

Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | October 5, 2021

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

Page 1 of 1

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

Gloria D. Dent

Robert Silkworth

Corine Frank

Joanna Tobin

Michelle L. Corkadel

Bunmi Omisore

Upcoming Meetings

General Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 20, 2021
6:00 pm

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

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

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

Board Workshop
Monday, October 18, 2021
6:00 pm
Virtual

9:00 am 1. Motion to Enter Executive Closed Session

12:00 pm 2. Opening/Recognition

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2.01 Invocation | 2.05 Recognitions |
| 2.02 Pledge of Allegiance | 2.06 Educator of the Month |
| 2.03 Approval of the Minutes | 2.07 Employee of the Month |
| 2.04 Establish Agenda Order | 2.08 Volunteer of the Month |

12:30 pm 3. 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. 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.

12:45 pm 4. Updates/Reports (I)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4.01 President's Update | 4.05 Bullying Prevention Report |
| 4.02 Policy Committee Update | 4.06 Diversity and Inclusion Report |
| 4.03 PTA Report | 4.07 Transportation Report |
| 4.04 Safety and Security Report | 4.08 Opening of Schools Update |

1:30 pm 5. Presentation/Discussions (I)

- 5.01 Fiscal Year 2023 Board Budget Priorities
- 5.02 Mandate of Vaccinations or Testing of Certain Students

2:30 pm 6. Action Items (A)

- 6.01 Administrative Personnel Appointments
- 6.02 Personnel
- 6.03 New Course Approvals

3:00 pm 7. Consent Items – Award of Contracts (A)

- 7.01 Field House – North County HS
- 7.02 Professional Development – Chronic Absenteeism
- 7.03 Substance Abuse Prevention and Implementation Team
- 7.04 Yearbooks

3:15 pm 8. Review Items (R)

- 8.01 Construction Status Report
- 8.02 Award of Contracts

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

The following testimony was submitted for the October 5, 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 4.06 – Diversity and Inclusion Report

1. All County Chorus Auditions are only being accepted virtually yet the BOE is speaking of diversity and inclusion. If AACPS was truly focusing on rebuilding education, Arlotto and his staff would give students the option to audition both in person and virtual. While I understand that it may have been difficult for some to get to George Fox Middle for auditions (which is 1 of 2 reasons why I was told in persons auditions were not permitted), I'd suggest that you reconsider in person auditions and that you consider having auditions in each district instead of just one. This would allow more flexibility and diversity to students/parents/teachers.

As for Covid, students who want to do a in person audition could have been given a number and said ok your time is XYZ or even do an auction by last name and say your date/time is this but also offers auditions more than just 1 night while also asking parents to remain outside. Parents are told when dropping their students off at middle school that they don't have to come in to check in at the office, so why can't they do the same for this?

Since you took student, family and teachers (not sure when parent input was asked for) when making this change for more diversity, I really wish that you would have done the same when making the decision to only offer a virtual audition. While making a change like this does give more flexibility to more, it also makes students like my 8th grader not want to participate...

Jennifer Powell
Davidsonville

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TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR ITEM 4.08 – Opening of Schools Update

1. At the last BoE meeting, Dr. K stated, “our contact tracing works in close coordination with AACPS contact tracing, and I say close in the sense that they are functionally operating as one team at this point; they are communicating throughout the day on this”. I have confirmed this is NOT the case. I spoke with an AAC DOH employee, and he explained that it is the responsibility of the school to carry out the contact tracing process. I spoke with staff from schools throughout AACPS, and every single person stated that contact tracing is done by school staff, mostly principals, APs, and other members of administration. I asked if they had any assistance from the AAC DOH, and as one principal’s assistant stated, “they put the guidance out there, and we do all the work”. I asked the staff about their protocols for contact tracing, and each school had a different way of handling it. There were many inconsistencies, including how relaxed some contact tracers were with the 15 minute timeframe, judging whether the close contact was wearing a mask properly or not, and how accurate they were when deciding the distance between students and whether they were “close enough”. It is unfair for our administrators to be consumed by this and responsible for making these decisions. School staff are spread so thin already, without these additional responsibilities that are extremely time consuming. If the DOH recommends contact tracing, they need to provide DOH staff to complete the process.

Tina Belford
Linthicum

2. As a parent of two students at Annapolis High School, I am concerned that the school does not have the facilities and resources it needs to STAY OPEN SAFELY, mitigate COVID spread, and maintain a positive learning environment. In just three weeks of school, AHS students have experienced overcrowded hallways, several serious fights, daily traffic jams, and other disruptions.

