

# Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | February 3, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency, Board meetings are currently being broadcast for the public and in compliance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act.

Times for agenda items are intended as guidance only.

The Board may choose to change the order of agenda items to meet the needs of the Board. Unless changed by the Board, items occur in the order listed.

## Board Members

Melissa Ellis  
*President*

Dana Schallheim  
*Vice President*

Candace C.W. Antwine

Robert Silkworth

Corine Frank

Joanna Tobin

Michelle L. Corkadel

Drake Smith

## Upcoming Meetings

### General Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 16, 2021  
6:00 pm  
&

Thursday, February 18, 2021  
6:00 pm

Approval of the FY2022 Budget

### Policy Committee

*Virtual*

### Budget Committee

Tuesday, February 16, 2021  
2:30 pm  
*Virtual*

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## 4:00 pm 1. Motion to Enter Closed Session

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## 6:00 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 Recognitions

2.06 Educator of the Month

2.07 Employee of the Month

2.08 Volunteer of the Month

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## 7:15 pm 3. Public Comment

The Board will hear public comment on agenda items from up to 10 speakers per agenda item during this section of the meeting. Those wishing to provide live testimony may register, space permitting, at [www.aacps.org/boardtestimony](http://www.aacps.org/boardtestimony). All speakers will be allotted 2 minutes. Written comments on agenda items can also be submitted through a form available at [www.aacps.org/boardtestimony](http://www.aacps.org/boardtestimony). The process for submitting such comments and comments on non-agenda items, which are only accepted in writing, can be found at [www.aacps.org/boardtestimony](http://www.aacps.org/boardtestimony).

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## 8:15 pm 4. Presentations

4.01 Student Wellbeing Survey Update

4.02 2020-2021 Reopening Update

4.03 2020-2021 Athletics Update

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## 9:15 pm 5. Departmental Reports

5.01 Safety and Security Report

5.02 Bullying Prevention Report

5.03 Diversity and Inclusion Report

5.04 Transportation Report

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## 9:30 pm 6. Action Items

6.01 Administrative Personnel Appointments

6.02 Personnel

6.03 Items of Legislation

6.04 New Course Approvals

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## 10:00 pm 7. Review Items

7.01 Chesapeake High School Cell Tower Update

7.02 Award of Contracts

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## 10:15 pm 8. Consent Items – Award of Contracts

8.01 Concrete Services

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## 10:30 pm 9. Motion to Enter Closed Session (if needed)

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**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](http://www.aacps.org)

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#### 4.01, STUDENT WELLBEING SURVEY UPDATE

Kaya Smith, Arundel Cluster

Would like administrators and teachers to consider having graded work worth no less than 7 points. This should allow for students to have the ability to score points from A - E. When graded work has less than 7 points at least 1 passing grade would be missing . Students are stressed by trying to excel and only having opportunities for grades for passing or failing adds on extra stress.

#### 4.02, 2020-2021 REOPENING UPDATE

Alexandre Mallet, Belvedere Heights

I'm foreigner, arrived in the US in July 2020, working at the US Naval Academy and above all, father of 2 kids, 11 and 9 years old. I precise that they don't speak nor understand English. Since our arrival schools are exclusively virtual. The option to put our kids into private schools, physically open, is impossible because of the cost! So, that means that there are my 2 kids, in front of a screen, listening people talking in a foreign language. It's more than challenging for them to follow the curriculum here, even if there is ESOL. You know that they need to go physically to school to be immersed and talk with English people really to improve. This is the first part but, you know this isn't the most important. Indeed, I want you to hear that because my kids don't speak English, they don't have any friends here. They don't have social interactions and they need that. We enrolled them into sports but there were a lot of issues also because of covid. To summarize, you have to reopen schools, this is your commitment. Please think about kids, at least one time! How can you imagine kids in these situations. And how can we imagine the difference between private and public schools. The kids deserve more? Because they have more money? And what about the teachers and staff, they are stronger face to the covid?! Thanks to do your best to reopen schools now!

