

Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | September 22, 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
Vacant

Robert Silkworth
Corine Frank
Joanna Tobin

Michelle L. Corkadel
Bunmi Omisore

Upcoming Meetings

General Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 5, 2021
12:00 pm

Policy Committee
Monday, October 4, 2021
3:00 pm
Virtual

Budget Committee
Tuesday, October 19, 2021
3:00 pm
Virtual

Equity Committee
Tuesday, October 12, 2021
11:30 am
Virtual

4:00 pm **1. Motion to Enter Executive 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 Recognitions

6:30 pm **3. Updates/Reports (I)**

3.01 President's Update

3.02 Policy Committee Update

3.03 Budget Committee Update

3.04 Equity Committee Update

3.05 CRASC Report

3.06 CAC Report

7:00 pm **4. Public Comments**

The Board will hear in-person and virtual public comment on agenda items during regularly scheduled meetings from up to a total of 10 speakers per agenda item of each meeting, prior to Board discussion of those items. Those wishing to provide live in-person or virtual public comment may register, space permitting, at 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.

7:30 pm **5. Public Hearing (I)**

5.01 Superintendent's Recommended FY2023 Capital Budget and Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

8:00 pm **6. Presentation/Discussion**

6.01 Opening of Schools Update

6.02 Fiscal Year 2023 Board Budget Priorities

6.03 Fall 2021 Homecoming Dances

9:00 pm **7. Action Items (A)**

7.01 Administrative Personnel Appointments

7.02 Personnel

First Reading – Policy Revision

7.03 Administration of Medical Cannabis – Code JR

Other Action Items

7.04 Southgate ES Classroom Addition – Schematic Design

7.05 2022 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

7.06 Superintendent's Recommended FY2023 Capital Budget and Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

9:30 pm **8. Consent Items – Award of Contracts (A)**

8.01 Architectural, Engineering, Design, and Construction Administration Services - Boiler Replacement at Glen Burnie HS

8.02 Architectural, Engineering, Design, and Construction Administration Services - Classroom Addition at Crofton MS

8.03 Architectural, Engineering, Design, and Construction Administration Services - HVAC Renovation at Bates MS

8.04 Architectural, Engineering, Design, and Construction Administration Services - Roof Replacement at Studio 39

8.05 Athletic and Physical Education Supplies and Equipment

8.06 Facility Management Software

8.07 Janitorial Supplies

8.08 Owl Cameras

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

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8. Consent Items – Award of Contracts Continued (A)

8.09 Pavement Marking and Asphalt Striping

8.10 Staffing Services – Speech Language Pathologists

9. Motion to Enter Executive Closed Session (if needed)

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

The following testimony was submitted for the September 22, 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 6.01 – Opening of Schools Update

1. My biggest concern with sending my children to school during this pandemic is Lunchtime. Schools are not following any regulations. They are putting my children at risk, there is no assigned seating , no cleaning of lunch tables, kids are entering into the lunchroom at the same time that they are leaving. There needs to be more space and more options why are they not utilizing other areas and assigned seating . They should not be allowed to roam all over cafeteria mask less. No child should have to go to school in fear of their health and safety, but a lot of kids are . How do you make sure schools follow these rules and mandates?

Tessa Locklear
Glen Burnie

2. We know that masks do nothing to stop the spread of viral particles that are 200-1000x smaller than the pores of a surgical mask. At the AELR public testimony, Superintendent Choudhury claimed that children are given regular mask breaks throughout the school day and buses should be putting their windows down. He cited recess, PE, lunch, snacks, and regular breaks. I know for a fact that in at least one Anne Arundel County Middle School, the bus windows are up and my son has 0 mask breaks other than lunch. He is being forced to wear a mask even during PE which is 3x a week and the extracurricular "dance for athletes." I have written the state Superintendent, CC'd the AELR members, and included the very loose guidance being given to schools. This includes the verbiage "may" give mask breaks and can be without a mask when "engaging in strenuous activities." Strenuous is subjective. "May" indicates that the schools don't have to provide mask breaks. Our children cannot breathe. They are not being provided a healthy learning environment. They are being forced to wear bacteria filled masks when we aren't even under an emergency order. The guidance to the schools needs to be made clear. If we are being forced to comply with Unconstitutional mandates, then the schools need to take every measure to provide adequate and ample opportunities for every child to be able to take in fresh air that is not contaminated with their own exhaled toxins.

