacher. Yet, since this distance learning has begun he is so checked out and disengaged. Trying to get him to do his work is torture, for both of us.

The social, emotional and mental impact on these children without these normal interactions is detrimental and will far outweigh any effects of this virus. I understand the seriousness of COVID-19 however, we cannot live like this until a cure or virus is found. That is unacceptable.

As a working single parent, I cannot give what is needed to even attempt to fill the shoes of a teacher. I am a single parent and without my job and income we will be homeless. The options laid out in your plan are just ridiculous and not feasible for families.....

Renee Parenti
Jacobsville Elementary School
Community: Chesterfield

5. I would like to voice my opinion/concerns for the upcoming school year. I feel that school must not only return, but return to normal...not a "new normal." My son is currently in 11th grade and I have never seen him struggle with school, until the last 3 months. Since pre-k, he has been an overachiever, always making honor roll, principal's honor roll, and even made superintendent's honor roll once. He's part of the Captain's Club at Northeast High School and was inducted into the National Honor Society this year. He also plays sports, year-round. Since being isolated from school and his friends, he has not been the same. He no longer cares about completing his schoolwork or what grade he is receiving. He chose not to take the 3 AP exams he was signed up for and now that AACC has determined fall classes will be online, he has also decided against taking a college course during his senior year, as originally planned. The Covid numbers and data for AA County do not support keeping the kids at home with e-learning. I can guarantee that my son has not learned one thing during the past 3 months and if schools remain closed, I will have no choice but to withdraw him from public school and proceed with an actual "home schooling" program. My child, once eager to learn and plan for college, is no longer interested in even discussing it. Please take the kids into consideration when making your decisions. They are not well.
Thank you,
Rochelle Price

6. Greetings,
If the fall semester should start online there needs to be improvements on how e-learning is conducted.

There needs to be a universal curriculum for each grade and each subject. Teachers are given far too much latitude when it comes to E-Learning. The teachers can choose which website they want to have the work completed on, they decide on how much work is given to the student. With consistency becomes equity and right now AACPS is not being equitable to the students.

The time spent in front of a computer screen is very excessive with e-learning which is frustrating for parents and students. The Doctors have always advised to limit screen time with your children. Now, with e-learning students are spending 30-40 hours a week in front of a computer screen doing assignments which is not healthy.

The quality of education is not to the same quality as classroom learning. The students often feel lost or have no direction with e-learning. Having two children in AACPS (one in middle school, one in high school) they feel that they haven’t learned one thing since classroom learning has stopped. They feel that they are given busy work to occupy their time but learning has stopped. Other parents I have spoken to about AACPS E-Learning feel the same way as my children do, that the students are not getting a formidable education.

I have spoken to teachers who also feel similar; lost and disconnected. One teacher told me: “We are only doing this because the Board of Education, didn’t want to pay us for not working, so they come up with this e-learning.” And that teachers had little to no training themselves…..

James Knipple
AACPS /CAC – At-Large Member
Pasadena Baseball Club Board Member/ Coach

7. Hi, my name is Adriana Caron, my son attends Four Seasons Elementary School. I would like to stress how challenging it has been for us as working parents to have to instruct our children and guide them through the high volume of assignments over the past 2 months. I spend an average of 3-4 hours per day, which is making it very challenging to work. If in the fall the kids have to continue some days from home, PLEASE consider that they have instruction conducted via Google Meets or Video on those days, WITHOUT assignments. Our kids would learn more by watching instructional videos, having conversations and possibly doing some live surveys, instead the high volume of independent work (10-15 assignments per week). Please design a solution that requires LESS parental support, as what we are doing right now is not sustainable for maintaining our jobs. I know this is very challenging – THANK YOU for all your efforts during this unprecedented time.

Warmest regards,
Adriana Caron

8. Good evening,
I am writing to you today as an employee of AACPS and a parent of several in the Northeast Cluster Community. While COVID-19 does not kill as many children or affect many children, flu also allows kids to bounce back quickly. As an employee in Elementary school I see how fast the flu goes through the school building, I cannot imagine how fast this will wipe out the population as well. As a parent I realize how intense it is for the students to sit and do the work at home and how complicated it may be sometimes. But seeing as what Dr Salmon has recommended for the fall reopening, I cannot imagine sending my children to school in masks or under these new restrictions. Not only the children, but if you come into contact with a person you are supposed to self quarantine whether you have symptoms or not. Who is going to run the school building when a lot of the staff has to take off because 1 child or 1 adult came back with the virus. I realize we have to return eventually and while I would love to be back in the building and my children to be with their friends, I believe we should prepare to eLearn for a little longer, even if it is just a back up plan.

Thank you,
Kayla Fowler

9. AAC Board of Education
The Maryland Constitution requires the state to provide a thorough and efficient System of Free Public Schools. The school systems are currently preparing a shutdown for school year 2020/2021 and a much less than efficient remote learning curriculum that is totally unacceptable will be implemented. All educators (More than a few) I have spoken with indicate this is the plan although no official announcement has been made. I think we stand unanimous that children across America are entitled to the right of education. The Bill of Rights/First Amendment gives the right to associate and congregate freely and the judicially recognized right to travel. The Fifth amendment prevents any government (state/Federal) to impair life or liberty of any person without due process. Clearly Maryland School Boards and Government’s would be trampling our children’s liberties and impairing their lives by barring transportation, access, and ability to congregate at School. The constitution did not go on vacation and negatively impacting our children and barring them from a traditional education is a crime. Put our kids back in school this fall! Anything less than full access to the schools is completely unacceptable. If someone does not want their child to go because of health reasons deal with that separately and provide support where practical.
Charlie McNeilly, Anne Arundel County, Severna Park, Community of Fair Oaks

10. Dear Dr Arlotto,

My name is Ashley Simmons. Not only am I a mother of an upcoming second-grader and an upcoming kindergartener, but I’m also a physical therapist with my own private practice/small business in Anne Arundel County. I provide that piece of information so you know I am an informed medical professional, not only a concerned parent and citizen of the county. While I am an essential business, I chose to close my doors March 20th to do my part in slowing the spread of COVID-19. I understand the purpose of these stay at home orders and acknowledge the importance of them at that time. With that being said, I am writing now to strongly request that Anne Arundel County public schools open in some way in the Fall of 2020. I understand that opening up "normally" may not be possible, but with modifications and a desire to do so, we can safely reopen the
schools to assist in our children’s’ emotional, social, psychological, and mental development. Through hybrid models, staggered starts, mini seasons, or the like we can successfully and safely get our children back on track. Mask wear and proper cleaning procedures can protect the children, staff, and teachers from COVID-19. The students can do their part in cleaning to help the teachers and staff. The emotional, social, and psychological well being of all students is strongly intertwined. The adjustments the kids have had to make during these couple months off varies from family to family.

Ashley Simmons, DPT
Severna Park

11. Dear Board Members:

Thank you for all you've done to keep our schools running during the crisis.

We'll have two high schoolers in the fall, a freshman and a senior. So far, the 8th grader has adapted well to 'crisis schooling,' but is sad not to be back in his middle school at least to say goodbye. The junior is struggling with anxiety and depression, and having a much harder time engaging with the new school process. Both acknowledge that they really aren't learning much in this new format, sadly.

I was excited to read about the CDC's new calculation of how low the risks are from Covid-19.