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Elizabeth Fine, Crofton Cluster

Our county executive recently lifted restrictions on 1/29/2021. We can have more diners in a restaurant. We can go to the movies, roller- and ice-skating rinks, and bowling allies. Our children can play sports again. We can continue to visit Maryland Live in larger numbers and even visit an adult entertainment venue. What can't we do? Oh yes, go to public school! Children are watching. Students have watched their right to an in-person education put dead last in a list of reopening priorities. They see their friends going to private school safely since September and experiencing the joys of school. They watched in November when the hybrid plan was put on hold due to a spike in cases, and high school sports came to a screeching halt. Children were watching, and on March 1, some of them might finally see the inside of a school building in this county. It is up to you, as the BoE, to insist that our students' needs for an in-person education are prioritized as important as the lifting of these other restrictions. Our students have been harmed long enough. More than half of America's students are learning through in-person models now, yet TAACC wants both doses of the vaccine, as well as a case rate of 20 for more than a week. It is time for AACPS to start standing up for its students, follow suit from other states' plans, and stop the continued harm to students' mental, academic, and emotional wellbeing.

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Jodi Doney, RIVA

I am terribly discouraged that our kids are still doing virtual school. I understand that we needed to shut down in the spring as we had not known what we were dealing with. However, we should have been back in school at the end of summer and then virtual during peak season like other schools. I have kept quiet and trusted that you had a plan to get our kids a proper education. But I feel that our kids have not been the priority. I have had kids in this school system since 2005 (I have 5 children) and have spent hours volunteering and so now I am volunteering to stand up for our children. This is unacceptable. I am a nurse at AAMC. Through this pandemic, we've had our own struggles. Hospital workers have had to cope with various feelings regarding our jobs and safety. As a profession, it was important that we be there for those that depended on us. Those workers who didn't feel safe in the hospital retired or found different work. I know some who made this choice. I am sure the feelings were the same for those on the front lines in grocery stores. In addition, virtual learning has had a significant impact on the motivation of our children and cause hardship to the working folks who help sustain our community. I am requesting that you put out a call for teachers to return to in-person teaching immediately. We'd expect you to fill the holes with substitutes or perhaps look to graduate the college students early as we did in the medical community until the teachers are willing or able...

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Nicole Morella, Broadneck

I want to thank the board for voting to reopen no later than March 1. I feel it is necessary, imperative and safe to reopen as soon as possible. I would refer you to the press conference held by the Governor on January 21st in which schools were encouraged to reopen for students with our current metrics. Evidence shows that with proper precautions virus spread is nil in the school. Here is the link to the video of the press conference. I would call special attention to the remarks by acting deputy secretary of public health services, Dr. Jilene Chan (our county's former health officer) beginning at the 13-minute mark which make it clear it is safe and recommended for schools to reopen. Press Conference - January 21, 2021 - YouTube Another resource came out of a report by the CDC showing virtually no evidence of virus spread in schools with safety measures in place. Article linked below: CDC finds scant spread of coronavirus in schools with precautions in place - The Washington Post One study from the article was "In 11 North Carolina school districts, with more than 90,000 students and staff, found within-school virus transmissions to be 'very rare'— just 32 infections acquired in school vs. 773 acquired in the community. The study found no cases of student-to-staff transmission. "I hope this is helpful and I hope the board stands by its decision to reopen no later than March 1, REGARDLESS of vaccine status. Thank you, Nicole Morella

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Amy L Adams, Edgewater

Hello, Please include this in the testimony log for the BOE Meeting on 2.3.21. My name is Amy Adams and I currently have 3 children enrolled in Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Two at South River High School and One at Central Middle School. My husband and I both work full time. There is no amount of written testimony or empirical data that can accurately demonstrate the dire situation that AACPS students are currently facing. Therefore, I am extending an open invitation to all AACPS board members, administrators and County Officials to visit our home in order to fully experience a day of virtual schooling and see first hand how inferior and unproductive it is. Please come and personally witness the immeasurable anxiety, weariness and tears that virtual schooling elicits on a daily basis. The achievement gap is widening every hour our children have to stare into a computer screen, click some buttons, watch videos and end up teaching themselves the material. Maryland used to be #1 in education and now the results from Fall testing show otherwise. The negative and profound effect on their mental health is not even something I can process at this point. Just because I can start my car with my iphone does not mean that a student should learn Chemistry or AP Gov via the same platform. There is now a vaccine and there must be an end game or resolution for this situation. Schools have never been guaranteed to be completely safe and risk free; nothing in life is risk free.... Sincerely, Amy Adams