Kristie Basista
Brooklyn Park

3. Why are healthy children being forced to quarantine if they are deemed close contact? It was my understanding that the masks were being used so that children wouldn't need to be quarantined. If they are still going to have to quarantine, masks should be optional.

There should be no quarantine for healthy children, there should be no testing or vaccination clinics at schools, and there should be no COVID vaccine mandate for teachers or students. It's really simple - if your child is sick, keep them home.

Thank you,
Nicole Kinstler
Severna Park

4. It is time for AACPS to follow other surrounding districts (Montgomery, PG, Howard, DC, Fairfax, Arlington, and Alexandria) in mandating vaccines or weekly testing for every AACPS staff member. Adults should be protecting our children, it is taking AACPS way too long, and we again are behind everyone in this number one mitigation piece. Finally, other school districts are allowing a “test to stay” option for students rather than being quarantined for 10 days. There is no reason for a child without symptoms to be home for this long, especially after being home for 18 months. Enough is enough AACPS. Mandate vaccines for staff and testing to stay is the way to keep our students, who are constantly the ones paying the price during this pandemic, in school.

Elizabeth Fine
Gambrills

5. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, doctors diagnosed more than 243,000 Covid cases in children in the week that ended Sept. 9, bringing the total number of covid infections in kids since the onset of the pandemic to 5.3 million, with at least 534 deaths. Studies suggest that between 4% and 11% of kids have persistent symptoms known as “long covid.”

People infected with Covid are often asymptomatic for days, but still contagious. In the week and half since school started, we’ve already received notice that a staff member at my children’s school, a fellow student, and a soccer teammate have tested positive for Covid. Who knows how many people they infected before they were aware of their diagnosis. As good as people’s intentions are, masks will inevitably come off, even if only to eat lunch.

It’s not too late to step out of the way of the oncoming train. Because elementary students are currently ineligible for the vaccine, they, and any vulnerable people in their households, are the most at risk. The county should immediately expand virtual school capacity for those students, at a minimum.

We are desperate for strong leadership that does the right thing to protect our children, irrespective of politics. Covid doesn’t care if you’re a democrat or republican and, more importantly, it doesn’t care how children’s parents vote. One preventable death is too many. Let Anne Arundel County be a leader in opening schools the right way and, in doing so, save lives.

Michelle Coles
Severna Park

6. The AACO Health Department has quarantined hundreds of students and faculty within the first week of schools opening – unacceptable! You are taking away our children’s right to an education. Maryland has a mask mandate for schools and social distance rules. Why are the quarantine guidelines to such extreme? Why are you discriminating between vaccinated and unvaccinated?

Why do unvaccinated kids have to miss school for *14* days; thus, denying them an education? Students are masked; if a student is unvaccinated and tests negative with zero symptoms, there is no reason for an excessive 14-day quarantine. As *real* science shows, vaccinated students get and transmit covid. You are discriminating against unvaccinated students for a virus that is low risk to school age kids and has an almost 100% recovery rate.

A study from Israel shows that the vaccinated have 6 times more chance of getting COVID. The unvaccinated and those who have had covid have a stronger immunity and less chance of getting it again.

Mental health issues & suicides are greater risk to our kids than covid. *Real science* shows this. Quarantining healthy kids, segregating them by vaccination status, alienating them from their peers, denying them an education, having them fall behind at school is inhumane. You cannot say you are for the children and then take away their right to an education because they are not vaccinated. Our children are not political pawns!

For the sake of our children, please consider revising your discrimination and segregation policies.

Lori Kennedy
Pasadena

7. At the last meeting Sept 1, there were so many references in written and verbal testimonies about keeping our kids “safe” in school. In fact, there were two teachers claiming that as educators, their number one priority is keeping the children safe. This doesn’t even make sense. That sounds nice, but hello that is not your job! Moreover, that is not what we taxpayers are paying you to do. Some of you are ignoring the science you claim is so important. Our children are literally being abused in the name of politics; it’s obvious to everyone there is no science behind this masking policy! Have you ever wondered why scientists in Level 4 biosafety labs wear not masks, but airtight suits with a dedicated air supply? Isn’t it obvious that it is because masks do not protect them from viruses? Newsflash, viruses go through and around masks!