Given the statistically extremely low risk, our family feels strongly that schools, sports, and school events, can and should open back up in the usual way in September. We're hoping our rising senior will pull out of this depression, and that our freshman will happily adapt to the new challenges of high school, free of complicated approaches which definitely put a cramp on teaching and learning. We feel strongly that half-empty busses, staggered schedules, masks, etc., will all detract from their already damaged education, and will significantly burden our families mentally and physically.

We homeschooled before putting our children into the County schools, and are willing to again, should the system in the fall be too onerous for kids and teachers, but our kids would really like to attend in the usual way, given the minute risk.

Thanks again,
Heather Peterson
Severna Park

12. Board of Education,

Please return our kids to school as normal in the fall with the addition of being able to wash their hands more frequently. Learning at home over google classroom is terrible. They aren't learning anything. Sending them back to school wearing masks isn't the way to go either, that's UNHEALTHY! Keeping them at the same desk without being able to move about is also unhealthy as is forcing them be socially distant. The science has proven that Covid 19 is not serious for kids. Please go back to school as it was. We live in Glen Burnie and my kids attend Richard Henry Lee and Corkran Middle.
Thanks for your time. Dawn Birner.

13. AACPS Board of Education,

First and Foremost, I would like to thank you for all the efforts you have taken to continue education for our children during the unprecedented time. Looking at current CDC guidance for opening school systems, it appears that this will likely extend into the fall as well.

My wife and I are looking into options for school for three of our four children next year, one of which would be starting kindergarten in the fall. While my eldest, who will be entering eighth grade in the fall, will likely continue instruction through AACPS provided eLearning, our upcoming kindergartener would likely not benefit as much from the eLearning environment and our soon-to-be third grader is having mixed success in second grade. To allow for flexibility for families, I would like you to strongly consider two requests. First, the digital education resources provided to AACPS students should be available to all students in the county, regardless of enrollment into AACPS. The resources available through ClassLink would be highly beneficial to all children in Anne Arundel County and would give parents additional resources to provide a learning environment at home, regardless of enrollment status. In reviewing the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) for Home Instruction, families who choose formally home instructing children are responsible for acquiring all school materials. While I agree that parents who choose home instruction need to acquire the requisite lesson materials, I see no reason why they should be prohibited from using these online educational resources their taxes subsidize....

Paul Evans

14. Hello,

I’m gravely concerned with the thoughts and decisions being made right now with my daughters upcoming school year. She is a 2nd grader at Fort Smallwood and will be entering 3rd grade.

I’ve always been an advocate for public schooling, seeing many advantages to a public school education vs a private or homeschooling education. I believe that the system has good intentions but is now making irrational decisions based on fear and theoretical science.

I realize that there are people in danger of this virus and socially distanced learning was, at first possibly a good way to solve the problem we faced. But now, we see that’s simply not true. We can protect our most vulnerable without impeding on our children’s futures. We will be doing our children and teachers a massive disservice if we continue down this path.

Not only will the students suffer mentally at school with these restrictions (which will be distracting in the best case scenario) but absolute devastation to their mental and physical health as well.

Humans are not meant to be “socially distanced.” Our children are resilient, but low level, long term trauma can cause conditions like and akin to PTSD. As a sufferer of PTSD, low level, constant trauma as a child, I can tell you first hand that this can truly devastate a child’s development well into adulthood. This is not how I will allow my child to learn and I’m not the only one.
Children and teachers Physical health will take a massive nosedive....

Sara Lawrence

15. To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to in regards to the reopening of schools in the fall. I have 3 sons in the Broadneck cluster, one in each school. I feel it is imperative that the schools reopen in the fall without any restrictions. Although academia is extremely important so is the social aspect of school. I can see the impact the isolation has had thus far on my children, for them to return to school in an isolated manner will certainly cause further harm to them. There is no scientific evidence that the virus is of significant risk to children. I refuse to have my children attend school on a staggered schedule, with masks, no lunchroom, recess, PE and kept at a distance from classmates. I implore you to resolve to reopen the schools in the traditional manner come this fall.

Sincerely,
Nicole Stewart

16. Hi, My name is Anna Lytle. I have 2 girls in elementary school here in Arnold at Windsor farm. Grade 1. I oppose summer schooling ! I also highly oppose MAKING these students go to "So called ONLINE E-learning school. This 1. Takes away any summer plans, 2. IT IS NOT the children's fault America has an epidemic. It is NOT the children's fault the school system can't get their act together and having parents or MOM not work to school her children is absurd! HOW are parents supposed to continually school their children yet teachers are required a 4 year degree to teach ? WE DONT NEED TEACHERS THEN. I refuse to MAKE my children do an online e learning thru the summer. Its BAD enough YOUR making them do this ... until June 18, AT NOT FAULT OF THE STUDENTS. Your insane doctrinaire style education needs a complete make over.

Parents WILL NOT continue to fall for and believe everything the "system" is trying to get away with wedging down our children's throats. Get it together or we all need to homeschool our children WITHOUT your school system !

17. Dear Board of Education members:

My daughter is an eighteen-year-old Evening High School student. She has an IEP because of ADHD and other special education needs. This semester she was taking a full course load and doing splendidly -- all outstanding and above-average grades. Then the virus lock-down started and her grades plummeted. She tried the on-line and remote learning platforms, but even with help from a special educator she found it impossible to follow the lessons. So after several weeks of demoralization, she simply shut down and refused to do any more work.

She doesn't even want to think about school any longer – that's how demoralized she is.

I am sure this little tragedy is one of many hundreds of similar cases. Certain students, especially special-ed students, simply must have in-person learning.
I have read that you are considering at least a partial re-opening of the schools in the fall, and for this I applaud you. Make everyone wear masks if you have to -- get everyone to sign legal liability waivers -- do everything your ingenuity prompts you to do, but somehow -- SOMEHOW -- get these school buildings open again and put people back in them.

*Please share the following as well: an article just posted on History News Network by history professor Jonathan Rose. Title: "Stop the Machine: Why We Should Resist On-Line Learning." Link: http://www.hnn.us/article/175718

This article, though primarily focused on issues of higher education, makes abundant reference to the views and needs of high school students as well.

Sincerely,
Richard Striner

18. Good evening

My name is Lorin Edwards and I am the school counselor at Van Bokkelen Elementary as well as a parent to three children who attend Anne Arundel county public schools. One in high school and two in middle school. I am writing in regards to opening school in the fall. I would like us opening our school system as normal with putting in some things in place to ensure the safety of our children. Hand sanitizing stations, funds for sanitizer and tissues in all areas of the school for individuals to access. If we don't open as normal I fear that there will be more children opting to home school and parents/educators forced to stay home with their children because of childcare and over seeing their school work. Economically and socially/emotionally this would be catastrophic for our children and educators and parents. It would be stress inducing to section off decks, tell our children they cant touch or interact socially? Please consider opening our schools as normal as possible in the fall
Best regards

Lorin Edwards

19. Good evening,

I am writing to you as a parent of 3 High point Elementary school students. I am writing in regards to the fall 2020 reopening plan. I personally believe the financial side of the CDC recommendations for reopening in the fall is not worth it. School buses are already overcrowded and we have at least 5 buses that come through our neighborhood now. Cutting the buses down to having one child per seat would mean the school system would have to accommodate more buses and more bus driver for the schools. The county would probably have to add into the budget how to accommodate the children eating in the classrooms (hiring more nutrition staff, utensils, trash disposal, etc.) , sneeze shields, and individual electronic devices (for those who do not already have them). Our school is brand new but we would not be able to accommodate them being 6 feet apart, I can't imagine open school buildings and bigger class sizes. In addition, the social and mental aspects of opening with these accommodations would be far more harming than eLearning for a few months. The teachers can help recover lost students and adjust the curriculum, but the mental damage that would be done to children would be irreversible. Therefore, I totally would be against reopening in the fall should AACPS consider doing so.
20. We should reopen Maryland schools without any restrictions. The data clearly shows that the threat has abated. In reality this virus was never a threat to school aged children anyway. There is no valid reason for schools to be closed or for there to be any restrictions. Life wasn’t risk free before this virus, nor will it be risk free afterwards.

