

# Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | May 19, 2021

Board Meetings are held in the Board Room of the Carol Sheffey Parham Building at 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401

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**  
Wednesday, June 2, 2021  
12:00 pm

**Policy Committee**  
Tuesday, June 1, 2021  
3:30 pm  
*Virtual*

**Budget Committee**  
Tuesday, June 15, 2021  
3:30 pm  
*Virtual*

**Equity Committee**  
Wednesday, May 26, 2021  
11:00 am  
*Virtual*

4:00 pm 1. Motion to Enter Closed Session

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 President's Update

2.06 Recognitions

2.07 CRASC Report

2.08 PTA Report

2.09 CAC Report

2.10 SECAC Report

2.11 Policy Committee Update

2.12 Budget Committee Update

6:30 pm 3. Public Comments

The Board will hear live in-person public comment on agenda items from up to 10 speakers per agenda item during this section of the meeting. Those wishing to provide live in-person 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).

7:00 pm 4. Presentations (I)

4.01 Community Ambassadors

4.02 2020-2021 Reopening Report

8:30 pm 5. Departmental Reports (I)

5.01 Safety and Security Report

5.02 Bullying Prevention Report

5.03 Diversity and Inclusion Report

5.04 Transportation Report

9:00 pm 6. Consent Items – Award of Contracts (A)

6.01 Casework - Rippling Woods ES

6.02 Chromebook Replacement Parts

6.03 Concrete – Rippling Woods ES

6.04 Data Systems Analysis

6.05 Demolition – Rippling Woods ES

6.06 Digital Cameras

6.07 Electrical – Rippling Woods ES

6.08 Finishes – Hillsmere ES

6.09 Finishes – Rippling Woods ES

6.10 Fire Alarm System Replacement – Brooklyn Park MS

6.11 Flooring – Rippling Woods ES

6.12 Food Service Equipment – Rippling Woods ES

6.13 General Trades – Rippling Woods ES

6.14 Masonry – Rippling Woods ES

6.15 Milk and Juice

6.16 Painting – Rippling Woods ES

6.17 Plumbing and HVAC – Rippling Woods ES

6.18 Roofing – Rippling Woods ES

6.19 Service Vehicles

6.20 Sitework – Rippling Woods ES

6.21 Structural Steel – Rippling Woods ES

6.22 Windows – Hillsmere ES

6.23 Windows – Rippling Woods ES

6.24 Vehicle Repairs

**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)

# Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | May 19, 2021

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9:15 pm 7. Action Items (A)

7.01 Administrative Personnel Appointments

7.02 FY2021 Fourth Quarter Operating Supplemental and Budget Fund Transfer

7.03 Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Term Extension

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8. Motion to Enter Closed Session (as needed)

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

The following testimony was submitted for the May 19, 2021, 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 4.02 – 2020-2021 Reopening Report**

1. I am frustrated with the decisions that lead to students getting denied their requests to return to the classroom 4 days a week. The board should appoint a liaison to assist with the ongoing changes between the CDC/AA Co Health Dept during our "phased reopening". The results of the most recent survey need to be compiled that would identify the gaps (staffing, sf, transportation). Diagrams used by the schools are dated June 20 & should be updated. Guidelines in place show 6' separation between desks in classroom, due to eating. This doesn't allow schools to adopt a layout in line with the CDC K-12 update March 2021. 3' spacing in the classroom would allow double the amount of children to learn in-person. Declining COVID rates in the county & only a single isolated case @ Broadneck ES since the return to the building shouldn't be ignored. The cafeteria is being used for storage. If lunchtime monitors are needed the county should offer a signing bonus incentive or offer a sign up genius for parents to offer coverage. If staffing issues continue look at eliminating the Dr. Kennedy's assistant's assistant. Decisions to vote down reduced spacing from 6' to 3' in 2021 & several options that would have alleviated BES overcrowding in 2019 has become a denial of education. It is time to re-address the fact that BES is going to continue to face capacity issues because they existed pre-pandemic. The lack of accountability by the board is enraging.