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Matt Fine, Crofton HS Cluster

I am writing with my strongest support to return as many students as possible to in-person learning by March 1st. Despite very clear direction from the Governor, his staff, and the CDC, AACPS seems to be one of the few school systems still fighting a reopening plan. I was recently sent the latest demands that TACC distributed to all members. Prior to returning to school, TACC is demanding: 1) full vaccination, 2) low case rates (for the very disease they would be immune from) and 3) member support for a PAY RAISE during the upcoming Feb 15th meeting. If this was not hurting our children so much, it would be comical. Full vaccination was NEVER part of the reopening requirements, and it is not part of the Governor's plan. The fact that the teachers' union has once again moved the goalpost to keep our children out of school is shameful and cannot be tolerated anymore by the BOE. There is clear data from around the country that schools, and the children attending them in-person, are NOT the problem. Delaying reopening anymore is simply based on fear mongering from a union dedicated to keeping our kids out of school. Those causing this damage to the children of our County are on the wrong side of history and are directly responsible for the deficit these kids will face for years to come. Enough is enough, it is time to embrace science and CDC guidance and open our schools!

Erica Oneil, Gambrills

46 other states have had some form of in person learning happening already. Maryland students continue to fall behind these students as well as Maryland private school students right here in our own backyard. It's truly sad that our kids haven't set foot in a school building in almost a year. My girls miss their friends, interaction with real people- teachers, instructors, coaches. We now have documented medical and emotional diagnoses that have been created/exacerbated by virtual learning. All parties in this mess have also successfully constructed a large rift between the teachers union and parents. I believe the reverberations from this rift will be felt for years. Please stay the course to open ALL GRADES full time now for those children and teens that need and want to return to schoolbuildings. Let's focus on rebuilding the relationships that are so vital for a functioning community.

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Emmett Overstreet, Crofton

I'm going to put this as nicely as I possibly can. Students need to be back in school ASAP. Anne Arundel County is becoming the laughingstock of the entire country. You guys took one of the highest ranking school districts in the nation and threw it in the toilet.

Elisha Roth, South River Colony

My second grader used to love school. She's bored. She complains her eyes hurt 30 min into class. ALL YOUR FAULT. Stop the politics. Stop shifting goal posts. Stop kicking the can down the road. Stop listening to the teachers union that does not speak for the majority of teachers! Open schools. Kids should be in school 5 days a week but at this point I'll take the hybrid plan. Just do it! It's safer. Follow the science! This is all political and not safety related. One of the few states that is not doing in person learning. You should be ashamed of yourselves if schools don't open this year. Shame.

Robert A Shepherd, Severna Park

We need to get the kids back in school ASAP. My sophomore in high school needs in person schooling. They are doing it many parts of the country and our own state. Get it together and get them back in school please. Thank you!

Ashley Leighty, Arnold

I'm here to express my intense concern for these kids being able to get back into the buildings. While it won't be the same as normal school, it's something! We have to start somewhere. And hopefully by the fall, we can have these kids in the swing of things even if it continues to be a hybrid. The teachers have worked so hard but I feel it's time for them to get back into the buildings to be in person with our children. Just as everyone else has had to get back into work, some in the public..some not... we still had to return. And to be honest if I told my employer no, then I'd be fired and looking for another job. These kids are important!!!! They need to be in a social atmosphere. Not staring at a screen all day. It's taking my kindergarteners first year of fun away from her and it just isn't fair. Why is it other schools are able to do this, but AACO can't give us a definite and putting this plan into motion? Please, consider these children!



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Lorraine Smith, Severna Park

Please continue to forge forward and bring our children, who chose hybrid, back to school. The 2 week shutdown is over. Kids around the country have been in school since August. People around the country and in Anne Arundel county have been working in their workplaces as required by their jobs. No more delays, no more stalling. Please stick with your plan to bring hybrid children back to school no later than March 1st. The mental health of our secondary students is truly suffering. The isolation is awful. The backsliding of academics is crazy. The social development has been truly hindered. Our young adults have missed out on a crucial time in their development. These children need to be back. Please keep moving forward.