This chart shows this virus is of no threat to school age children. Almost all deaths are associated with pre-existing conditions age 65 and older.

Maryland Deaths have dropped substantially according to the Maryland Health website. We are down to 20ish per day instead of the peak of 70. Green bars on the graph in the lower right hand corner:
Across the United States as a whole deaths have fallen dramatically and continue a steady decline everyday. Down to 2.89 per million people.
Matt Weber
Pasadena MD

20.

PLEASE SEND THIS LINK BELOW TO SCHOOLS BY JUNE 1!!

In many respects, school-aged children have borne the brunt of our social response to the coronavirus pandemic. While not often at direct risk of harm from the virus itself, students have seen their educational trajectories significantly disrupted, with undeniable academic, physical, social and mental health impact. Alternatives being proposed for fall, such as remote or hybrid learning, hold little promise to rectify these disastrous impacts or provide any sense of stability to America’s schoolchildren. If anything, options such as hybrid instruction, “socially distanced” classes with desks six feet apart, and school days with minimal social contact all promise to further disrupt students’ learning and undermine the sense of stability that is critical to healthy child and adolescent development. In the face of increasingly clear research on the impact of school closure, we must seriously consider the question of competing harms. Closures offer uncertain and relatively minor benefits in overall pandemic control, but
their harms to children and society at large are known and significant. As we emerge from this period of national crisis, reopening schools can prove an effective way to help repair our strained social fabric. School helps to guarantee educational access and equal opportunity. School helps to facilitate students’ cognitive and academic development, to support social and emotional connection, and to re-establish valuable routines for children and adults alike. For the well-being of our nation’s children and our society at large, it is critical that decision-makers immediately prioritize children’s timely return to school so that all of our nation’s children can access the high-quality, developmentally appropriate educational experience that they undeniably deserve.

Jennifer Gooding
Arnold, MD

21. Dear AACPS Board Members,

Schools need to open with regular schedules for our children this fall. They need structured schooling with consistent schedules by teachers who have been trained to educate.

E-learning cannot continue. Our children’s education is suffering. Teachers are not educating - they are uploading county-generated assignments and only grading a small portion submitted. This is unacceptable.

I ask that AACPS make the right decision and open schools again in the fall. If a partial in-school schedule is adopted where children must wear masks and stay socially distant or e-leaning continues, I will be homeschooling my children.

Kelly Gebhardt
Davidsonville, MD

22. To the Anne Arundel County Public Schools Board of Education:

In accordance with the requirement for your body to consider public input into and comment upon your proceedings for your June 3 2020 meeting to consider among other things, the re-opening of public schools in the Fall of 2020, I offer the following:

Whereas the decision to shut down schools in response to a poorly understood contagion during the early Spring of 2020 may have been initially understandable, everything learned since that unprecedented decision has confirmed that action to have been ultimately unwarranted. Whereas the lethality of COVID19 to children under 18 has now proved to be virtually zero (one pediatric death in MD as of 25 May) and that for the protection of teachers and administrators within the AAC educational system who may be more vulnerable, many measures (e.g., requiring those individuals to work from home) other than closing the entire school system may and should have been considered, rather than depriving our children of the educational resources which they deserve and for which we their parents pay.

Therefore, any consideration of extending a shutdown of the regular opening of public schools in the Fall MUST NOT be on the agenda of your meeting. The only agenda items should be consideration of how to remedy the damage inflicted upon our students and their families by the school shutdown and how to best serve them as schools reopen in the fall.

David Gayvert
Crofton, MD
23. To whom it may concern,

I am a parent of a second grader in AACO. He absolutely loves his school and we devastated when the school buildings were closed for the year. He is one of those kids that does not thrive on distance learning. He can't learn from Google slides and videos. The two days a week his teacher has Google meets with the class, he is too depressed to log on because it makes him so sad to see his friends and his teacher and not be able to be there with them. He struggles with several learning disabilities as well as a medical condition that kept him out of school for the first couple years of his life. He was just starting to thrive emotionally and socially in school, and his fabulous teacher and administration was getting everything lined up to help him succeed academically as well. As much as he has thrived in the classroom, if schools don't reopen normally, I'm afraid we would have to withdraw him. It is absolutely not evidence based, nor safe, to expect kids to wear masks at school. And the repercussions from keeping kids "socially distant" from their teachers and classmates will be far reaching. The affects on their mental health cannot be downplayed. Kids have been proven to NOT spread this disease to others. They also have practically a zero chance of getting it themselves. Why are we going to wreck their entire lives for something that they have less chance of getting than the average flu??…..

Sincerely,

Sarah Scott
Severna Park, MD

24. Dear Board Members:

Thank you for all you've done to keep our schools running during the crisis.

We'll have two high schoolers in the fall, a freshman and a senior. So far, the 8th grader has adapted well to 'crisis schooling', but is sad not to be back in his middle school at least to say goodbye. The junior is struggling with anxiety and depression, and having a much harder time engaging with the new school process. Both acknowledge that they really aren't learning much in this new format, sadly.

I was excited to read about the CDC's new calculation of how low the risks are from Covid-19. This very brief article lays out the data:


Given the statistically extremely low risk, our family feels strongly that schools, sports, and school events, can and should open back up in the usual way in September. We're hoping our rising senior will pull out of this depression, and that our freshman will happily adapt to the new challenges of high school, free of complicated approaches which definitely put a cramp on teaching and learning. We feel strongly that half-empty busses, staggered schedules, masks, etc., will all detract from their already damaged education, and will significantly burden our families mentally and physically.
We homeschooled before putting our children into the County schools, and are willing to again, should the system in the fall be too onerous for kids and teachers, but our kids would really like to attend in the usual way, given the minute risk.

Thanks again,
Heather Peterson
Severna Park, MD

25. Dear Anne Arundel Co. Board of Education,

Please open schools in the Fall. NO masks. I just watched numerous videos of kids in other states hugging teachers good bye!! No masks!!! I’m all for extra hand washing and sanitizing. I will even volunteer to help one day a week!

Do not deprive our children of a QUALITY education. What they are getting now is a JOKE. My son’s mental health is in your hands. Please allow those who want to return to do so and leave E learning in place for those who are at risk, afraid or for whom it works better for.

Thank you for listening to us!!

OPEN OUR SCHOOLS

Mindy Kiracofe
Chesapeake Bay Middle

26. I am contacting you as both a parent and educator, I encourage you to not feed the fear that is circulating this COVID arena or strictly adhere to the CDC’s apocalyptic guidelines. A transition back to school is good due to the 90+% of us who are healthy that have been quarantined and have lower immunity now, but to keep kids out of school longer for germ spread sake is not factual at this junction and would do more harm to the mental wellbeing of our children in the long run. Kids thrive on routine and physical teaching, not taking online courses like college kids. It saddens me to see so many in higher decision making positions following theoretical CDC guidelines that were incorrect claims, instead I feel you need to be following the best interest of our students learning.