Also, why is it our kids’ responsibility to protect others? There’s such a thing called personal responsibility. At AACPS the goal is apparently to teach group-think. AACPS is teaching children not HOW to think, but WHAT TO THINK. More of us are waking up to the agenda that is being pushed. And again teachers, THIS IS NOT YOUR JOB. Forcing this nonsensical behavior on our kids is abusive and sick. They can go literally anywhere else without masks, except for the classroom. Please let the children and parents make up their own minds and have the freedom to choose what makes the most sense to them.

Peggy Williams
Severna Park, MD

8. My kindergartener stopped having a bus to drive her to and from school on the third day of school. I was very confused by that when I realized my son's cross-country team at South River still had a bus to go to a cross country meet 30 minutes away. Shouldn't the top priority be to get kids home? If we don't have the drivers needed to meet that top priority and a bus has to be cut shouldn't the cut bus be a lower priority function like getting athletics teams to events? I'm also confused that alternate options can't be arranged. Traffic is horrific to drive a kid to school. Are there any empty seats on any of the buses that are running that I could sign my kid up for and I'd drive him to a different bus stop instead of contributing to gridlock trying to get to the school. What alternatives have been considered? What are the reasons those options couldn't be used? Have we considered changing the bus routes temporarily to add one extra stop to each bus that does have a driver? How is the bus driver shortage going for the contractor? How are their hiring efforts going? Are there drivers in training that will be starting soon? Have they raised the wage they are offering as an incentive? It's very challenging to plan my day with 3 kids with three schedules and not know until the last minute who will have a ride. More updates need to be provided and regularly.

Kimberley Vogt
Davidsonville

9. The fact that there isn't an agenda item tonight or from September 1st to address the transportation issues in Anne Arundel County is alarming & proof of just how out of touch our board of education is with the real-life issues going on in our school system. I've already expressed my concerns to the VP our Board of Education & to Mr. Douglas & the rest of our transportation department's team but I will remind you all that we are the home to the Naval Academy, Ft Meade & our state Capital. We should be setting the bar for the state instead of comparing ourselves to the PG County Board of Education & using a labor shortage as an excuse to have children missing school, standing in the dark without a ride to school or working parents missing paid hours. Dr. Arlotto should be ashamed of himself for the lack of communication to parents in advance of the first day of school & start penalizing the school bus contractors who are not fulfilling their contractual duties of transporting children. I don't understand how the majority of our agenda items relate to awarding of contracts for a future school year when we can't even get our current school year under control. Federal funds should be spent on this issue so we don't continue to have 17 busses worth of children unable to get to school each day. Can we create more sidewalks to expand walkers, look at purchasing & staffing our own busses or offer parents who are able to drive their children an incentive?...

Emily Van Oudenaren
Arnold

10. In the opening of schools guidelines & Contact tracing policy, unvaccinated students are required to quarantine if deemed a close contact, but vaccinated children who were equally exposed do not. Vaccinated children can catch and spread COVID, just as an unvaccinated child can. It states that unless symptomatic, a vaccinated child does not

have to test negative to return to the classroom. By nature of the vaccine, a COVID compromised child is largely asymptomatic. I petition the board to require a negative test from BOTH the vaccinated and unvaccinated children who were considered "close contacts" before either child can return to the classroom OR make the quarantine period the same for all exposed. Further, when pulling children to notify that they were being quarantined Northeast high school separated them by vaccinated/unvaccinated which exposes their confidential medical information. Guidelines should be put in place to treat confidential information in a more secure manner.

Katherine Del Moral
Pasadena

11. completely support the requirement that employees and high school student athletes must be fully vaccinated or undergo weekly testing. While this is welcome news, there are continued safety concerns and additional safety measures that AACPS should implement to be in alignment with other area school systems.

AACPS needs to immediately implement:

- Weekly pooled PCR testing for all students and staff
- Alternative lunch plans, in particular providing schools with resources to enable eating outdoors
- Purchase of HEPA filters – as recommended by the CDC and Department of Education as an effective way to reduce exposure.¹ The combination of HEPA air cleaners and universal masking can reduce overall exposure by up to 90%.²
- A comprehensive plan - beyond limited asynchronous assignments on Brightspace - to prevent learning loss during the inevitable forced absences for illness and quarantines

With just weeks to go until our youngest learners can be vaccinated, it is critical to do the best we can to keep them safe.