Margot Forthofer, Severna Park

Please bring our children back to the classroom. I am a child of a kindergarten student at Folger McKinsey; his teacher has done an amazing job connecting with her students, but he has not met fiends and tells me he doesn't know any children his age. My fifth grader isn't mentally prepared to attend middle school next year and I'm terrified. This has gone on long enough. Most of the world had proven schools can be safe, and you've failed so far. Please make it up.

Darby Davis, Chartwell

Our children need to be back in school in person ASAP! This time already spent out of school has done substantial academic and social damage and it will only get worse. Maryland is only one a few states that is still implementing this, and our children are suffering.If we can go to restaurants and grocery stores...then our children need to have their education prioritized!!

Ashley Rittermann, Severna Park

Our children are suffering soooo badly!!! Reopen our schools now! Teachers are no different than a grocery store worker, bank teller, etc in terms of # of people they encounter on a daily basis. This is beyond absurd at this point!!

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Paige O'Neil, Crofton

I want school to re-open because online learning makes me feel stuck. What I mean by stuck is not getting the normal learning experience. I feel as though I am not able to absorb information and lessons taught to me. At this point in time I don't remember a lot of things we have learned. So it feels like an endless cycle of learning then forgetting what I have learned . I see everyday how my teachers are trying their very best to teach us but I still don't get the learning environment we used to have (in person learning). Every year our guidance counselor helps us find what kind of learner we are, whether it be visual or hands on or auditory. But online learning doesn't cater to everyone and their learning preferences. So it just feels as if I am stuck and not getting the learning I need to be successful.

Claire McGuinness, Severna Park

I am writing to you in the hopes that every effort will be made to open schools beginning March 1. Our children are suffering from both an educational and emotional standpoint. My children who have always loved school now wake up dreading the online school day. They are frustrated, lonely and their school performance is declining more and more as the virtual year dredges on. The majority of other school systems have reopened in some capacity. While I understand the ever changing complications of a pandemic, education is ESSENTIAL and it is disappointing that it has been placed on the back burner when every other business has been allowed to reopen. My hope would be for a full reopening but at this point I at least hope that a hybrid opening will be possible. Thank you

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Cheryl Wolf, Severna Park

Again I am writing to urge you to continue with plans to open schools no later than March 1. The evidence continues to mount that virtual learning is detrimental to our children and that school spread of COVID is not occurring. The CDC has again weighed in and recommended that schools re-open. Our Governor, the State Superintendent of School, and the State Health Officer all agree that schools need to re-open. Every day our children are not in school is another day that is lost. Our kids are not getting this time back. This Board needs to move forward and open our schools. Parents need the option of sending their children back into buildings. I respect those who wish to remain virtual and those who wish to send their kids to in-person learning should also be respected. Schools were never supposed to stay closed until all school staff was vaccinated. The speed at which a vaccine was developed is a modern health marvel. It is amazing that it is now being distributed but we shouldn't have to delay schools opening because of it. It seems unfair that because there is a vaccine that is now being used to penalize the kids even further. Schools are essential. School personnel are the only people in the 1B priority vaccination group who haven't returned to their actual place of employment. The way the teacher's union has behaved during this pandemic has been disappointing at best and they appear to be least concerned with our children's welfare...

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Heather Travis, Davidsonvill

Children are suffering from school doors being closed. The private schools are open and have been successful in conducting in-person learning. The public school children are suffering and falling increasingly behind every single day they are at home. The notion that is the "safety of the children " is the foremost concern is ridiculous. There are many teachers refusing to go back because they are afraid, but others like working from home getting the same pay and benefits. What is not being pointed out is that teachers are essential workers. They must understand that going into the profession just as nurses and doctors are essential workers for caring for patients. I have cared for patients for over 24 years in the Nursing field, as a Nurse Practitioner for the last 17+ years. I have put my health at risk from viral and bacterial infectious diseases, radiation exposure, chemotherapy exposure. My job calls for me to take the needs of my patients as my priority while using the reasonable and appropriate precautions to protect myself. If I was not willing to go to work, I would be asked to resign. It is time for the parents concerns to be addressed- please reopen the schools.