Emily Van Oudenaren  
Arnold

2. Letter to CHS principal I'm regards to being denied a spot for 4 days per week. There is NO excuse for this!  
Thank you for the update. This is extremely unfortunate for our children. I'm at a loss for words. This is gut wrenching.

My son currently has 4 kids in some of his classes. Everything seems to be lacking at this point especially given the extremely low incidence of serious illness among kids and also the high number of vaccinated individuals.

We have supported the schools throughout the pandemic but the support is dwindling. We will be joining some movements to push back. I would expect the kids back in school full time by fall - the private schools have not skipped a beat and have suffered no consequences. I wish someone could explain this to me.

Polly Kramarsic  
Crofton

3. My hope is that at the time of this meeting you will have already voted to mandate 4days/week for the rest of the school year starting immediately and we do not have to continue to discuss the "reopening plan" or more accurately titled "reopening lack of a plan". Therefore, I will focus these comments on the 21-22 school year.  
There is absolutely no reason to spend any resources "planning" for the 21-22 school year. All of

your planning for this year was a gigantic waste of time and money. Therefore, just simply open all schools for 5 days in person learning. No exceptions, no excuses, no hybrid, no planning. Unfortunately, AACPS does not have the capability to learn, grow and adapt for the benefit of our children, so just focus on going back to status quo pre-pandemic. Please do not continue to allow AACPS leaders to make statements like "we will look into it" or "we are planning to ...", these statements are blatantly false and should not be tolerated any longer.

Karey McDonough  
Severna Park

4. My hope is that at the time of this meeting you will have already voted to mandate 4days/week for the rest of the school year starting immediately and we do not have to continue to discuss the "reopening plan" or more accurately titled "reopening lack of a plan". Therefore, I will focus these comments on the 21-22 school year.  
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Desirae McCauley  
Glen Burnie

5. we have two children attending schools in Arnold (Broadneck Elementary and Magothy Middle). Both my wife and I work full time and our children are only back 2 days a week. Our children are falling behind and we need them in school full time. Both parents (my wife and me) are fully vaccinated.

Johns Bahen  
Arnold

6. I'm a fourth grade student at Central Elementary and I am writing this because students should be back in in-person school 5 days a week. It is completely safe. There are many schools in many places around the world (not just the U.S) that have been doing 5 days a week in person school. The fact that we aren't 5 days a week yet is mind blowing. I moved here a year ago and I haven't done in person school for a whole week since I moved here. That is a problem. Also when kids go to school it is not just good for the kids. It is also good for the parents. When kids leave the house parents have more time to go to work, run errands, etc. With virtual school, parents have to either stay home and watch their kids or find a babysitter to watch them. Some have such busy schedules they have to leave their kids at home. No more free time to do work and things they need to do. Now they have to worry about the child at home. Their job isn't to teach their kids and work out tech difficulties. That's the teachers job. And Hybrid isn't much better especially for the kids going all virtual or on the 3 days hybrid kids do virtual. It's a matter of time before kids start turning off their cameras and doing other things. Please consider this.

Your Central Student,  
Annika Senkowski  
Edgewater

7. It is with great horror, i hear you are considering opening up 5 days a week with one month left of school. these teachers don't need any more changes thrown at them last minute, leaving people scrambling to hire monitors, extra cleaning stuff etc. There has been so much adaptation and these teachers have been amazing, lets cut them some slack. most children, teens are still not vaccinated as well. now with MD lifting all mask mandates, there will be constant battles over this as well. finish the year, clean the schools, assess COVID and come back in the Fall. Severna park families can stop whining and deal with it.

Khristine Page Smith  
Severna Park

8. There are only 20 some days left in the school year. Please, focus your energies on reopening in the Fall. Please, listen to the medical experts and the education experts who are telling you that sending all children who want to go back 4 days a week is not the best course to take right now. Please don't sacrifice student safety (not able to 6 ft distance for the 2 meals, ignoring CDC guidelines on buses) or teacher positions by forcing this issue. It's not in anyone's best interest.