If parents are scared they can homeschool or do online learning, but it would be a disservice to mandate kids to stay home longer and have more unhealthy screen time. This goes for summer learning as well. There will be a learning slide like usual, but the e-learning is not true learning and will only bring more burden/resentment on families. Teachers cannot support those with IEP’s and the shy ones are not asking for help online. Physical learning is in our genes, take that away for an extended period of time like this and we’ll have generations with a lot more issues than present time.

Sincerely,
Laura Thompson

27. My husband and I have two children in AACPS public schools. If AACPS adopts socially distanced learning-involving masking for kids, solo play instead of group play, or partial schedules, our kids will be homeschooled this year and likely beyond. Socially distanced learning is not evidence based and not
developmentally appropriate.

Patty Doran
Linthicum Heights

28. Hello,
My thoughts on fall reopening:
I have 3 children in AACPS. One whom is entering high school in the fall. Second is entering 3rd grade and lastly my youngest is starting kindergarten. I want my children back in school and to be back into a routine. The plans that AA County are considering is offensive to these students. You took away so much from them already. Stop traumatizing them. They need normalcy back. They need their teachers. They need consistency. Most importantly they need structure! Especially high school students. They need experiences. Example: prom, homecoming, clubs, friends, classes, and most importantly graduation. Kids are falling behind in e-learning. Parents are going back to work full time. We can’t accommodate physically and financially anymore. I understand we need to be safe and we all want our children safe, but statistically the numbers do not add up to the point that we need to continue to make our kids suffer any longer. Too much damage has already been done. Let them experience the best parts of their life!
Sarah Lowry
Pasadena, MD

29. To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in opposition to your proposed changes to the 2020-21 school year. I am a parent of 2 high school students who attend CHS in Pasadena in Anne Arundel County public schools. As a parent I have numerous concerns the CDC and state have given on how to begin school in the Fall.

I understand we are in unprecedented times. I am not a teacher, nor do I have any skills in education. The challenge I am having is with the complete lack of online instruction offered. School is not a workbook mailed weekly or a bunch of videos found online regarding a specific subject it is and always has been TEACHERS. Children need the interaction and instruction from teachers to be successful in their schooling. The Maryland school system is failing with distance learning.

A major concern I have is implementing masks be worn during the school hours. This is not something I am willing to enforce my 2 teens to do while obtaining an education. I have 1 kid with asthma and her having a mask constricting her face is unacceptable. As a parent I refuse to make my children wear a mask in school. It is not practical and as an adult I have issues wearing a mask and refuse to do so as it constricts your breathing. People cannot be made to wear a mask and this is not an option for my family.

Lunches, both my children receive their lunch from school. Making them bring food into the school that is prepackaged is not practical....

Sincerely,
Trisha Frasier

30. Hello,
If AACPS adopts socially distanced learning—involving masking for kids, solo play instead of group play, or partial schedules—my child will be going to private school this year and likely beyond. Socially distanced learning is not evidence based and not developmentally appropriate. Working parents cannot feasibly homeschool—schools need to open normally this Fall! These kids need school and social interaction for their mental well being.

Jocelyn St. Hilaire
Whispering Woods Community

31. I believe we should do whatever it takes to get kids back in school if that means later days and weekends I’m fine with that. The problem is we can’t have kids home during the week when you have both parents working we can’t afford to have one parent staying home. I know the board is going to do what they want anyway and not going to listen what the parents want.

Robert Green Street
Pasadena, MD

32. To Whom it may concern,

My Name is Tricia Brazill and I live in Oakleigh Forest. I have 2 children hopefully starting at SPHS in September. I WILL NOT send them unless it opens fully with NO masks. I am currently researching home school programs and will have no problem pulling my kids. This virus does NOT affect kids and I will not subject my children to masks, plastic between desks, circles six ft apart etc. The school needs to go back to normal.

Thank you,
Tricia Brazill
Severna Park, MD

33. I am a resident of Davidsonville with five children in the public school system including three at Davidsonville Elementary, one at Central Middle, and one entering South River High School. I ask the Board to consider please allowing the children to return to school on schedule with as close to a normal school day as possible. They need and crave normalcy and a set schedule. Please consider much smaller class sizes, more outdoor class time when weather permits and increasing outdoor recess time for the children. I strongly hope that my children can return to school and learn without a sense of fear (please no masks or desk barriers for these kids). We continue to teach our children to wash their hands, use hand sanitizer, and be considerate others by not spreading our germs. All of these children have suffered greatly during this uncertain time and have sacrificed much. They have been perhaps the most overlooked group during this epidemic without a voice. They all deserve and have the right to a solid, consistent education.

Thank you for time.
Jennifer Edwards
34. Dear AACPS Board Members,

Schools need to open with regular schedules for our children this fall. They need structured schooling with consistent schedules by teachers who have been trained to educate.

E-learning cannot continue. Our children’s education is suffering. Teachers are not educating - they are uploading county-generated assignments and only grading a small portion submitted. This is unacceptable.

I ask that AACPS make the right decision and open schools again in the fall. If a partial in-school schedule is adopted where children must wear masks and stay socially distant or e-leaning continues, I will be homeschooling my children.

Kelly Gebhardt
Davidsonville, MD

35. To whom it may concern,

I am a parent of both a 6th grader and a 4th grader in special education in AACO. Both my children miss their schools, teachers and friends. Neither are doing well with online distance learning. My special education son is falling behind. He can't learn from Google slides and videos. The two days a week his teacher has Google meets with the class and this is not enough. However, google meets are an annoyance in itself to a working parent to countdown the hours to be available and not stray too far to login on time and wait for a last minute code. My same son has several learning disabilities. He was just starting to achieve his IEP goals and gain confidence. It's taken years to get here and now he's missing critical time with his teachers, especially his special education team.

Both my sons have lost their structured weekdays. Life is chaotic with working parents. We are working our own jobs while being expected to be teachers and for two different grades, for several subjects that we are not trained for!

Both my husband and I need to have our children return to school in the fall and NOT with masks. We see the statistics. We read all the medical articles. We have common sense and we believe the risks are very low for our children to catch Covid 19. We let them go to school during flu season every year. The teachers attend school with all the germs every year and this virus is no different.....

Sincerely,
Kathleen Corcoran
Fort Smallwood Elementary
Chesapeake Bay Middle

36. AACPS,

As the parent of two high school students, I am begging you to get all students back in the classroom in the fall of 2020.
Please analyze data (the positivity rating is down 58% in AA county - as of May 31) & look at the infection rate in the under 18 population. These kids NEED to be in school. The rate of Suicide & depression is much higher than their risk of even contracting the virus for this population.

If you keep high school youth at home this fall, their socialization and ability to thrive will continue to plummet.

My youngest was a sophomore at Severna Park HS this year & she had ONE LIVE INTERACTION WITH A TEACHER since March 13!!!!!! No student can sustain interest and even begin to learn without teacher & classmate interaction. How do you learn math concepts or a foreign language online? These kids are being given busy work & instructions to ‘email’ math questions to your teacher?!?! That isn’t a solution. That’s a sad excuse for education.

Hold Hearings, pole parents of youth with special needs, survey parents of at risk youth. Keeping them home IS NOT FEASIBLE.

Thank you for your time.