AHS is currently at 105% capacity and enrollment is projected to INCREASE TO 124% OF CAPACITY IN JUST 4 YEARS—yet AACPS has no plans to address this problem. These conditions make the spread of COVID more likely, as no social distancing is possible in the overcrowded hallways and school cafeteria. The crowded hallways also exacerbate tensions in the school and make injuries more likely when violent incidents occur.

The Board of Education should urge AACPS leaders to immediately address the conditions at Annapolis High School. Short-term solutions NEEDED NOW include additional portable classrooms to reduce crowding in the building; additional staff to address growing enrollment; and additional mental health resources to assist students struggling to re-adjust to the school environment and behavior expectations. These

resources will allow AHS to operate peacefully and provide an optimal learning environment for the current school year. In addition, AACPS should immediately begin to plan and implement a long-term solution, such as a school addition, that will ensure that AHS is not overwhelmed by the enrollment surge in the coming years.

Cara McCandless
Annapolis

3. Many phone calls were made to schools to inquire about the contact tracing process. We also reached out to AAC Dept of Health with questions after Dr. Kalyanaraman made a claim that his Health Department and AACPS worked closely together, they were operating as a team, communicating throughout the day on this. THIS IS UNTRUE. It has been confirmed by the AAC Dept of Health as well as every school that was contacted, that the DOH provides NO ASSISTANCE to schools with the contact tracing process. Unfortunately, our school administrators have been burdened with this task, and many of them are unable to fulfill their roles as administrators/teachers/counselors to the potential they would like. As one elementary school administrator stated, "this is not how I want to be spending my time when I finally have my kids back in the building". Our administrators are being pulled from their regular obligations to determine who is a "close contact", and our kids are not allowed full instruction based on a subjective definition of "close contact". There has to be a better way. If the DOH continues to recommend contact tracing as a mitigation strategy, and AACPS agrees to follow the recommendation, then AACPS should demand that trained staff from the DOH be provided to carry out these procedures in our schools. If the Health Department does not oblige, perhaps that shows where this stands on their priority list, keeping in mind that they can arrange to staff other programs throughout the county.

Zack Jacobs
Linthicum

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TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR ITEM 5.01 – Fiscal Year 2023 Board Budget Priorities

1. I am writing today as a parent and a SECAC member in favor of increasing hourly wages for our TSAs. TSAs help our neediest special education students. The current hourly wage for TSAs is \$14/hour. Many TSAs have education degrees. Schools across the district are losing TSA candidates to substitute teaching which pays \$20/hour. Let’s not let another tragedy like Bowen Levy's death happen our watch. Thank you.

Corinne Emerson
Crofton

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TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR ITEM 5.02 – Mandate of Vaccinations or Testing of Certain Students

1. The role of schools is to educate. I believe that job is sufficiently difficult that it is unwise to try to solve other non-solvable problems. Those who want to be vaccinated are, those who do not, are not. Using the force of your authority to demand a medical procedure, while failing to deal with bus and staffing issues, undermines your authority. Deal with real issues first and show leadership and competence before expanding into more controversial vaccine mandate and testing. You are creating another problem that you can't handle.

Eileen McFarren
Severna Park

2. I am writing in opposition to any Covid-19 vaccination mandates for students and staff. The Covid vaccine has moderate to serious side effects for a large number of people who receive them. These include but are not limited to Myocarditis/Pericarditis, blood clots, Bell's Palsy, severe allergic reactions and death. The flu shot and childhood vaccines have a much better side effect profile. These vaccines also have decades of long-term study data. The Covid vaccine has zero long term study data. No one knows what the long-term effects of the Covid vaccine will be. Every individual has a right to choose what to put in their bodies and parents have the right to choose medical interventions for their children. The issue with mandatory testing is that it discriminates against the unvaccinated. Those who received the Covid vaccine are just as likely to spread the illness, yet you are not mandating testing for those individuals. "When you look at the level of virus in the nasopharynx of people who are vaccinated who get breakthrough infections, it's really quite high and equivalent to the level of virus in the nasopharynx of unvaccinated people who get infected" – Dr. Anthony Fauci I understand some people are terrified of Covid-19. Please understand others are terrified of the Covid-19 vaccine. Many of us have seen loved ones suffer with serious adverse reactions after receiving the Covid vaccine. No one should be forced to take an injection with these risks and with no long-term outcome data.