Respectfully,  
Michele Gallerizzo

9. While we are all looking forward to being back in school, it is not the time to rush back to full in person learning. There is a month left of school. Let teachers feel safe that their accommodations will be honored as promised, let kids and parents feel secure with a little bit of consistency. We don't need to ignite a mass scramble just because the state masking policy changed. What hasn't changed is that the AACPS community is not vaccinated at herd immunity levels yet, kids still need to remain distanced at 3 ft with masks on, and elementary/middle school kids aren't even eligible to receive the vaccines. Let's instead focus on making the fall the best reopening, addressing all of the issues brought to light by the pandemic: inequality in education, teachers rights, and technology problems among many. Kids are still learning even virtually, even when it is hard on the students and parents. The worst part of this whole pandemic for my kids has been the constant unknowns from AACPS. Let them keep their teachers and just finish this year instead of being put into new environments and having to navigate a whole new situation for less than a month of school left. Let teachers not have to scramble to make new plans for their families in 6 days. Focus on the next school year please and don't waste another 5 hours discussing a precipitous reopening.

Ashley Parsons  
Odenton

10. Dear Board, I am the mother of a six year old child who is currently in Kindergarten. I write to you today to ask you to please put our children first. Although my daughter's teacher is wonderful, like many of our teachers, my daughter needs to be IN school with her teacher. Picking and choosing is not equitable. My daughter being denied access to 4 days in school and another child being approved is not equitable. How do I explain this decision to my child? My

child was placed in an intervention literacy program because she needs more help, please allow her to get the in person help she needs. In our specific circumstance, accommodations are not what is holding my daughter back from being in school. Distancing and capacity is. Please lift these restrictions. As for the accommodations issue, many people had to figure out childcare to move forward. Regardless of how much we like our teachers, we all need to move forward. Stop holding our children back from the education they deserve. I will continue to advocate for my child until the very last day of school. My hope is that you will do the same.

Sincerely,  
Crystal Clark  
Annapolis  
A mother who cares about her child's education.

11. I think that virtual should be an option to all parents who don't want to send their kids back til they have been fully vaccinated. My daughter has ADHD and just abruptly changing her routine will also be hard for her. I want her to get the best education she can but I also want her to be safe. I would hope the board would give all parents an option to be virtual until our kids have a chance to be vaccinated. My daughter is an upcoming fourth grader and her group to get vaccinated is not out yet. I know a few parents who would agree with me.

Lauren Good  
Annapolis

12. We are ONE MONTH out from the end of the school year. How can we possibly still be considering any further changes to the current school year with so little time left? Your discussion regarding teacher accommodations on Monday appalling. You may not like that those accommodations were approved through the end of the school year but they were. This discussion showed how little these members care about our teachers. I urge you to switch your focus to fall reopening. I urge you to stop acting as if guidance from health experts is something the board can toss aside. If your focus is bodies in schools without a care about their safety, then you do not care about student safety. The CDC guidance regarding schools is there to keep our students safe and healthy. We are still living through a pandemic. We are not on the other side. While adults have the opportunity to be vaccinated, children under 12 do not and likely will not until the fall. We must do what is needed to protect these students until they have the opportunity to be vaccinated and we need a solid plan for fall reopening for elementary and middle schools that focuses on that. While things continue to change, I think it is imperative to continue to follow CDC guidance regarding masking and distancing. Please do all you can to make it safe (as defined by qualified health professionals) for our students to enter building in the fall next year.

Diane Milleville  
Odenton

13. As a parent of a kindergartener and the wife of an assistant principal, I am extremely relieved that Monday's motion for reopening did not pass. Adding all students to a four days a week hybrid schedule that desire it would result in our schools blatantly ignoring all CDC distancing recommendations. This is reckless and irresponsible, as 12-15 year old have only just begun being vaccinated, and our under 12 year olds do not have that option. Furthermore, removing

teacher accommodations, with little warning, to achieve this schedule is showing blatant disrespect for our teachers who already have gone above and beyond during this school year. Many cannot return, even if they wish to, and would simply use leave or FMLA. The result is more students returning, but without their teachers. How does that help our children? Risking the safety of our children, upending the daily schedule yet again, and driving teachers out with only 22 days of school remaining would do more harm than good. In order to learn, students need to feel secure and have consistency. Adding any more changes to a school year that already has been rife with changes would be doing them and all staff a disservice. Please let our teachers do their jobs with no more changes to this school year.

