

# Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | February 2, 2022

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

Joanna Tobin  
President

Robert Silkworth  
Vice President

Gloria D. Dent

Corine Frank

Melissa Ellis

Dana Schallheim

Michelle L. Corkadel

Bunmi Omisore

## Upcoming Meetings

**General Board Meeting**  
Wednesday, February 2, 2022  
12:00 pm  
Board Room

**Policy Committee**  
Tuesday, February 1, 2022  
3:00 pm  
Virtual

**Equity Committee**  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022  
11:30 am  
Virtual

**Budget Committee**  
Monday, February 14, 2022  
12:00 pm  
Virtual

**Board Workshop**  
Monday, February 14, 2022  
6:00 pm  
Board Room

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### 10:00 am 1. Motion to Enter Executive Closed Session

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### 12:00 pm 2. Opening/Recognition

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2.01 Invocation              | 2.05 Educator of the Month  |
| 2.02 Pledge of Allegiance    | 2.06 Employee of the Month  |
| 2.03 Approval of the Minutes | 2.07 Volunteer of the Month |
| 2.04 Establish Agenda Order  | 2.08 2022 Mo Gaba Awards    |
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### 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](http://www.aacps.org/boardtestimony). All speakers will be allotted 2 minutes. Written comments on agenda items can also be submitted through a form available at [www.aacps.org/boardtestimony](http://www.aacps.org/boardtestimony). The process for submitting such comments and comments on non-agenda items, which are only accepted in writing, can be found at [www.aacps.org/boardtestimony](http://www.aacps.org/boardtestimony).

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### 1:00 pm 4. Presentations

- 4.01 Joint Commission on the Opportunity Gap
  - 4.02 Partnership for Children, Youth, & Families
  - 4.03 School Start and Dismissal Times Update
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### 2:30 pm 5. Reports

- 5.01 President's Report
  - 5.02 Policy Committee Report
  - 5.03 PTA Report
  - 5.04 Superintendent's Report – School Operations
- 

### 3:00 pm 6. Consent Items – Award of Contracts (A)

- 6.01 HVAC Products, Installation, & Services
- 

### 3:10 pm 7. Action Items (A)

- 7.01 Administrative Personnel Appointments
- 7.02 Personnel
- 7.03 New Course Approvals

#### Policy Revisions – Third Reading

- 7.04 Naming Facilities – Code EG
- 7.05 Redistricting and Attendance Areas – Code JAA

#### Other Action Items

- 7.06 Items of Legislation
  - 7.07 Chesapeake Science Point Charter School Elementary School Application
  - 7.08 Virtual Instruction Plan for Inclement Weather Days
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### 4:00 pm 8. Review Items (R)

- 8.01 Award of Contracts
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### 9. Motion to Enter Executive Closed Session (as needed)

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The following testimony was submitted for the February 2, 2022, 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

#### **ITEM 4.03 School Start and Dismissal Times Update**

1. Two points: 1) The school year should not be extended for inclement weather days, nor should children be forced to virtual learn on snow days - it's too confusing and stressful for elementary age. Start taking away days in Spring Break. 2)The start and end times for the 2022/2023 calendar needs to be released post haste. Many parents are attempting to arrange childcare for the upcoming school year and are unsure if we need to recommit to our current childcare or decline to open availability for others.

Amanda Camhi  
Pasadena

#### **ITEM 5.04 Superintendent’s Report – School Operations**

1. Every few weeks, several of the same concerned parents write in or speak to advocate and ask questions about our children's education. We receive little acknowledgement, no answers to our questions and concerns, and we see your disinterest as most of you check your phones or stare at your laptops as we pour our hearts out to you. We don't know if you're reading the written testimonies. It's as though public comment is nothing more than a standing agenda item, like the Pledge of Allegiance; including it "for the record", yet no one is actually listening to the words being said. Week after week, it's disheartening because, well, these are our kids, and this is their one and only childhood.

So, again I write to request that you consider the most recent data regarding masking children in schools. This week Dr. K began sharing an infographic showing how ineffective cloth masks are in preventing the spread of the virus. Cloth masks are what most children are wearing as you know, and we are being told that there is no benefit.