Leanne Carmona
Severna Park

3. I attend Broadneck High and am on the swim team. I do not think you or Dr. Arlotto should get to make medical decisions for me. I have a bleeding disorder and a history of bone cancer. I have 2 hematologists, an oncologist and an orthopedic oncologist. The covid vaccines have many risks for me. Since I am an otherwise healthy athlete, I have a very low risk of suffering serious effects from Covid 19. The potential risks of the vaccines outweigh the possible benefits for me. They have not been studied in adolescents who have bleeding disorders or a history of cancer.

My school should not get to make medical decisions for me when I see so many

specialists with many medical degrees and a lot of years of experience. You should not get to determine if I put chemicals in my body that could cause me harm.

I do not want to be forced to take a weekly covid test. You are already forcing me to wear a mask all day. I do not want to have someone shove something up my nose every single week just to see if I might have covid. That doesn't make any sense to test me for something if I am perfectly healthy. My oncologist just told me that I don't have to have yearly scans anymore. He said, "You don't need to see me anymore unless you have symptoms. We don't go looking for disease."

Daniella Deitch
Arnold

4. I fully oppose mandating covid-19 vaccines for student-athletes. It is discriminatory to choose a specific group of students to coerce into taking this vaccine. Why are the athletes being singled out? They are the group of students who are the least likely to suffer significant harm from the virus. They exercise daily and have a low BMI. Were they chosen as a starting point because they have the most to lose? They have seen their perfectly healthy peers be forced to quarantine and miss not only school, but their athletic practices and competitions. Many of these kids have been participating in their club sports for the past year without vaccine mandates or weekly testing requirements. The club athletes who do not want to get the vaccine have other options; they do not need their high school teams. This will result in inequity among athletes. Those athletes who can afford to join a club team will continue to do so and can make an easy decision to not participate in representing their school. Those who cannot, will either be forced to get a vaccine they may not want or face weekly testing and needless quarantining. High school sports are the only option for many students. Requiring them to obtain a medical procedure in order to participate is nothing short of coercion.

Jerilyn Deitch
Arnold

5. I oppose the mandatory vaccine for any child. There haven't been enough long-term studies done yet to prove them safe. However, their lack of exercise from sitting off a team could prove more detrimental. There is no reason to mandate anything for healthy children.

Jennefer Aversa
Glen Burnie

6. I absolutely oppose mandated vaccines to ANYONE- but especially my children. I will immediately pull them out of AACPS if this comes to fruition. How can you honestly force us to shoot untested poison into our children???? You are supposed to be advocates for our children and Instead you have turned this into a political money grab- at our children's expense. It is disgusting and embarrassing how the Anne Arundel Board is run. Shame on you all.

Kristen Porter
Annapolis

7. Hello-

I would like to express my extreme opposition to Mr. Arlotto's decision to require student athletes to be vaccinated or tested for Covid in order to be eligible to play. As we know 100%, children are at zero statistical risk for adverse health issues from this virus. They are also not optimal drivers of this endemic virus.

Why am I vehemently opposed? Male students are in the prime age range for known myocardial side effects from these experimental "vaccines". Since we don't know how these so-called vaccines affect female reproductive systems you cannot require them for students.

Children gain no benefit from taking these experimental drugs and only can be harmed. Anne Arundel County Public Schools had better think long and hard about what they value more. Theater to ease the neurosis of adults or the actual health and wellbeing of their students. OUR CHILDREN!!!

Should AACPS decide to ignore the wishes of parents and require children to needlessly be subjected to these experimental "vaccines" I hope your attorneys are free and available.

Do what is correct, not what is asinine and unsafe. Allow parents to decide for themselves if they want to harm their children by vaccinating them for a virus that is less harmful to them than the seasonal flu.

Thank you-

James Benson
Shady Side, MD

8. Leave politics out of our school systems. 'No pokes for folks' who don't want or deem them unnecessary should be entirely up to the parents of minor children. I personally do not have kids in this BOE system but have friends that do. "My body, my choice." Maybe that mantra is only accepted when it fits a certain narrative.

David Myers
Blackwood

9. I do not support a vaccine mandate for any child, athlete or not. You are the board of education; this is a huge abuse of power and a total overreach.