1) <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus/improving-ventilation>

2) https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7027e1.htm?s_cid=mm7027e1_w

Elizabeth Matson
Crofton

12. We need actual parameters for your arbitrary decisions. What data supports mandates for our children? Saying it was a state level decision is not data. What parameters did you use when postponing homecoming dances? Who will decide when they can take place? What data supports requiring vaccines or testing for all staff and high school student athletes? We don't want to hear that you are "following guidance". Take accountability for your decisions and back them up with facts. What is the exact quarantine protocol? Dr. K? Please provide supporting data from the DoH. You are being told what to do by the state and federal "experts", but at what point will you think logically and ask if these guidelines are sensible enough for implementation? Why is it ok to have stadiums full of unmasked people, shoulder to shoulder, yet our kids must be

3-6 feet apart and wearing masks? Why are entire schools lacking transportation for students? How are we failing our kids this badly? This cannot be entirely blamed on COVID; this is because our leadership is not taking accountability, instead they are offering apologies in hindsight, and passing the blame onto others. I'm talking to you, George.

Tina Belford
Linthicum

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TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR ITEM 6.03 – Fall 2021 Homecoming Dances

1. I think it would be best to hold homecoming dances later in the year for our kids’ health and safety. I would rather my son be safe and alive then attend a dance. Thank you.

Kelly Green
Annapolis

2. We understand the closeness at these Homecoming dances, however it's not making sense BECAUSE in the classes the students are close and at lunch they eat with no masks. I totally understand about sporting events. They are bringing money into the schools and the dances don't. It should be the parents’ choice to allow the child to attend the dance as it is to attend a sporting event. The chaperone will be there to monitor the situation unlike the games. Let these students have some fun. Parents can sign waivers for the tickets.

Laura J Blankenship
Millersville

3. These kids go to school all day INDOORS in masks, there is NO REASON why an outdoor dance on the football field cannot take place. It is OUTDOORS and make the kids wear masks but let them have a dance. They deserve it.

Majella Gardner
Glen Burnie

4. I don’t even have older children so homecoming activities is something that was not even on my radar, but I felt the need to stand up for those who are affected by Dr. Arlotto’s absurd decision. How does it make any sense to allow all homecoming activities to continue except for the dances?? It makes literally no sense. Either proceed with all activities or cancel all activities. Those are the only two options that one could argue would follow some sort of science. It greatly concerns me that Dr. Arlotto is continuing to make these large-scale decisions and is basically going unchecked. This Board has repeatedly refused to stand up to this man instead only offering your support at all times. At every turn of this pandemic Arlotto has made terrible decision after terrible decision and all we hear from this BOE is support. Your job is not to blindly follow this man. He is not your boss! If it were up to him schools NEVER would have opened last year and honestly may not have this year. Every person who would be going to the homecoming dance would already have had the opportunity to be vaccinated if they chose! We need to follow science. Trust the vaccine and for those who chose not to get vaccinated that is their choice, but we can’t continue to hold our kids hostage.

Cheryl Wolf
Severna Park

5. I am writing to object to the postponement of school dances. I feel this is a contradictory and misaligned decision based in fear of repercussions and unknowns. If you ask any teacher,

parent, or student what the biggest detrimental impact was with the past year of virtual learning, they will tell you the students' social and behavioral skills and progress. I've heard comments such as '6th graders are coming in as essentially 4th graders behaviorally' and 'classes are silent because we've all just forgotten how to talk to each other'. The dances will not only nurture this social environment, but it will accelerate progress that has ceased for the last year and a half. If fear of virus spread (or legal repercussion more likely) is the only reason for postponement, require students be tested prior, like at concerts, and sign waivers, like at sporting events. Please stop hurting our children's wellbeing because of your own fears. If families are fearful of the virus, they simply will not send their children to the dances. Please don't continue to punish our youth when the rest of the world appears to get to live--our children deserve that opportunity more so than ever, and more than the rest of us with so much future ahead of them.