Julie Bieber  
Cape St. Claire

14. I listened for 5 hours to Monday night's meeting and to say I am disappointed is an understatement, but I only get 250 words to express myself. The reason Dr Arlotto and this Board have lost the trust of the public is because it is now crystal clear that there was NEVER any real intention to actually re-open schools this year. How can you say you wanted as many students back in schools as possible when deals were made with staff to allow them to remain home for the entire school year? Were you just hoping that most students would not want to return? I LOVE our teachers! The problem is that deals were made behind closed doors and without any transparency that now have dire consequences for the students. Unfortunately I do believe that these deals should be honored because you can't also lose the trust of your teachers.

If a teacher has already returned to their classroom though why is their class being capped at 12 students? If a teacher can have a class of 25+ students pre-COVID why now, when capacity restrictions have been lifted in this state is that same classroom now only able to house 12 students? There is still room in buildings for many students to return while still honoring the accommodations that were granted. This won't get all students back but it will allow a great deal more to come in person who want to. We are frustrated that you claimed to give us a choice of returning for more in-person learning but the reality of the situation is that there was no way you could handle the numbers....

Cheryl Wolf  
Severna Park

15. Thank you board members for not passing Monday's motion! At Monday's meeting I testified in person that adding more students more days a week would create an unnecessary burden on our students, families, teachers, staff, and administrators for only 23 (now 22) days of school. The board members who voted against Monday's motion also believe it would cause an unnecessary burden on all stakeholders, primarily our teachers who, as Mr. Drake said, are the backbone of our school system. Taking away their accommodations last minute at the very end of the school year would completely break any trust they have in our board. We need our teachers, because we can't have school without them! The teacher shortage is real, the trust issues are real, and the threat of losing more teachers this summer is real. And don't forget the transportation issue is real! Please stick to your vote and do not present any more motions to open up 4 or 5 days a week THIS school year. Focus on the 2021-2022 school year so that we can have a strong 5-day a week return to school for our students. Focus on building a strong summer school program to help bridge our students and prepare them for the fall. Thank you!

Tamara Beger  
Odenton

16. When, during the Monday, May 17 Board meeting, Dr. Arlotto explained the current staffing and transportation issues, it was obvious that the Board could not force a 4-day return for all schools, "no matter what." As it is, administrators are figuring out how to accommodate the most students possible while following the 6 foot guideline for eating unmasked, providing transportation as needed, and in accordance with the mid-day coverage, faculty, and substitute teachers available. Forcing administrators to bring in more students than they can actually accommodate at this time and in the current schedule with the extended mid-day break, puts them, their faculty and staff in an impossible situation! Teachers, administrators, and central office staff are already covering mid-day breaks. Many teachers have more non-instructional duty time than contractually obligated and serve that duty because they know there is no one else to do it! Telling families they can send their children to school, but not provide them a bus to take them, as was part of Monday's final motion, is inequitable. After Wednesday, May 19, there are 21 more school days. We know the staffing and transportation issues. We know changing schedules, switching students' teachers, and putting more strain on hybrid teaching (to the detriment of virtual students) is highly disruptive. These last few weeks are full of assessments and meeting required curriculum standards. Let's focus on academics and finish this school year strong.

Lauren Elfring, AACPS teacher  
Dundalk

17. This year has been chaotic, and school has been one of the few stable factors for students. Even so, with every change to the hybrid program, virtual only students have had to adapt to new start times, new lunch times, new dismissal times. One of the biggest changes has been for students requiring special services; our school spans from K-8 and we have a single speech therapist working with everyone. It is incredibly difficult to have to move sessions around to meet each students' needs, especially when some are working with peers. Please stop making changes for this school year, and focus your energy on the unprecedented needs we will need to address in the next school year.

Christina Daniels  
Laurel

18. I was disheartened by what went on at the meeting on Monday. By the time of this meeting there will be 21 days left of instructional time (6 days for seniors). Let's focus on 2021-22 school year and finish without further disruptions.