Amy Willey
Pasadena

10. I am writing in opposition of the vaccine mandate for student athletes. Not only is this type of mandate discriminatory, but it promotes segregation over bodily autonomy. We have zero longitudinal studies on the long-term effects of this MRNA technology on our youth (or anyone for that matter). It is evident you can still very much transmit the virus even if injected and the head of the CDC has just come forward to admit that. Why are we subjecting our youth to experimental technology that has zero liability? If a student experiences an adverse event such as myocarditis because they were coerced into taking this injection in order to pursue the sport that they love, will Anne Arundel County Schools be liable for this injury? When will it end? Unstudied boosters? What about natural immunity? Why are we not accepting natural immunity like we do all other illnesses?

I do not want my tax money supporting this agenda. There has already been a mass exodus from the county public schools and this will only continue to allow for that.

Natalie Van Dyke
Friendship

11. I plead with you to stop this medical tyranny! Wake up!!!!!! Not sure how you sleep at night and don't see what's going on but everyone else is figuring it out. There are MANY groups forming as we speak in MD and are against the government making these terrible decisions FOR us. The virus itself has NEVER been isolated. Is this not even considered as being a HUGE factor here?!? Let me say it again, NO lab has ever isolated the Sars-Cov2 virus! The PRC tests are based on a computer-generated genetic code...not the virus itself. This is the problem!

As a resident of MD, I fear this might trickle to our part of the state and I pray it doesn't. Stand up and stop these mandates that violate our rights! Women are allowed to choose, if they want to, to murder their babies so why can't we choose if we want this shot?!?! This vaccine DOES'T give you immunity, it's NOT approved by the FDA....FDA only approved 'Comirnaty'!! Wake up and pay attention to what's BEEN planned for years!!! You're forcing it because it's all part this evil agenda to depopulate the earth.

This is a basic fundamental right; to make medical decisions on our own. Let people choose! People have been bribed, shamed to take the shots and now being forcing to take something that clearly so many people are against. Furthermore, children should not have to take on the risks of this 'vaccine' in order to go to school, or shoulder the burden of "preventing spread" so that adults "feel safe."...

Vanessa Rembert
Columbia

12. COVID vaccinations should NOT be mandated for our students and is extreme overreach by the BOE to be discussing or considering it. PARENTS decide health decisions for THEIR children. NOT the BOE, not the health department, not politicians.

Immunity by exposure to the virus is more effective and longer lasting than vaccines as recent studies show. Anyone who has taken a basic immunology course is aware of this scientific fact. Prior to March 2020, antibody titres satisfied the requirement for proof of immunity for school enrollment, pre-employment, immigration, etc. why not for COVID? A CREDIBLE doctor would not ignore this scientific fact and recommend otherwise.

As a frontline RN, I've have seen long lasting natural immunity firsthand; my coworkers had COVID and/or have been exposed to COVID and STILL have antibodies (immunity) 18+ months later.

A large number of our children had COVID, many prior to March 2020 and since and most likely have immunity. The chance of reinfection is "rare" according to the CDC. A positive antibody test would negate the need for vaccination, as that child is IMMUNE.

Children who have had COVID and have proof of immunity pose no risk to others, are less risk than the vaccinated (there is now a proven increase in positive, vaccinated cases).

This vaccine is UNPROVEN, low efficacy, no long-term studies, unknown long term side effects. The known side effects are more dangerous and prevalent than the risks of the virus. I will NOT allow elected fearful adults to threaten my healthy children.

Michele Rowley
Pasadena

13. I am extremely worried about the safety and security of AACPS students. For a superintendent to mandate a vaccine for students, a vaccine for which we have no long-term research, is reckless. Children are not at risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19. No children have died from COVID in Anne Arundel Co. In fact, in the entire state of Maryland only ten children have passed away from COVID. These are facts that we should be celebrating! Our children have mostly been spared from this disease! Instead, what are we doing? We have a superintendent and county health director who are insistent that our children, who are not at risk for hospitalization or death, receive an injection for which we have no long-term data. We do not know the long-term effects of this vaccine. That is a fact. How can we trust a school system with the safety and security of our children if they are mandating vaccinations that have been studied for less than two years? To the board members - please vote against any vaccine mandates for children. Vaccine mandates are unnecessary, based on child hospitalization and death rates, and ultimately should be the decision of the parents, while working with their children's doctor.

Jennifer Fold
Linthicum

14. I do not support mandatory vaccinations of school kids. Please wait until this vaccine has more long-term data before making it mandatory for kids.