Maria Putzi
Severna Park, MD

37. My wife and I have two children in AACPS public schools. If AACPS adopts socially distanced learning-involving masking for kids, solo play instead of group play, or partial schedules-our kids will be homeschooled this year and likely beyond. Socially distanced learning is not evidence based and not developmentally appropriate.

Chad J. Doran, PhD
Town/Community: Linthicum, MD
School: Monarch Academy

38. To whom it may concern,

Enough of the unnecessary rules and restrictions on our kids. The data sharply dictates it attacks those with pre-existing conditions and primarily over 50. Our kids deserve better.
Open the schools, forget about masks, forget about the Karen's that just hate life will be upset about any decision you make.
Kids need the classroom. They don't need these mandates brought from an overreaction.
Check their temperature, trust parents will keep them home if they don't feel good, let teachers do their job, and get us back to square.
Matt Killian
Glen Burnie, MD
PS No problem homeschooling if you choose otherwise. By kids will not be a part of this mess.

39. To whom it may concern:
I have two children in Anne Arundel County Public Schools; a 3rd grader and 7th grader. Over the past two months, I have seen their confidence decreasing and frustrations increasing. Both of my children loved going to school, excelled, and were A & B students. They are now getting D & E grades. My son is in advanced classes, and he has had multiple days where he spent his “school day” in tears. My daughter needs help navigating around her “e-leaning” most days. This is not a solution long term. The platform is terrible and hard to navigate.

Our children are not getting an education from e-learning. They belong in a classroom with a teacher who can answer their questions on the spot. My son is learning advanced math from videos with a voiceover. This does not take the place of hands on learning with teachers and students in classrooms. My daughter one day almost had an anxiety attack. She was shaking and crying because the platform kept erasing everything that she had spent typing which took almost 20 minutes each time. What a miserable way to learn. No wonder these children and parents dread each day that they must face another day e-learning. Not to mention the social isolation that our children are experiencing.

As for your recovery plan, the thought of separating the kids and requiring masks is just not acceptable. Your recovery plan sounds more like a prison than a classroom. These are very delicate years where our children are growing and learning....

Sincerely,

Erin Bellere

40. Hi all
We know you have a lot on your plate to work through
Thank you
Please allow children to be in school. I can’t help but think how much less violence there would be today if more of our children had been in school these past 6 days.
In addition to what is suggested in the link below, seems reasonable to adjust the calendar .. start 2 weeks earlier end after the first week of December
TEACH HOW TO BUILD CHILDREN’S IMMUNE Systems all school year long.

Lee Michelle
Arnold, MD

41. Good afternoon:

Please do your best to open schools in the fall in an in-person setting. I am in the position of seeing the need for this as both a high school teacher and as a parent.

First, as a high school teacher, the prospect of starting the year in an online format disrupts and possibly prevents the type of comfort and relationships that research says is needed for students to take risks and grow. My incoming 9th graders will start high school without knowing the opportunities that await them through relationships, learning schedules, and developing the grit and stamina that will pave the way for their lives. An online round-robin with their cameras turned off will hardly teach them to interact and have confidence.
As a parent, I have already witnessed the disconnect and loss of skills, and I am able to supplement and help them more because of my teaching experience. My 2nd grader lives for lunch bunch on Friday, and her teacher is great at talking to her, but sadly, today it was her, another kid, and the teacher. Hardly a good turn out for a class of 25. Academically, she's falling behind because one board book that she read at the age of four is hardly appropriate for her Level M or her 5th grade sister's level Y. There's no thought even being given to their loss of reading skills with this blanket text across K-5. I worry fall will set them both behind. My older daughter is worried about starting middle school online. And the loss of friends and social skills for her, someone with a 504, is immeasurable....

Sarah Petri  
Parent, Teacher & Community Member  
Pasadena, MD / Chesapeake HS Teacher / Chesapeake Cluster Parent (CBMS and Jacobsville)

42. Thank you for the opportunity to have a voice in the return to school programming for students, and teachers this fall. I believe that the school system should err on the side of safety, protecting building staff and faculty, as well as students and parents by continuing with eLearning with a projection and goal to return to the classroom as soon as safely possible.

As a college professor, I know the difficulty that eLearning can bring for both teachers and the students. I propose that the Board of Education employ a group of educators that have experience with online teaching and learning, as well as investing in an online platform that will provide greater flexibility to teachers, and ease frustrations for students and parents while accessing the learning content. Learning can continue online, the process is more challenging, but can still occur for all students.

Thank you,  
Shannon Meers-Gimon  
Pasadena, MD

43. Please return kids to school normally, the way it was and should be. For those parents who disagree with returning to the same normal standards like before, they can homeschool. I agree with the manority: If AACPS adopts socially distanced learning-involving masking for kids, solo play instead of group play, or partial schedules-our kids will be homeschooled this year and likely beyond. Socially distanced learning is not evidence based and not developmentally appropriate.

Sincerely,  
Robin Zellers  
George Fox Middle School

44. To whom it may concern,  

I am writing today to express my displeasure with the CDC's proposed guidelines for school reopening in the fall. Such guidelines are developmentally inappropriate, not science-based, and unnecessary. Students should be able to socialize freely without the constraints of masks or social distancing (i.e., maintaining a distance of six feet between students). When deciding if and how students are to return
to schools in the fall, please implement developmentally appropriate models and guidelines, if any. Returning to school with excessive guidelines in place will certainly harm students’ wellbeing. Please keep this in mind when making your decision. Thank you.

Sincerely, Claire Doran

45. Board of Education,

I am a resident of Davidsonville with five children in the public school system including three at Davidsonville Elementary, one at Central Middle, and one entering South River High School. I ask the Board to please allow the children to return to school on schedule with as close to a normal school day as possible. They crave normalcy and a set schedule. Please consider much smaller class sizes, more outdoor class time when weather permits and increasing outdoor recess time for the children. I strongly hope that my children can return to school and learn without a sense of fear (please no masks or desk barriers for these kids). We continue to teach our children to wash their hands, use hand sanitizer, and be considerate of others by not spreading our germs. All of these children have suffered greatly and have sacrificed much. They have been perhaps the most overlooked group during this epidemic without a voice. They all deserve and have the right to a solid, consistent education.

Thank you for time.
Brian Edwards

46. Hello,
I’m writing about the proposed changes to the 2020-21 school year. I’m a parent of 2 Chesapeake High school students in Pasadena. As a parent I have numerous concerns the CDC and state have given on how to begin school in the Fall.
A major concern I have is implementing masks be worn during school hours. This isn't something I’m willing to enforce my 2 teens to do while obtaining an education. I have 1 kid with asthma and her having a mask constricting her face is unacceptable. As a parent I refuse to make my children wear a mask in school. It isn’t practical and as an adult I have issues wearing a mask and refuse to do so as it constricts your breathing. People cannot be made to wear a mask and this isn’t an option for my family. My oldest child attends CAT-North. She’s in her last year of her program this upcoming school year. She needs to get as much of an education as she can so at the end of the school year so she can take her state boards and become licensed. This involves going to the school EVERY day and having hands on experience which involves other people. Our county is opening up already, so by the time the school year starts she should have the right to go into school and do the necessary work. Students have to switch classes. If desks are wiped down and children use hand sanitizer before and after classes I see no reason this cannot happen....
Thank you,
Trisha Frasier

47. To Whom It May Concern:
I am a second-grade teacher at Park Elementary and parent to a first grader in Anne Arundel County. My first concern is students’ and teachers’ emotional health. I feel it is not in our best interest to return in person in the fall. The proposed ideas for reopening are very concerning. I believe that children will not get the benefit of human interaction that they need if they cannot physically be close to their classmates or adults. How are they going to work together? How are reading groups going to be
conducted? What if a student needs to be consoled? What if a student has an emotional outburst? How is this any better than remote learning? I truly believe these proposed safety measures look and feel as if students are in a prison. My daughter has ADHD and cannot physically sit in one area for too long without freedom to move. Teachers need to be able to monitor students’ responses and behaviors and this requires removing the distance between each other.