Points of clarification from Monday's meeting:

- 1) NOT all employers have relaxed "accommodations"-many of us are still working from home
- 2) Many 504 kids (and kids with ADHD) thrive on consistency--part of the reason for the struggles for my kid has been constantly changing things up on her. Her teacher is a rock star and has helped so much. My child cannot take another change this year.
- 3) Gentleman's Handshakes on "accommodations" are just valid--let's not further disrespect our teachers and school personnel further by revoking current agreements. 4 weeks is NOT a lot of time. It can easily take 2-4 weeks just to find child care (not 4 days)
- 4) We are going to lose QUALITY talent if we push these teachers any further than they have

been pushed this year. Our veteran teachers and our new fresh teachers have been pushed beyond their limits this year. Let's let them finish as is.

5) Quarterlies and iReady assessments are the next several weeks. The disruption NOW would be detrimental to the kids taking them

Let's focus on 5 full days 2021-22 and let this year just finish 2020-21 as is for the sake and sanity of all.

Rebecca Wrotny  
Crofton

19. Regarding the reopening: NO Changes for the remainder of the school year! No more disruptions. Respect Teachers, Families, and Students. Don't disregard health and safety guidance. Stop the chaos! Let AACPS focus their efforts on supporting our students' learning and planning for a fall reopening with robust programs and learning platforms that best supports each child's learning style and situation. That includes continuing to offer Virtual learning, tutoring, homework help. Students in Virtual ARE LEARNING. Teachers teaching in a Virtual setting are still working! Stop the inaccurate blanket statements about virtual learning.

Laticia Hicks  
Crofton

20. I want to thank you all for your hard work this year. While I don't always agree with your decisions, I have to hope they are coming from a good place. I chose to have my son return to school March 1st with the understanding and trust that you would follow the guidance of the CDC and health department. It was abundantly clear last night that some of you no longer wish to do that. I would love to have my son back 4 days, but not at the expense of health and safety. Secondly, there are currently 22 more school days. Adding more children to classes would further disrupt the schedules and routines the teachers have worked so hard to create. I would much rather your focus be on opening fully in the fall. We have simply run out of time. Please do not make any further changes to what has already been a challenging year. Thank you for your time.

Amy Speed  
Edgewater

21. Please don't waste time and energy trying to change schedules for this school year. That door was closed during the board meeting on 17 May. Keep it closed! Revisiting this topic now only jeopardizes success in the fall. Focus on a full reopening in the fall. Focus on retaining and hiring teachers so classes aren't overcrowded. Focus on fixing transportation issues. This is how you serve our students and support our teachers! This is how you make our schools, teachers, and students successful! There is no equity in cancelling teacher accommodations. They were requested and granted in good faith to ensure we didn't lose teachers. WE NEED OUR TEACHERS!!! The topic of trust was brought up repeatedly in the meeting on Monday. Trust that you will lose more teachers if you continue to imply, and in some cases, bluntly say teachers are selfish and unwilling to do their jobs. Teachers, accommodations or not, have been working this entire time! TEACHERS are the BACKBONE and WE NEED THEM!! We need them now and we need them in the fall so our students will have a successful educational recovery!! Focus on

fixing the transportation issues in the county. Don't create more inequity by saying students can come to school if they find their own transportation. This does not help those that need in person schooling the most. Fix transportation issues now so ALL students that are ENTITLED to it (it's required by law) receive transportation now and in the future.

Aaron Beger  
Odenton

22. Since the option of forcing schools to open for 4-5 days a week was discussed ad nauseum Monday, I hope it will not be a discussion on Wednesday. But if it is, please remember the very real concerns addressed on Monday. The CDC and State guidelines have not changed for schools. Our students still need to be masked and distanced indoors. We do not currently have the capacity to maintain that space while returning to more days/week in person. Please do not endanger children and staff for a miniscule addition of in person, instructional days. AACPS staff have worked tirelessly throughout this pandemic and deserve our care and respect. Our children have managed non-stop changes to schedules, classrooms and peers. Please allow them the stability that is necessary for them to focus on learning.

Cynthia Bolin  
Annapolis