Jacquelin Cieslak
Millersville

15. I am a concerned parent and stepparent of a high school and elementary school student. I am strongly opposed to mandating COVID vaccines to ANY child and ANY discriminatory policies based on vaccination status. Healthy children are at the absolute lowest risk for severe COVID illness. We know that COVID is potentially worse for those with co-morbidities and the elderly, but the survival rate is still 99% overall. We also know that vaccination doesn't prevent COVID infection or spread. Therefore, there is no scientific or ethical reasoning for a mandate. I request that the Board immediately vote against mandating COVID vaccines for ANY child. This does not belong in our schools.

Thank you.

Jennifer Nichols
Gambrills, MD

16. I am writing to stand against the Vaccine Mandate for Students who play sports. While I gather this is hard concept for many to understand now a days. It is not up to School Board Members, Teachers, School Superintendents, Health Departments and any form of Government to make, mandate, force or decide that a child (ages newborn to 18 years old) has to get the Covid 19 Vaccine. Especially in order to participate or play sports. This is the PARENTS decision to make! You do not override us parents though many of you think you do. So, it's time to step down off the pedestal you have put yourselves on! Y'all should be ashamed of yourselves for this display of Dictatorship you are displaying over a virus that has a 99% survival rate and that children are the ones least affected by this virus! You are not God so please stop playing and acting as if you are. If you have any decency left in, you vote no on mandating vaccines for those children/teenagers who participate and play sports

Nancy Rahme
Glen Burnie

17. I am writing once again as a parent asking, pleading you to not mandate the covid shot for all students and staff. Pfizer shot has been available since 12/11/2020 yet the CDC says there are no long-term side effects. How ask yourself this question, how do they know when this shot has not even been available for a year? Of course are no long term side effects at this time, because it hasn't even been 10 months.10 months, do you understand that? Can you without a doubt in your head tell me that my daughter doesn't have a choice about what is put into her body? Now I know what you're going to say, well there are already vaccines that are required to enter school but each of vaccines our pediatrician advised us of the side effects yet with the Covid shot we were advised that there is still so much unknown and things are always changing (which you

all can't disagree with). If my daughters very own pediatrician advised this, I will surely not force my daughter to get a shot that the BOE will consider mandating which Mrs. Corkadel said herself has never been done in BOE history because it isn't your place to make a decision like this! Your not a doctors in medicine! Our own Governor said at his last press conference that he doesn't support a mandate yet in the same breath wants all schools to push the shot but also said to arundelnews.com on 1/25/21 that Dr. K "doesn't really know what he's talking about."...

Sincerely,
Jennifer and Donald Powell

18. I do not believe forcing Covid vaccines on children in general- and our students in AACPS in particular- is warranted at this time. There are too many questions still unanswered regarding safety, efficacy, and long term effects to even consider enacting any mandates yet! There are a lot of questions about natural immunity that haven't been answered, either. The science has been changing so rapidly, kids aren't getting deathly ill as a general rule, Maryland Covid numbers have been holding steady and stable, the long-term effects of the mRNA vaccine are unknown, once it's taken it's irreversible... these are just a few of the reasons that mandating vaccines for our kids can't even be considered at this moment in time. Thank you.

Kelly Boyce
Severn

19. There has not been enough research to prove that this should be forced upon kids who have no choice. Cigarettes used to be safe too. How are you going to feel when one of these kids has a bad reaction, illness, and or early death, because of your guess? Because that's exactly what it is just a guess. So why don't we all go back to freedom and the ability to choose what does and doesn't go into our bodies. If we allow this to pass what are you teaching the kids? It's OK to put things in your body you don't know the long term effects of. Freedom isn't free. And pretty soon we won't have anymore freedom if we continue to walk this road.

Dallas Bennett

20. Dr. Arlotto and Members of the Board,

I realize that you have had an incredibly, incredibly difficult job over the past two years and I'd like to thank you for the time and energy you've put into AACPS. Although I've at times been disappointed by issues that have been overlooked by the board and AACPS leadership, I recognize that it is mostly guided by genuine concern for Anne Arundel County's schools and the children they serve.

However, on the issue of vaccine requirements for students (or certain groups of

students), AACPS is headed down a path that is anti-science, unethical, discriminatory, and dangerous- please do not allow the County Health Officer to steer AACPS in this direction! Dr. Kalyanaraman's presentation from last meeting along with his public statements make it clear that he is not "following the science." It's extremely troubling that AACPS's policies seem to be guided solely by his expertise. To detail, here are some of my concerns:

Last month, Daniel Salmon, MD from the Institute of Vaccine Safety at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health told a Maryland legislative committee, in regards to student product requirements: "I think the places we haven't gotten there yet is- widespread public and physician support, [and] adequate safety data for a mandate." There have been several well publicized adverse event risks in the 12+ population (for example: myocarditis/pericarditis, CVST and thrombocytopenia), the trials for children have been underpowered thus far, and of course there is no long-term data on a shot that's been out for less than a year....