My second concern is equity. How is this reasonable to propose elementary teachers to return to the classroom but not middle or high school? We will not be able to departmentalize or have proper planning time. This is not equitable to ask teachers and students to stay in one classroom all day or to monitor both in person instruction and remote learning. These students and teachers will also be exposed.

Jessica Lathroum

48. Dear Board of Education,

I come to you as an elementary school teacher and parent of two elementary aged kids. The last few months have been tough since my husband works full time outside of the home. Kindergartners and first graders cannot complete work without almost 100% support. I have some suggestions that can help the teachers, parents, and students. These suggestions are relevant if we do online learning in the fall.

1. Please consider having teachers post everything Saturday at 8:00 am and due Friday at 12:00 pm. Teachers are not working on the weekend, so it difficult when parents are emailing questions on the due date (Sunday). Of course most teachers answer, but that is our time with our families. A Saturday posting gives parents a weekend, and teachers do not feel like they have to keep checking online for questions. Also, a noon due date on Friday gives teachers at least a half day to grade before the next posting comes out. The overlap of grading one week while new assignments are out has been very difficult. Please also consider a stricter policy on due dates. I spend a lot of time looking back to see if kids have turned in assignments.

2. Please consider a Monday-Friday schedule for elementary education instead of A Day B Day. Parents are having difficulty organizing Google Meets because we cannot say “M, W, F each week is Reading” because it changes each week. A suggestion is M, W, F Reading and T, Th Math. There are ways to work this out just like Cultural Arts each has its own day. We need to streamline to make it easier.....

Dana Manojlovic
Central Elementary School
NBCT

49. To whom this may concern,

I am a teacher and parent of 5 kids 4 of whom would be in AACPS next year. I cannot do a chaotic schedule in the fall. The death rate is like a flu season, less than 1%. Under the age of 55 it is .022%, and under the age of 25 it is .00008%. I think with all the information we know about this virus we are now overreacting. It is like a bad flu season. With that being said, If AACPS adopts socially distanced learning-involving masking for kids, solo play instead of group play, or partial schedules-our kids will be looking into private or other schooling this year and likely beyond. Socially distanced learning is not evidence based and not developmentally appropriate, especially knowing what we know now about the virus.
Parents also cannot monitor all the crazy schedules being offered, and also work. Kids will likely not go to school and not hang around at home. We are looking at a disaster waiting to happen if we think kids of any age can stay home unattended without serious consequences. It’s dangerous, and absolutely not needed. It’s time for everyone to go back to normal.
Gina Witcher
Brooklyn Park

50. Hello,

I am a parent with children going to an AACPS school. I would like to see a survey sent other to parents regarding what AACPS implemented for online learning in lieu of in person learning because I feel like online learning implement thus far is unsustainable for children who are taking multiple subjects. You’ve taken away redos and make up. Office hours are shorter. Live sessions are shorter. You are taking away from the learning and still expecting the students process all that information. Distance learning is difficult for adults, much less children taking on 6 or more subjects, especially magnet programs.

Warm Regards,

Olivene Blake
Pasadena, MD

51. Dear AA Board of Education,

Through the DES PTO email blast, I learned we could write about agenda topics for the upcoming meeting this week, June 3rd, 2020.

I am proud parent to two Davidsonville Elementary School students - one in upcoming first grade and one in upcoming fourth grade. I am writing about agenda topic #3 - Summer Recovery and Fall Reopening Update.

I am an advocate for the children going back to a normal school schedule in Fall 2020. Elementary age children benefit from a schedule, routine and social interaction with their peers. They learn best in a physical classroom setting where they respect, admire and listen to their teachers. As a parent, I do not feel that I am doing my child justice because they simply do not want to learn from "Mom". These elementary years are imperative to their overall education. The ground work is laid out for their work ethic, social skills and intelligence.

We all know technology is important for the future. However, we also know from many studies that too much screen time is detrimental to a child's brain development. I have found during this period of home schooling the children have, in my opinion, entirely too much screen time.

I am willing to consider all options to get the students back into a physical classroom setting. However, I do feel asking a child to wear a mask or social distance from their friends will be almost impossible. I am a HUGE fan of the extra curricular subjects such as gym, art, music and even lunch and recess....

Sincerely,
52. To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you as a parent of high school student in Anne Arundel County. While you are having to make these difficult decisions about how to bring students back to school in the Fall, my first question is, why are you not polling the parents of students to find out what the majority would feel comfortable with? If you did, I think you will find that a huge percentage would support sending their children back with a normal schedule. If this is the outcome, then have the home hospital teachers & hire additional teachers to do the distance learning for those students whose parents want them to learn at home, as I do not believe this number will NOT be large. The cost (both financial and emotional) associated with doing this would be lower than having kids go on a staggered schedule. The tax payers of this state are NOT paying for our children to be educated online or on ridiculous part time in class learning. Time to stop denying our children the right to a real education!

Jennifer Flynn

53. We have two children who attend the Broadneck cluster. We are very concerned about the impact that online learning is having. We feel that in-person school is VITAL to our children's mental and emotional health. Their learning has stagnated during this time. Please develop a plan to start in-person school in any way physically possible...even if it means a modified schedule. We also think the current fall start date of Sept. 8 is entirely too late. Please move up into August.

Schools in Europe have taken to teaching many classes outside on school grounds. This is a wonderful idea and can be done to help manage physical distancing. And nature can be worked into curriculum in so many ways.

Lastly, we would ask that the whole curriculum be offered...we have heard stories of cuts to arts, music and PE in some states. This is heartbreaking and unacceptable.

So much has been said about "essential" businesses. We believe in-person school taught by professional teachers is essential for our children.

Thank you for considering our thoughts,
Nicole Morella and Jim Langenbach

54. Hi. I am a parent of a 2nd grader and Kindergartner at Shady Side ES. I believe we should be back in the physical building this fall. My sons do not learn in the e-learning setting. My oldest has comprehension delays and needs the one on one support he is given at school. My kindergartner will only participate in google meetings if we bribe him. They are missing the structure and little learning moments they need. Right now, both children are going back to school almost a year behind. They are already at a disadvantage. All the e-learning assignments are generic. They are not student based, so how are they learning? As parents, we do enough to get it done, but we have jobs and don’t have time to teacher our children. We aren’t trained to teach them. We are hurting them in the long run. We haven’t even talked about their mental health. Being stuck at home and not seeing their friends, playing
sports or having any communication with peers is detrimental to their mental wellbeing. Talking about no lunch or recess and being stuck in the classroom isn’t going to work either. That will completely break them. They have suffered enough from this invisible threat. Let parents decide whether to send their children to school or not. Let’s not take away their future.

Evidence is showing that children are not passing this disease onto other, so why aren’t we planning a regular opening in the fall?