Vicki Heller, Wharf Creek

I am extremely in favor of the return to in person learning. As a parent of a 16 year old, 11th grader I am seeing first hand the struggles and issues virtual learning has caused. His anxiety, frustration and lack of motivation is at an all time high. He is having a very hard time staying focused. He is lacking contact with counselors, teachers, and peers. His social interaction and physical activity are very limited. His grades have dropped from straight As and a few Bs to mostly Bs and Cs. This is NOT a successful program. The amount of class time is less than 1/2 they would have in a normal, in person school schedule. This is a real problem when the curriculum and prep for AP courses hasn't changed. These students are basically teaching themselves the material and now almost ALL of the work is done independently. This is supposed to be his year to cultivate the finer skills of studying, preparing, and time management and he is NOT getting that. (I can compare this in contrast to the experience of my 2 AACo graduates class of 2014 & 2016) I haven't seen the staff, administration or school system make any real improvements since September. Email traffic to parents & students to form relationships (modified) is minimal from the teachers, counselors, etc. It's a very sad state of public education.

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Amy Speed, Edgewater

I am writing as the parent of a first grader. We have selected hybrid for him for the remainder of the year. I urge you to honor your commitment to listening to Dr. K. and the metrics, along with vaccinating all teachers who wish to be vaccinated BEFORE reopening schools. We must protect our teachers and staff before sending them into a classroom with students for 6 hours a day. Please do not go back on your word and keep safety at the forefront of your decisions. Thank you for your time, Amy Speed

Dan Heller, Wharf Creek

I am extremely in favor of the return to in person learning. I have seen my student (a 16 yr old 11th grader) struggling. His grades have dropped, his motivation declined. He is sad about missing so much that he should be experiencing academically and socially. He cannot get this past year ( & maybe longer back). He will not be prepared for college. On Jan 26th Stuart Pittman allowed restaurants to seat inside patrons at 50% capacity. If our government officials can allow that I just don't understand HOW in Gods name we can't have our public school buildings open at a minimum of 25% - 50 % capacity/ per day. This absolutely makes no sense to me. Therefore, I am extremely concerned that our children have been turned into political pawns. Please consider all the recently published data on how being in school is actually safer for students and does not contribute to the community spread despite the metrics everyone wants to use to stay virtually. It its time for the school system to use innovation and creativity to make this happen- NOW! Not 2 months from now, not 3 months from now. We are losing valuable time and there is no reason for it. There are plenty of easy, safety measures that can be in place to do this. Think grocery stores, restaurants etc who cannot control their population on a daily basis. They just manage the number of people but it is hundreds of different people per day that come into their establishments. Thank you

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Kristy Wallace, Chartwell

As a mother and former educator, I am beyond disappointed in the delay in return to learning. My children cry almost every day, have experienced deficiencies in learning due to lack of instruction, and are isolated. The negative impact is, unfortunately, still not even all revealed-who can measure what this gap has done to our children and families in AA County?. My husband and I both work full time out of the house, and have since last May. When I go into clients homes every day for work, I see worry, exhaustion, depression, and the huge strain that your decisions have caused in our communities. Please show care and wisdom and send all children back to school immediately.

Shannon Leadbetter, Crofton

My 7th and 9th grade sons are so excited about their choice to return to hybrid in March. My 7th grader told me going back will make him feel 'normal again.' My 9th grader is 'excited to be in a room, any room, with different people, for the first time in a year.' He finally 'has hope', 'the change of scenery will help [his] days feel less flat and empty.' He believes the emptiness he feels now prevents him from focusing. Both boys agree being in the buildings will help them feel 'motivated again.' My 9th grader knows it will help his friends who tell him how lonely they are. Stick to the timeline you have planned. Follow the CDC, Maryland Health Department, Maryland Dept of Education, Governor and President's statements that vaccines are NOT necessary for teachers to return to in person teaching. Essential personal have been working, in person, all over this county for months with safety measures, but without vaccines. By AAC Health Departments statistics, most people catch Covid is at social gatherings - not work. CDC studies show schools have lower rates than communities. Kids are safer in schools. Education IS essential and the employees should work in person, with mitigation measures, just like every other essential employee has been working. Kids are finally feeling hope again. If you backtrack on your plan, you will do more harm to hopeful kids than you can imagine. Please do not turn back. Follow through. Don't let students down.