Respectfully,

Jenna DeCesaris Butler
Annapolis

21. Traditionally, I would provide research to support my knowledge, however it is a fact that I cannot gather information from all perspectives respectfully because it is alarmingly censored. Therefore, the BOE and CHA must have answers to the following questions:

What are the immediate risks of the vaccines to children?

What are the long-term risks of the vaccines to children?

Will this vaccine cause inflammation in weaker areas of the body overtime?

Could this vaccine potentially cause more harm than covid itself?

We do not have complete transparent answers to these questions above. There have been no long-term studies on these vaccines.

Any answers such as "per CDC experts" or "I trust the science" are unacceptable - such statements are dismissive and irresponsible.

Not knowing the risks or full list of ingredients is NOT INFORMED CONSENT.

Children are not fully developed, there may be underlying medical conditions that may not appear in adolescence, i.e. the rise of auto-immune diseases. Generally, underlying medical conditions could potentially cause adverse reactions.

This decision must remain a choice between the parents/caretakers and/or their personal medical doctor.

The county pours a lot of resources into ethics. Definition of ethics

A particular system of principles and rules concerning moral obligations and regard for the rights of others, whether true or false; rules of practice in respect to a single class of

human actions and duties: as, social ethics; medical ethics.

As one mother, in our Republic I stand against mandating COVID-19 vaccines. No means no.

The greatest gift we have is the gift of time.

Angelica Demick
Severna Park

22. The vaccine does not prevent catching or spreading covid. It only prevents extreme illness. Whether or not a child is vaccinated does not change the risk posed to other students.

Leave the kids out of this. Let them play.

Sarah Smith
Annapolis

23. As a person whose child is vaccinated for all other vaccines that are needed to attend school, vaccine that have over time been proven to work. We are now faced to being forced with a mandated vaccine that is still under clinical trial until 2023. You can still get covid if you are vaccinated, it doesn't change the fact that you can still spread it. There are so many stories of the adverse side effects to the vaccine. Taking the vaccine should be a personal choice, and most people have already made the choice after doing their own personal research. If a fully vaccinated student can still spread covid why is there going to be a mandate for the vaccine ? Is it just about numbers getting the vaccine or keeping our students healthy ? The smallpox vaccine, polio & flu vaccine have never been mandated, why are you starting with the covid vaccine? It is definitely first vaccine that doesn't even prevent the sickness.

Kyle Runnel
Annapolis

24. I vehemently oppose any vaccine (and mask) mandates for anyone, especially young adults and kids. Why do they need to have a vaccine or test with a swab that was treated with a carcinogen for a virus that they have a 99.98% survival rate for? The risks of this vaccine outweigh the benefits in most people, but especially in children. Student athletes would be the LAST group that needs this vaccine as they must be physically fit and healthy to even be participating. Do NOT mandate this vaccine / weekly testing.

Nicole Kinstler
Severna Park

25. My name is Bob Lentz, and I have a student-athlete attending AACPS who is impacted by the recent vaccination mandate announced by the Superintendent. First, I am not at all in favor of any forced vaccination attempt by any person claiming to be of authority as that choice is an individual's choice. No one else has any clue as to the condition of a human body except for the individual, and most certainly authority who has minimal knowledge into the subject at hand (and I will extend that to the AA County Health Officer). This mandate is discriminatory in that it associates and mandates actions of a select group of students while having no identifiable and justifiable basis for identifying that group uniquely from all students. As has been the consistent theme in this County, no data has been presented to substantiate the action. It is yet another capricious act of the COVID era. Additionally, there are no vaccines approved for all students of the defined group. Pfizer is only approved for years 16 and above, and if one looks closely at their data, explicitly says that there is insufficient data on long-term effects. All EUA vaccines have resulted in serious side effects for youth and especially numerous athletes suffering from myocarditis, impacting not only their athletic activities but also their scholastic performance. I am heavily involved in youth athletics, and history has demonstrated no rationale for why student-athletes should be isolated and subjected to this discriminatory practice. Thank you.