Angela Strevig
Pasadena

6. Homecoming dances should be held outside in parking lots, under tents. AACPS has the means. Administrators simply lack the will. The time to stop putting the burden of this pandemic on the backs of the normal social, emotional and educational development of our students is NOW.

Shannon Leadbetter
Crofton

7. After hearing about AACPS' decisions regarding Homecoming and vaccinating teachers and student-athletes, I thought it would be helpful to outline what is happening:
 1. AACPS wants teachers and student-athletes to take a vaccine for an illness where over 99% of those affected fully recover.
 2. The illness, despite the near 100% recovery rate, is so severe that it is worth the greater risk of developing complications like myocarditis and seizures after taking the vaccine.
 3. The vaccine only works on the vaccinated if the unvaccinated get vaccinated.
 4. However, the illness cannot be stopped by the vaccine, even among populations where 100% are vaccinated, and despite the assertion the vaccinated do not get as sick, a significant number of vaccinated people are still being hospitalized.
 5. The illness is apparently so intelligent and so selective that it can only spread during school dances, and not during sporting events.
 6. The illness also does not spread during chorus, band, and drama, but is a serious threat in my child's other classes.
 7. Most importantly, the illness appears to have a class bias, as the Hollywood and political elite were able to gather at the Emmys and the Met Gala without their masks, but students, teachers, and workers must always be masked indoors.This is not about Homecoming, or even the virus. It's about control.
To the Board: Do the right thing. Let parents make decisions that are best for their families. And let the kids dance!

Linda Sienkiewicz
Severna Park

8. Hello! I'd like to ask you to please reconsider your decision to cancel the homecoming dance for 2021. I believe these children have missed out on so much already and taking this away from them is just another disappointment. If they can play contact sports and be tackling, spitting, bleeding, and sweating all over one another, then they should be allowed to have a dance! Please reconsider your decision and looking forward to a healthy, HAPPY school year! I believe hosting the homecoming dance would make the student body extremely happy! Thank you for your time!

Kristina Norfolk
Pasadena

9. I would say NO to homecoming with the current numbers rising and risk is outrageous.

Amanda Boyle
Arnold

10. My twins have suffered the past 18 months being separated from their friends. We have gotten vaccinated and wear our masks. Let them have some normalcy for their remaining high school year. The halls are packed full daily. Let them have a homecoming dance!

Heidi Silvestri
Davidsonville

11. Hello, I'm Hailey and I'm a senior at Glen Burnie High School. This is my last year and I was looking forward to my last homecoming. I already missed so much. Glen Burnie two years ago had our homecoming outside in the courtyard which is technically outside and allowed in your rules. Since we have a space for it why can't we do what we did again. It was enough room to stay spaced out and it was outside with good air flow. Thank you.

Hailey Drowsky
Glen Burnie

12. Please allow students to have a homecoming dance for the 2021 Fall season. It is disappointing that the default mode for all decisions related to social activities for high school students have been to cancel the events. We have now entered our third school year with COVID and it is unacceptable that AACPS leadership has yet to think outside the box. This dance could easily be held outside, provide a tent using the covid relief funds provided by the state if weather is a concern! You need to do better AACPS!

Lauri Miller
Severna Park

13. I am asking you to reconsider cancelling the homecoming dances for the county. These kids have been together for months, no social distancing and no masks. The numbers for school age kids are low for hospitalization and death. The majority of covid cases in school aged kids is more like a common cold or flu. You have been micromanaging them since they returned to school. This is a virus we have to live with; the only way that will happen is to let them *live* their lives. You

cannot social distance and mask this away. These kids have a God given immune system; let it work. If people do not want to send their kids to homecoming they do not have to; if someone wants to wear a mask they can. But why are you punishing the majority of these kids and taking away what should be some of their best years over a virus with an almost 100% recovery rate in school aged kids? This is not the plague, this is a virus! Nothing you are doing is in the best interest of the kids; it is instead in the best interest of those in power who are the ones afraid. Loosen your power and let these kids enjoy high school! Stop cancelling events because *you* are afraid. Look around and you will see most people are living normal lives – except for at school. Please stop the excessive micromanaging.

Lori Kennedy
Pasadena

14. Dear Dr. Arlotto and members of the Board of Education:

The Board of Education meets twice a month, which gives board members precious few hours to discuss matters of importance to the running of our school system. So to be quite honest, I do not understand why you would spend such limited time on a matter like homecoming dances.