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Erika Pabon, Crofton

I want to thank the BOE and Dr. Arlotto for the work that has been put in since COVID-19 started. I am in support for in person learning for all students. Virtual vs in-person learning has not divided our county. In the beginning of the school year, there was a strong push for virtual learning mostly from educators. Parents and educators have been going at it in social media. It has become very ugly and frustrating. I know most of our teachers and parents want to come back and others not so much. Either way we must keep moving forward. Families should have the choice on which learning method best fits their needs. Parents cannot be shamed for expressing that virtual learning isn't helping. We are not saying teachers are bad, but the style of learning isn't effective to most families. We should have been opened during the fall. Also, I have emailed everyone to also not to forget our student athletes. It is heart breaking that another season has been cancelled especially for seniors. Virtual practice is just more time on the screen. I love our coaches and I know they are trying to best to get these kids motivated. Athletes weren't meant to be on the screen all day. If private schools, youth, and clubs have are currently playing then there is no reason why public high school athletes can't compete. EQUITY! We have learned so much since COVID started. NO MORE DELAYS or CANCELLATIONS!

Lonnell Mariano Owens-Pabon, Crofton

I am a student who goes to CAT-South. I hope we are able to get hands on learning. It is hard to take a class that requires hands on learning. What's the point of taking a class in CAT-South if I cannot practice what we are learning.

Colleen Losh, Oakleigh Forest

As a mother of three daughters, with one fourth grader and one first grader at Folger McKinsey Elementary, PLEASE REOPEN IN PERSON LEARNING. The emotional toll this has taken on my children has reached it's breaking point and if school does not reopen for at least hybrid learning in March, we will be forced to pull out of AACPS and we are on the wait list for private school. Enough is enough!!!!

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Jackie D'Amico, Severna Park

Our family fully supports getting children back into the classrooms ASAP. The past year of virtual learning has caused a massive amount of stress, both academically and emotionally for our family.. Our children continue to display regression in their learning capabilities, and more importantly, their social behavior. Additionally, my husband and I have continued to work full-time outside of the house since the onset of Covid. We have had to employ babysitters 4 days/week, and bring a high-risk grandparent to help 1 day/week. This entire situation would be easily resolved if we would simply put these children back into the classrooms. There is no reason why students and staff cannot wear masks and demonstrate a safe learning environment.

Jennifer Grey, Davidsonville

Good Morning! wanted to thank you in advance for your time to discuss the implementation of getting our children back in school. Please just give them a choice. There are children who want to remain virtual but there are children that NEED to be in person. My children are those that need to be in school. My youngest, a seven year old in second grade is so far behind between being cut short mid first grade and virtual all second grade. There is so much more that she would benefit from in person learning. She is my independent, laid back child and sitting at home doing virtual learning all day has changed her. She is grumpy and angry. Please allow her the opportunity to be back in person and develop relationships between teachers and peers. She needs the benefit of social, emotional, and physical learning. My oldest, a ten year old fourth graders has an IEP and needs in person learning more than ever. I don't want her to fall even more behind. Young children should be an easier choice for starting hybrid because numerous studies show the transmission rate is so much lower with younger children. Symptoms for young children are relatively mild. Of course there are severe cases, those are few and far between especially compared to the mortality rate of last years flu season for children. Private schools in our area have been open since August with few issues for both children and teachers. Public schools in other states have also been open since August...



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Jocelyn Blatzheim, Gambrills

First and foremost I want to thank you for voting for our students' academic, mental, and emotional wellbeing and continue to vote for schools to reopen no later than March 1st. I am the mother of two sons, a senior and a sophomore who attend Old Mill High School. Although both boys have managed to do well academically, they miss the rigor and a My senior no longer wishes to take the AP exams he signed up for in the Fall because he feels he has not been adequately prepared due to significant decrease in time allotted for teachers to teach the course curriculum.