Robert Lentz
Severna Park

26. Invasive weekly PCR testing will likely require waiting in long lines and is certainly intended to promote acceptance of an FDA EUA labeled experimental covid vaccine. There are no legal remedies available to minor children for covid-vaccine injuries. I spoke with lead attorney Robert Barnes of the Children's Health Fund and he explained,
"The virus poses very little risk to children. The vaccine poses real and substantial risk to children. Britain's vaccine advisers said they were not recommending the vaccination for children preferring a precautionary approach due to a side effect of heart inflammation. American doctors across the Country have shown similar risks. Long term risks from the vaccine far exceed the virus risk as applied to children based on available data. Are the schools certain that there immune if there's a vaccine injury from their mandate? According to the VAERS data, this vaccine has caused more safety signals to go blaring off than any other vaccine in American history.
"The Nuremberg Code is known in US law and International law as peremptory law: Law that is universally recognized and that governs all civilized societies. American federal courts have recognized the Nuremberg Code repeatedly. We criminally prosecuted people based on this principle being in place, although it was never part of German law, any treaty, the Constitution, or any statute – rather it is a fundamental human right. We have imprisoned and executed people based on the Nuremberg Code." Government positions or appointments did not protect the Nazis from prosecution.

Karen Sharp

Hanover

27. This is a follow-up to a couple of discussions from the 9/22 meeting. At this meeting, Jeannette Owens, a Legislative and Policy attorney, reminded board members of their oath to follow the laws of this state and its constitution if there is legislation in place to support policy-making (1:32:39); on that particular issue, Ms. Owens cited an actual new law. So I have a question about the COVID policies being pushed on our schoolkids. I would like the board to answer a few questions: On what legal authority does AACPS stand, to enforce or mandate COVID policies such as masking, vaccines, testing, or quarantine on our children? If you need supporting legislation to implement other policies in schools as Ms. Owens stated, don't you ALSO need supporting LEGISLATION to implement COVID policies? Exactly what laws are you citing?
- Also at 9/22 meeting, Ms. Schallheim concluded (3:14:48) that the MSDE and Dept of Health policies and procedures, in consultation with Dr K., have given the Local Education Authorities the authority to enforce these COVID policies in our schools. The problem is, when you took your oath, did you swear allegiance to the MSDE? Did you swear allegiance to the Dept of Health? Did you swear allegiance to the County Health Officer Dr. K? No, you did not.
- So again I ask you, on what LEGAL authority does AACPS stand, to enforce or mandate these COVID policies on our children? Are you pushing these policies in accordance with actual legislation? You swore allegiance to the Md and U.S. Constitutions, which require you to follow the law...

Peggy Williams
Severna Park

28. 1. Local news station solicits Facebook for stories of loved ones who died of Covid, instead gets tens of thousands of posts from people either adversely affected by the Covid vaccine or whose loved ones died after being vaccinated (<https://m.facebook.com/80221381134/posts/10158207967261135/>)
2. A website created by a former professional athlete providing a forum for those who have been injured by Covid vaccines to tell their stories in hopes it will bring attention to the media and medical communities (<https://www.c19vaxreactions.com/>)
3. A story about a healthy 14-year-old who developed myocarditis after taking the Pfizer vaccine (<https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/emily-jo-14-year-old-son-aiden-myocarditis-pfizer-vaccine/>)

I understand AACPS, Governor Hogan, County Executive Pittman, and county health officer Kalyanaraman are pushing for students 12 and up to receive the Covid vaccine, and in some cases lobbying for all school-age children to be vaccinated. However, I am alarmed these same people and health professionals in our community continue to ignore those who had bad reactions to the vaccine and have failed to question whether

the cure is worse than the illness. Yes, athletes can choose to be tested, but using a test that cannot differentiate between Covid and the flu only serves to artificially inflate Covid numbers, keeping the public unnecessarily panicked.

I say this as a parent and as a human being; please don't coerce healthy teenagers into getting an experimental vaccine for an illness where their chance of survival is virtually 100 percent, especially when we don't know the long-term effects.

Linda Sienkiewicz
Severna Park

29. During the last meeting, it was stated by Dr. Arlotto that "certain" students would be required to get vaccinated with a drug that is still under EUA approval or test weekly. We all know this will only be the beginning. Are you aware that the approved Pfizer product is called Comirnaty and is not yet available in the US? Are you aware that the CDC is currently investigating the increased cases of myocarditis and pericarditis that are being reported in the US after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination particularly in adolescents and young adults? We are clear that Dr. Arlotto has only listened to the advice of Dr. K throughout this pandemic, despite ALL other evidence available. The health and safety of our children should not be based on the opinion of one health official, especially at the county level. Is the BOE ready to take on full responsibility of any negative side effects that my children may suffer if forced to take this EUA vaccine? As BOE members you are also neighbors and friends and were elected to make EDUCATIONAL DECISIONS for our children, not override a parent's decision regarding THEIR children's health. As members of the BOE, you have MORAL CULPABILITY and if something were to happen to one of our children if this motion is passed, you will have to look at yourself in the mirror everyday knowing you are partly responsible. Based on all of this, the decision for vaccination and testing needs to be overturned immediately.