Will you please partner with us to appeal the guidelines of the MSDE and State Superintendent requiring forced masking our kids until 2023? Will you stand up for our kids and question the need for universal masking, just like you did with contact tracing and quarantining healthy kids? PLEASE?!!

Give back the funding if that's what it takes to unmask our kids. They were happier before Chromebooks and BrightSpace anyway.

Tina Belford  
Linthicum

2. These are a couple of examples and/or reasons why I think that the masks are not helping whatsoever and may be making things worse. One example is that one of my

friends got a ringworm infection on his face that was likely due to his mask holding in bacteria on his skin. Another reason why the masks are not helping is that everyone can barely breathe, and when we try to pull down our masks we get in trouble by teachers. Another example is that we're not able to show our face. A face is something to be proud of and it's your only unique feature that only you have. To cover the thing that you should be proud of is unacceptable. All in all, I can confirm that these masks are not helping me, my friends, and even the teachers. If they stop COVID-19 then why have teachers and students that even wear two masks on their faces have gotten COVID, but I keep my mask down a lot and haven't gotten it. It's a 50/50 chance. Thank you for reading this.

Brendan B., 6th Grade  
Linthicum

3. Another month goes by where I sit and wonder what AACPS BOE will do to stand up for the children in this county. Another meeting where we sit and listen to the AACPS BOE act as experts in countless topics, especially those pertaining to the health and wellness of children in this county.

As I am sure you have all seen, our very own county department of health recently released an infographic containing information that completely contradicts what the county DOH director advises this very school board about. When will this school board, this superintendent, this student representative, take off the blindfolds and realize that the last 2 years have been nothing but a game of who can make the most money from pharmaceutical companies and corrupt government officials?

Sadly, our children continue to be the ones punished the most by ridiculous guidelines and mandates.

"The true character of society is revealed in how it treats its children." -Nelson Mandela

Amy Willey  
Pasadena

4. On the AACO Dept of Health website, you'll find a recently posted infographic that states cloth masks offer 0% protection against viruses.

On the same website, you'll also find following quote by County Health Officer, Dr. Kalyanaraman: "Masks and masking requirements have been demonstrated to be effective at decreasing COVID transmission and hospitalizations."

Our board and superintendent follow EVERYTHING Dr. K says, almost without question. When he is questioned at BOE meetings, he rarely answers a question with a 'yes' or 'no' and instead provides lengthy verbal responses without substance and overuses the

word, 'right'. Using this word is a form of dominant speech that intends to influence the listener, despite a lack of solid information provided in the response.

Why are we listening to Dr. K and ONLY Dr. K? Why do we blindly follow his every suggestion? His own website shows that he doesn't have the answers.

Maryland is in the minority in the country regarding mandates. Specifically, we are one of only a handful of states that have a mask mandate. There are millions of children attending public and private schools unmasked - and they are surviving and thriving. If other states can do it successfully, why can't we?

I understand masking is currently a state mandate and out of this board's control. However, I am bringing up the topic as an example of why we need to open our eyes, our minds, and our hearts and start thinking for ourselves. Following one man's every suggestion, despite a lack of evidence supporting his recommendations, is not only irresponsible, it is reckless...

Jennifer Fold  
Linthicum

5. Our children should not be required to mask in schools. It has been proven utterly ineffective at preventing the spread of COVID -19 variants, so why should we require children, who are the least impacted by the actual disease to wear them? It is a distraction as well as complete waste of time and energy for the teachers who have to enforce the mask-wearing. We need to get these kids back to a normal education where they can see their teacher and classmates' faces!

Colleen McGilvray  
Arnold

6. Please allow a mask optional choice for our children.  
Below is a statement from a group of physicians from [Urgencyofnormal.com](http://Urgencyofnormal.com)  
There is considerable data there to support allowing our kids a return to normal.

In much of the United States, adults have the option of returning to life essentially as we knew it in 2019. However, children continue to experience disproportionate restrictions, and the costs are mounting.

Youth depression, suspected suicide attempts, drug overdose deaths, and obesity have all risen dramatically during the pandemic. The unintended consequences of pandemic restrictions are now a greater risk to our children than COVID, and we must act on that reality.

Meanwhile, children's already-low risk from COVID has become even lower. Vaccines

are available to children aged five and up, the Omicron variant is causing milder disease, and vaccines continue to be extremely protective against severe disease in the Omicron era.