There are currently a thousand students in Anne Arundel County who are experiencing learning loss. They are quarantined at home, with limited access to assignments on a barren new learning platform. They have no access to their classroom teachers or the lessons they are missing. Are homecoming dances more important than learning loss?

Thousands of students lack bus transportation to school right now. Students in low-income areas are less likely to have access to private transportation and will miss school instead. Are homecoming dances more important than closing the opportunity gap?

And every single day, our students sit down in crowded lunchrooms and remove their masks to eat. Parents who have asked about outdoor seating, air purifiers, or spreading students around the building for lunch have been rebuffed. Are homecoming dances more important than keeping our children healthy and safe?

Dr. Arlotto has followed the guidance of local health officials with regard to homecoming dances. As a parent, I may not like that decision, but I can accept it and move on. I urge you to do the same. Please spend your time where you can add the most value for the greatest number of students in our county.

Sincerely,
Laura Graham Booth
Annapolis

15. Please do not postpone or cancel homecoming dances. This is a crucial year for some of our children who will never experience traditional high school events. We put thousands of students together 5 days a week in school but will not hold a dance for a few hours one evening. Parents and kids alike are sharing stories and pictures of daily gatherings in our schools that exceed dance capacity.

Rose Burgamy
Pasadena

16. Hello to whom it concern I'm a upset parent of a 10th grader i can't understand why these kids can't have their homecoming dance with mask on but our kids can be in school all day together it makes no sense to me let our kids enjoy their high school years they won't get these years back thank you. Upset parent.

Marie Bing
Pasadena

17. These kids need a homecoming. My son is a sophomore and if they don't get one, that's half of their high school career! Do it outside with tents!

Keri Patterson
Glen Burnie

18. It's ok to have our Children be in school 5 days a week, but you want to postpone some fun that our children have been longing for?! Up to the parents is my vote although, I'm sure it doesn't much matter. Just like having virtual learning.

Karen Lucas
Glen Burnie

19. I believe our kids deserve a homecoming dance. Socializing is great for mental health! If we can participate in sports and other events we can safely participate in a dance.

Sophia Denforx
Glen Burnie

20. The fact that you are allowing all homecoming events to take place but will not allow the dance is ridiculous. Explain how you can allow football games where kids are sitting side by side and mingling with no masks for hours, pep rallies where they scream etc. but you're taking away the dance. Why can't you allow the event to take place outside of the school? You can split the date and do a 9th and 10th dance and then an 11th and 12th dance, have it on the football field, there are ways to make this work safely. Makes no sense to take this away from the kids they won't get these years and memories back! Private schools and other counties are all having the dances, why is it safe for them but not us?

Kerri K
Pasadena

21. Please consider the following- Homecoming should proceed if precautions are taken and implemented. Other local counties are having homecoming outside for example. Require vaccinations or proof of negative COVID test as well as mask wearing if indoors or social distancing cannot be achieved. This does not have to be all or nothing approach. There are safe ways that our students can engage. Also, limit numbers - 1 night is senior homecoming, and another is a junior one. This is our seniors last opportunity for some of these time-honored high school events. Please reconsider and all homecoming to proceed. Thank you.

Kristin Whiting-Davis
Glen Burnie

22. It makes no sense that the students can eat in the cafeteria during the day but not have a dance in the cafeteria in the evening. Have two events if you're worried about numbers.

Brandy Blake- Hicks
Lothian

23. What a shame that Homecoming has been canceled! These students deserve to have a normal high school experience. They missed out on everything last year and the school system continues to cancel events and activities for them, despite continued evidence that healthy adolescents have a very low risk of serious effects or death from covid-19. Why isn't AACPS thinking outside the box? Hold homecoming dances outdoors. Use the fields that they play sports on, use the parking lots, and rent tents instead of indoor facilities. Instead of canceling everything, do them differently! Plan ahead instead of canceling at the last minute. It makes no sense that much of the world can continue to attend large-scale concerts, games and award celebrations and our high school students are forced to miss yet another event. Do better for our students. The social activities and events are just as important to our students as their academics are. Let those who want to attend Homecoming do so!

Jerilyn Deitch
Arnold