Jen Burgoon

55. Please let the kids return to school on a normal schedule. Have the kids wear a mask and have strict policies in place for keeping kids out of school if they have any signs of any illness. The number of cases in AACo is extremely low. The survival rate for kids is 99.99%. Distance learning is not effective. As far as I know, my child is completing all of the remote work and is busy for about 1-2 hrs a day.
Sincerely,
Heather Herman
FairOaks community

56. AACPS Board of Education:
I have heard that one of the options to reopen is to allow elementary school students to attend in-person and for middle and/or high school students to continue distance learning. Although this might be a rumor, I implore you to consider how every student, not some, can return to school. As a preschool teacher, I understand that young children are developing the building blocks of learning and the importance behind these formative years. As a parent of a child in middle school and another in high school, I know that adolescents are still very much continuing to develop these skills, specifically social/emotional and academics. The secondary grades are navigating healthy relationships with peers and adults and need exposure and guidance. Higher education and/or employment are near, and I personally think the rigor during distance learning has been disappointing and might lead to being ill-prepared. If all students cannot be bussed or in a building at the same time, an A/B day schedule is one inclusive option. Mental health has been at the forefront for the past couple of years: I urge you to consider all students’ mental health as you discuss options for 2020-2021.
Lindsey Dryer
Severna Park

57. Mr. Arlotto and Board,
The Chesapeake Cluster should return to school in September 2020.

Negative Impact:

Academic: My daughter’s workload has increased due to busy work. This is counterproductive and she is learning less in Chemistry and PreCalc. She is spending a large percentage of time with technological challenges. She is not interacting with any of her teachers.

Physical: Between Dance and Phys Ed. My daughter has lost 6 hours of physical activity and fun each week. Add insult to injury, she has to do busy work on classes which used to be creative and physically stimulating.
Emotional: Our students are socially isolated from their friends, teachers and after school activities.

It has been 4 months and there have been NO adolescent deaths in AACO and the surrounding zip codes of our school.

The masses of our students are not at risk. They are not spreaders. The data shows IF students contracted the virus they were NOT severely sick. The data shows the student body did NOT infect each other in school. The data supports no widespread infection to family and extended family members.

The CDC guidelines will be impossible to implement. This is extreme costly mitigation for a population at low risk.

The Board Of Education and Health Officials should open school in September and leave the population of teachers and students at risk at home continuing with the distance learning.

Liz Trochimowicz
7994 W. Riverside Drive
410-255-6271

58. Dear Anne Arundel County Board of Education,
My name is Kristen Komlosy, a resident of Bay Hills and the mother of two boys – ages 13 and 16. COVID 19 has turned our world upside down! However, now it is time to develop a learning plan for the fall that involves the social, emotional and academic well-being for our children. E-learning has been a challenge and I have watched children’s anxiety, frustration, isolation, and insecurity grow. With little face-to-face teacher interaction, my children have been self-studying vs learning. I’ve watched them try to digest, process, synthesize and respond to information and concepts on their own - unsure if they were correct. There has been little to no direct teaching!

Going back to the county’s guiding principles, it states that “everyone in the AACPS family fosters student growth. We accept and embrace the challenge and responsibility to meet every student uniquely based on individual needs.” I know for a fact that e-learning is not meeting one of my son’s individual needs!

The day-to-day school environment helps our children develop social skills that will lead them through life. Depriving our children of the opportunity to return in some fashion to in-person learning this fall risks the loss of critical academic skills and ability to develop confidence and self-assurance. PLEASE come up with a fall plan that creates a new “norm” for in-person learning for our children.

Sincerely,
Kristen Komlosy
Concerned Broadneck High School Mother

59. Dear AACPS Board Members,

Schools need to open with regular schedules for our children this fall under normal circumstances without mask, partitions, or reduced schedule.

E-learning cannot continue. Our children’s education is suffering. Teachers are not educating - they are uploading county-generated assignments and only grading a small portion submitted. This is
I ask that AACPS make the right decision and open schools again in the fall. If a partial in-school schedule is adopted where children must wear masks and stay socially distant or e-learning continues, I will be homeschooling my children. I will not subject our children to a classroom environment that could resemble a scene from 1984.

David Gebhardt
(Father of a kindergartner and a second grader at Davidsonville Elementary)

60. I strongly encourage AACPS to be proactive and thought leaders and return our kids to school in the fall, especially elementary aged children. The experience of several other schools that have returned children to school has shown no adverse affects from bringing students back. In addition, the research has shown that children under the age of 10 do not have a significant number of the ACE2 receptors which make them less susceptible to the virus — in terms of getting and spreading it. The Economist Magazine published an article indicating the financial costs of children not being in school and it is grave, both for the short and long term.

I encourage AACPS to act smartly and strongly and stand up for our students and our communities. These kids need to be in school.

Knox Flynt
Parent of 2 children at SPES

61. To Whom It May Concern,

My husband has a medical condition that requires we use extra caution to prevent contracting COVID-19. We will likely need the option to home school for the upcoming academic year to allow more time for the curve to flatten and for the medical community to get a better handle on the treatment of the virus.

My request would be for AACPS to make the current online learning program optional for the coming year if/when school reopens. The programming has been very good and we could build upon it with low exposure activities in the community for socialization. I understand teachers may not be available as they are now because they will be in the classroom; perhaps a small number of teachers for each grade could be dedicated to running the online learning program?

Last Winter the flu was so widespread at our elementary school, our Kindergartner’s class was half empty for 2 months. If I extrapolate that to the spread of COVID, it is not safe for our family. The lunch tables and common areas are just not cleaned well enough despite the best efforts of the staff. Young children cannot be relied upon to wash hands, etc.

I appreciate your consideration as each family must assess risk and develop a plan, according to unique risk factors and resources.

Sincerely,
62. My daughter is a 4th Grade student at Shady Side. She has direct access to Wi-Fi, Verizon cellular service, a laptop, a Chromebook, 2 tablets and 3 smart phones. She is familiar with google classrooms as it was previously introduced by her teachers. She is what you would consider an “average” student. No learning disabilities or school intervention plans. She is not the straight A student either. She works hard and gets average grades. She is in a loving and nurturing home with 2 parents. Mom and Dad both work full time and additionally operate a small business. We have managed to assist her with her e-learning, completing all assignments, because we want to see her succeed. We want her to be prepared when she starts school in the Fall as a 5th grader. Neither of us are teachers. We are frustrated and she is unmotivated. Our teachers are awesome, they are adapting and connecting with the students. 25 weeks from March 13th, the last day students were in school, until September 8th, the date students are expected to return to school. 25 weeks is long enough. Our students cannot wait any longer to be back in school. Crisis learning isn’t sustainable. We are leaving children behind. Our students have been facing social and emotional issues. Students can’t go to school, can’t play sports, can’t play on a playground, can’t see grandparents and can’t see friends. We need in-person schools back for the mental health and development of our students.

Thank you,
Robert Howes

63. Involved parent of Student at Shady Side. CDC guidelines for schools are irresponsible and I am urging AACPS to develop an individual plan that is realistic for students to be back in the classroom ASAP. Develop work groups using parent volunteers at each school to develop individual protocols for classrooms. If certain zip codes are developing more cases, than have those students e-learn, not the entire student body. There is research being released that children aren’t carriers and are not passing the virus. Every month that passes brings on more information and research. Please develop new sick policies for students and staff. Too many students are being sent back to school to soon after being ill with fevers, flu symptoms, vomiting or diarrhea. This is a good time to develop and enforce protocols to protect students and staff from other illnesses. 25 weeks from March 13th, the last day students were in school, until September 8th, the date students are expected to return to school. 25 weeks is long enough. Our students cannot wait any longer to be back in school. These past few months have been crisis learning, not e-learning. We need in-person schools back for the mental health and development of our students. Please allow our children to be back in school, learning! There are 98 days until September 8th, please use this time to evaluate all options to allow our children to be back in school. Allow alternative options for those families that wish to continue e-learning.