Amy Heinrichs, Southern Cluster

I am writing again to urge our respected Board Members to continue to move in the direction of offering our students a choice for hybrid learning. As plans are made and published, please make it clear to all that this is a CHOICE! Parents who choose for their students to remain virtual can continue in that manner. Students who are struggling with virtual must be given the opportunity for some in person instruction. HS and MS students specifically are suffering socially, educationally, and emotionally. Follow the lead of all the surrounding states and counties and put our children before fear and politics! Thank you!

Ashley Harding, Crofton

Our two elementary schools are suffering academically. Our middle schooler and high schooler our suffering mentally and emotionally. Our kids need to be BACK IN SCHOOL! Science has proved schools are NOT SPREADERS. I can also be sure that these kids will do ANYTHING and follow ANY RULE if it meant they could get back to school School closures has gone on too long!

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Jennifer Farrelly, Riviera Beach

Our family is so grateful that for the decision to return to school no later than March 1st as you decided. As we move towards this commitment, I'd encourage you to consider the recent changes made to our county. Restaurants are opened and with expanded capacities as well as gyms, local establishments, movie theatres, bowling alleys and many other gather places yet our schools remain empty. I encourage you to stay committed to the children. People like to go to eat and stay healthy by going to the gym but children NEED to be in school. Please continue to remember that they they matter, they are heard and they are understood. My daughter and her friends are so excited for the new semester classes and not because they have new classes but because they have the opportunity to see their classmates. Let's keep that the focus and get our children safely back to school by March 1st.

Kerri Weisenreder, Pasadena

I have 2 children in AACPS schools and a third who has been in daycare since the beginning. My husband and I have been essential workers since the beginning. We have no vaccines. My 4th & 5th graders are left home alone daily to complete their virtual school as we dont have the luxury of staying home as teachers have. If we can work around the public since March, then teachers can be back to school. If not, I suggest they find new employment. This is beyond ridiculous.

Christine B., Crofton

Now is the time for students and teachers to re-enter the classrooms. My son needs to experience a "real " high school learning experience. Virtual learning has a place... but not for elementary, middle and high schoolers~ all the time, everyday. Prior to the pandemic too much "screen time " was harmful to young eyes, brains, and bodies. Not re-opening schools will have an negative impact on kids for years to come. Follow the science, not the politics. Positivity rates are heading down, we have a vaccine, so open the schools.

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#### 4.03, 2020-2021 ATHLETICS UPDATE

Xavier Pabon, Crofton

6/10/20 Dr. Salmon announced outdoor HS sports resume  
7/8/20 AA county emailed summer workouts can start on 07/13/20-08/4/20  
8/3/20 MPSSAA/MDH/PSSAM postponed 2020 HS Fall/Winter Sports  
9/22/20 Parents pleaded not to postpone due to COVID cases will increase in winter  
9/24/20 Dr. Salmon announces LSS may officially start HS Fall sports beginning 10/7/20  
9/24/20 Minutes after Dr. Salmon announcement PSSAM sent a memo ALL 24 superintendents support 2nd semester return to sports. PSSAM was NOT transparent on this vote.  
9/24/20 AA County Positivity Rate was 3.289 and 8.88 per 100K  
10/6/20 AA County BOE meeting was specifically for HS sports. BOE denied 10/7/20 start date. BOE voted for 2nd semester sport season starting 12/7/20 and all season intramural during the fall. This might have looked like a win, but  
10/7/20 AA County Positivity Rate was 3.25 and 10.11 per 100K  
10/19/20 Fall Intramural Started in county  
10/26/20 MDSE meeting approved PSSAM modified of 2nd semester to start on 12/7/20. This was purely a delay tactic by PSSAM. Dr. Salmon was disappointed to see LSS was delaying again.  
11/11/20 Virtual meetings for Fall Intramural sports  
12/7/20 Winter sports started virtually  
1/20/21 Winter sports will remain virtual  
We understand why spring sports was cancelled. Winter sports cancellation could've been prevented if we were proactive. Private schools, youth, and club sports have been playing since June 2020. There have been delay tactics used to keep postponing / cancelling sports seasons. At the end of the day, high school student athletes have been ignored. They deserve better!