Kim Pratta
Edgewater

30. It is absolutely horrifying that in the year 2021 we are talking about mandating vaccines for our children, especially at the elementary school level when this is not even a true vaccine. It does not prevent spreading the virus, so what is the point? This family is 100% opposed to that overreach, and will pull our son from public school immediately if this occurs.

Jennifer Morrison
Pasadena

31. I would like to ask why, in quarantining unvaccinated kids, there is no tracking of how many actually contracted covid? A FOIA was submitted to the MD DOH and they were informed the information is NOT tracked, yet Dr K said it is. So someone is not being

honest and transparent and as the BOE I would like to ask why you are not fighting for this information?! Essentially thousands of HEALTHY kids are being quarantined for 10-14 days and falling behind in school. The numbers to justify this should be made public. As well as the stats justifying athletes are required to be vaccinated. Thank you.

Lori Kennedy
Pasadena

32. I fully support the current policy and the rationale that informs it...."All mask requirements will be in accordance with the CDC and Anne Arundel County Health Department guidelines. All students will be required to wear masks on our buses, in classrooms, hallways, and at indoor recess." why is this even up for discussion? Nationwide, counties without masking requirements saw the number of pediatric COVID-19 cases increase nearly twice as quickly during this same period. We require other vaccinations for school attendance. This is no different and yet the risk is MUCH more significant. In early Sept. the Anne Arundel Medical Center began delaying elective surgeries that require overnight hospital stays due to an increase in COVID-19 patients and emergency room visits To anyone not supporting this, go and spend some time in a pediatric ICU and watch children die because of your inability to listen to true science.

Carroll McGillin
Annapolis

33. These "vaccines" are experimental drugs. They have not undergone the 5-10 years of testing like all other vaccines. There is no data on their long term effects. There have been 15,000 DEATHS due to the COVID vaccines. And 1.5 million adverse events due to the COVID vaccines (www.openvaers.com) These include heart inflammation, blood clots in the brain and lungs, cardiac failure, strokes, seizures, and neurological disease. Heart inflammation (permanent damage to the heart) in particular has been seen in newly vaccinated teens who were otherwise healthy. These vaccines have resulted in hundreds of miscarriages and appear to cause fertility problems in animal studies.

Children and teens who contract COVID have a 99.997% survival rate, and appear to have durable immunity against future strains. They have nearly nothing to gain from these vaccines – which target the initial COVID virus and not the current Delta variant or future variants. For children and teens, the risk of having a serious side effect from the vaccines is 6x the risk of serious illness and hospitalization from COVID. Our children can't even get a Tylenol or Benadryl at school without our permission. Now we have to watch them get forced to take an experimental drug? If people want the vaccine, they can get it. But to force it is tyranny and violates the basic principle of informed consent!

Get informed! Check out TheHighwire.com, and Dr. Peter McCullough's testimony about treating COVID effectively: <https://youtu.be/QAHi3IX3oGM>

Danielle Fontanella
Annapolis

34. Dr. Arlotto- in your last board meeting you stated that sports were a 'privilege' and not a 'right', therefore enforcing the vaccine mandate for student athletes was acceptable to you. We use privileges as leverage for punishment in our household, and apparently you use them for the same reason within the board of education. These student athletes are having their parents and physicians make the decisions for them to not be vaccinated- and yet you will be punishing the child by not allowing them to participate in the sport they love, and right now, NEED more than ever. There just isn't enough data to support a mandated vaccine at this time- this vaccine has many question marks, especially for children. We need to be accepting of everyone's opinion on this topic and not discriminate against unvaccinated children. Shame on anyone who has this mindset! You have no right to interfere with the health decisions of the parents and children within Anne Arundel County. You settle the transportation issues (which is a total disaster and completely unacceptable), and parents and personal physicians can handle the health issues. Please consider the harm this mandate could potentially do long term for children who will not play sports- there will be increased drug and alcohol use, depression, failing classes... the list goes on and on. This mandate is just wrong- plain and simple.

Jenna O'Neal
Edgewater