Thank you,
Julia Howes

64. Hi I have a grandson that goes to Davidsonville elementary. He has an IEP because of ADD adhd. I would love to see schools reopen with safety of course in mind. I think it’s important for the kids to go into the school for their learning for a lot of different reasons. I think for a lot of the kids they need the person sitting in front of them helping them especially kids with special education to have more of that
one on one then just looking at a computer all day, they also need recess lunch together and continued social learning. I would like to see them have as much normalcy as possible. It’s important to keep everyone’s world consistent and normal from what we know as normal as best we can. Thank you Tina Hendricks

65. Good Day BOE,

I am a parent of 2 students at Broadneck High School. I am concerned about the fall reopening having a student who is asthmatic. If you plan on sending students back to the classrooms, how are you planning to keep students safe and healthy? I have been a teacher for 18 years, asthmatic myself and I know that students come to school extremely ill. What are your plans to protect the teachers too?

What are your plans if a person in the school does test positive for COVID-19? Will the schools be shut down? Will the students, teachers, and families have to self-quarantine for the minimum of 2 weeks?

I am fearful for my children and myself going back into the classroom.

Thank you very much,
Ami Dawson

66. Please accept these written comments regarding the reopening of schools this Fall. I believe that schools must re-open in the Fall for in-person instruction. Safeguards can be put into place to handle an outbreak, which has been done in schools when there have been outbreaks associated with other viruses such as the norovirus. While schools have done their best to provide remote learning, it is neither a continued solution nor equivalent learning. Academically, children are falling behind. As has been pointed out, school-aged children are the lowest risk group for the novel coronavirus. However, the ancillary effects of continued isolation will have greater implications. School-aged children must have social interaction with classmates and teachers. Social isolation was an issue before COVID-19 and now has been exacerbated, leading to anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. I also advocate for a return to Fall sports and other club participation. Again, sports and other social clubs are a fundamental building block for our youth. Lastly, I believe that any decisions should take into account the ability of individual schools to implement appropriate safety measures, including allowing private schools that do not require bus transportation and that are smaller in size to have greater flexibility.

Submitted By:
Danna Kauffman
District 6
Blackwalnut Cove Community

67. I have three children that all attend AACO public schools. I am writing this letter to implore the BOE, state Superintendent, Governor and any other deciding persons/parties to OPEN SCHOOLS as normal! I am sure there will be, and even should be, newer hygiene protocols to be implemented. However, the wearing of masks is NOT one that should be made mandatory. One of my children has a congenital respiratory defect, she is at high risk for all respiratory related diseases/conditions/settings. A mask will NOT be worn by my child. They are germ ridden,
scientifically unproven to protect those who wear them as well as those not wearing them. Children cannot be expected to wear face coverings for hours on end on a daily basis -in fact, wearing of masks for long time periods is dangerous. Wearing of masks is my greatest concern. My children are emotionally low, socially deprived and academically lethargic. This E-learning experience has been incredibly stressful and burdensome on our entire family. Homeschooling would be more manageable. I feel that my letter, and our family's experience will go un heard and decisions will be made despite hard science based on fear and emotion. I hope that is no the case. I will be attending the meeting to see how the Board discusses and decides.

Thank you,
Julie Knott
South River Schools

68. I am a mother of a first-grader in AAC and I am very concerned at what I am being told about schools reopening this fall. There are no deaths from Covid19 in children in AAC. In fact there are no hospitalizations of children with Covid19 in AAC. There is no science behind closing our schools or keeping them closed. There is however a huge problem with mental health due to isolation with my child as well as many of the other children, parents and teachers I’m talking to.

The right to education has been stripped from our children. They are not learning. They are depressed. My son is crying every day. Shutting schools is not saving anyone. We’ve flattened the curve and that was just to stop the hospital surge. It was never to save lives.
Open our schools

Kristin Adams
Severna Park, MD

69. Board of Education:
When school let out in March due to COVID-19, I had two of my three children enrolled at the local high school. My third child was an 8th grader who I homeschooled. I have homeschooled all of my children up until high school.

I do realize teachers and staff have worked hard during this challenging period. My high schoolers have done well during distance learning and have turned in all assignments. However, my kids say it’s too easy with only one assignment a week for each class.

As we move forward to the fall, I believe some students can continue to be distance learners. I think this should be an option for students and families, especially ones with health issues. We have a family member in our household who is high-risk. I don't see how I can send my kids to school and risk bringing COVID into our house.

Based on how effective distance learning was during the last couple of months, I believe a hybrid solution is possible. The hybrid solution would be a combination of students attending school physically, while others continue distance learning. As you plan for distance options, I think the academics can be more rigorous. The hybrid solution will take some groundwork and rules set out by the school system.
Thank you,
Christine F.
Edgewater, MD
The following testimony was submitted for the June 3, 2020, meeting of the Board of Education. The “…” designation indicates the cutoff of testimony due to it exceeding the word limit. The full version of such testimony has been provided to the Board.

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR ITEM 4.04, TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Dear Board of Education,

Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of the students and staff during the pandemic.

It may seem like a lifetime ago, but please think back to how you were feeling at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10th, when the storm clouds of coronavirus had gathered, but not yet fully reached Maryland. You discussed the state of AACPS transportation with Prismatic Consultants. What did you want to accomplish regarding transportation and school start times at the next meeting or two? Were you interested in a comprehensive plan by AACPS on how they were intending to address each recommendation? Were you interested in a gathering a group together to work out how to implement start times and use the software to determine if there were other zero cost bell schedules?

While the world may have turned upside down just days later with the closure of school facilities, those questions still remain.

Without the daily demands on transportation routers, what specific progress has been made regarding Recommendations 2 through 26? A response that “AACPS is working on it” is no longer sufficient. What will be the impact if the County Council does not restore funding for the additional transportation routing personnel and communication systems? If the funding is restored, how will the pandemic affect implementation and hiring?

When students return to school, transportation will need to change. Is the Transportation Department ready and able to meet this upcoming challenge?

Thank you,

Lisa VanBuskirk
Edgewater
Start School Later Anne Arundel County Chapter Leader
The following testimony was submitted for the June 3, 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 5.01, PUBLIC COMMENT

With schools hopefully opening back up in the fall and the COVID/social distancing issues we are about to face with the children on overcrowded buses, I’d like you to consider extending sidewalks to county schools to one mile (especially elementary schools), this will allow more children to walk or bike to school instead of spreading the COVID virus further on the cramped buses.

The Benfield Elementary and Severna Park Middle School sidewalks do not extend more than .2 miles down Benfield Road when going west. The sidewalk ends at Lakeland Rd S. If the sidewalk extended 1 mile that would bring the sidewalk to 732 Benfield Road.

Please consider extending the sidewalks as a safe alternate route to school. I’ve contacted the county executive and Steven Kaii-Zielger (Director of Planning and Zoning) and have not yet heard back so I appreciate your assistance in moving this request to the correct department. Thank you for your time. I live in Ben Oaks off of West Benfield and my children feed into Benfield Elementary, Severna Park middle school, and Severna Park high school.

Susie Hill
Severna Park