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#### 7.01, 2020-2021 CHESAPEAKE HIGH SCHOOL CELL TOWER UPDATE

Dawn Zebron, Pasadena

I am writing in opposition of the placement of the cell tower on our Chesapeake High School campus. I recognize the importance of being able to connect to service. I empathize with those in our community with poor or no service but myself and over 400 other families from our community that have signed the petition and/or have written or called you against this tower construction are 100% opposed to the tower construction near our schools. You have the ability to stop the construction of this tower. There are more important needs and decisions our school system must attend to then the construction of a cell tower for the community right now. But since its back on the agenda for your review I must request yet again PLEASE stop the tower construction on our school grounds! It does not help what so ever the people our students and staff-put in harms way.

Robin Herzberger, Long Point - Chesapeake School The BOE keeps moving forward with building a cell tower way closer to the students than World Health Org, National Institute of Health, and American Association of Pediatrics state is safe, all for a mere few thousand dollars. If the international association of firefighters won't allow cell towers on their property, why is our own BOE allowing otherwise? As a graduate of CHS, with two children graduates and two more on their way to graduating it is very important to our family. My children will play football on the field right under the tower 5-6 days a week, sometimes twice a day. My family will sit in the stands and our house is a mere half a mile from the proposed site. Please do what is best for our children not the school system's pockets. DO NOT BUILD A CELL TOWER AT CHESAPEAKE HIGH SCHOOL.

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Jenifer Schissler, Greenspring

Given a choice, would you spend 7-10 hours per day for 10 months out of the year, year after year, just feet away from a 5G-ready cell tower? Just a few months ago, our previous BOE voted in the shadows of a global pandemic, to not give our children that same choice and instead voted to move forward with building a 135ft-tall-5G-ready monopole/cell tower along the sidewalk just a few steps away from the CHS stadium, approximately 400ft from CHS, 1300ft from CBMS, and 1900ft from Bodkin. They decided, on our behalf, that our children and up to 5,000 students/year would have no choice but be subjected to the radiation produced by this new tower though none of their children would be affected. They voted for a tower at CHS even though:-the Telecommunications Act of 1996 serves as the last set of guidelines introduced by the FCC and wireless telecom safety has changed greatly in these past 24 years, - organizations like the World Health Organization, American Pediatric Association, and National Institute of Health, all advise that more research is needed before cell towers can be considered safe-the International Associations of Firefighters, the leading advocate for fire fighter health and safety in North America, do not allow cell towers near fire stations in order to protect our first respondersWe welcome our current Board with newly elected members and implore you to do what's right and stop this tower from being built. The few thousand dollars made from this tower, at our children's expense, will never be worth even one child's illness, one teacher or staff member's medical bills, or even one lawsuit. Thank you,Jenifer SchisslerCHS & CBMS parent

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Aaron Schissler, Pasadena - Chesapeake Cluster      Please stop the Chesapeake High School Cell Tower Project. Our community and our children deserve better than to allow this project. Two points for your consideration: 1) You are obligated not to support this project, due to AACo Policies, Regulations, and MD state law/Article 7-401 stating that you, our BOE, shall provide a healthful school environment. Allowing a cell tower mere feet from our children goes against county policy and state law! 2) As a scientist, I can tell you that IT IS AN INDISPUTABLE FACT that doses of radiation are harmful to humans and especially developing youth. Any study attempting to claim that these doses are harmless cannot replicate the reality that will be created by introducing cell towers on school properties. Doses of radiation that are prolonged, and daily, over a period of many years, and the effects that this may have on each of our individual, unique, youths CANNOT be tested and dismissed in a lab. AACo should not be in the business of exposing children to this threat and treating them, their families, and your constituents as guinea pigs. I urge you to cancel this project and future projects that could potentially harm the very children you claim to care about. Thank you for your consideration on this important matter. Aaron Schissler