Based on a careful review of all of this evidence, we believe it is time to allow children the same return to normalcy that adults have enjoyed. Children's schools, athletics, and activities should be restored to their 2019 norms. Masks should become optional in US schools (we suggest, by February 15), and we can also return to pre-pandemic norms for quarantines: if you are sick, stay home.

Dennis Deitch  
Arnold

7. With no indoor mask mandates for children and adults in this county everywhere else except schools, it is absurd to uphold the indoor mask policy in schools where facial expressions (my son has a speed IEP) and every aspect communication is critical. The argument of 'my mask protects me AND you' is obsolete given what we've learned about the ineffectiveness of cloth masks. But with the effectiveness proven in N-95s (which protect both parties if one is wearing), if anyone CHOOSES to wear a mask, there are options that will protect them AND are readily available. We have learned so much about masks, how they protect and when they should be worn that if those that choose to wear them want to, they have a safe option that does not require those around them to be masked. Follow the science and let people have a CHOICE!

Marina Anglim  
Arnold

8. I want to express my concern that our children are still being treated so poorly and forced to carry the burden of all these covid policies. I have had many parents come to me very upset and unable to understand why the student athletes are still required to "test to play" at AACPS. Outside of school this is not a requirement of athletes. Why are you still signaling out one group? This is not helping spread the virus. Many feel this is discrimination and I told them I would ask this question.

Also, why are kid still being masked considering the new information that the AA County Health Executive, Dr. K, posted on his site that the masks the vast majority of the children are wearing have ZERO percent efficacy against the virus? I am tired of what I see in the news or on social media when adults argue against unmasking our kids. I am baffled and disgusted by their lack of care or concern of the social and emotional impacts on our children who have been masked for two years! What I see is these adults being loud and act as if they care about the social and emotional impacts of our children, however only when pushing social justice and identity politics in our schools. We need to get back to teaching the basics and focusing on getting our kids' lives back to normal by removing the testing and making masks optional.

Melissa Idleman  
Pasadena

9. It is time to unmask our children. They have a right to an education without masking. The majority of masks that the children are wearing are ineffective in protecting them and others according to the Anne Arundel Health Dept. it should be an option. If parents want their child masked, then have them wear a N 95. If a parent does not want their child to wear a mask, then that is also an option. It's common sense if you are at high risk then take precautions. Those that are not should not still be suffering and missing out for those that are. It's absolutely asinine that we can pack sporting events and other places unmasked yet we are still masking our children.

Lauri Orders  
Arnold

10. No more masks for our children. I would like to recommend that families get to choose to mask their children. Kids are falling behind in our county/states. Other states have dropped the mask mandate a long time ago and their students are thriving. My 3rd grader who has spent the majority of her school in a mask. It's been hard for her to learn to read and hear sounds. Please no more masks.

Alice Frazier  
Annapolis

11. My first-grade son has spent his entire school year wearing a mask. He is currently in 1st grade and has had an IEP for speech since he was 4 and is struggling with reading. I believe taking his mask off in school will help him with reading, his speech and socially. After many conversations with my son's teacher a majority of students in 1st grade are behind in reading, math and other areas. In order to properly educate these students please remove their masks.

Stephanie Agresti  
Arnold

#### **ITEM 7.03 – New Course Approvals**

1. This is sexuality and the content does not belong in the school. Public schools should be focused history, math, reading, writing, nationalism (love and respect for America) and the arts.

Sexuality is parental conversations and should be covered by the family at their discretion.

Taxpayer money should be spent with actual education, which was destroyed with the initiation of common core now with the attempts to teach our kids to hate their County the

Founding Fathers, but not learn anything. I will stand behind any education on the dangers of socialism or communism but outside of American History such as the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the Cold War, the Constitution and its value. But racist curriculum and sexuality is not acceptable. The libraries have homosexual pornography. This is illegal and again has no place in the schools. The only job is to teach the basics of American history, math, English, reading and writing. The public schools are failing at these basic ideas but the only thing that has been left out is love of County Keep sexuality out of the schools. This is not your job!

This is part of Critical Race Theory education and is not what I accept for my kids' education and is not what should be taught in our schools it is divisive, and teaches kids to hate themselves and others. Stop indoctrinating our kids and start doing your jobs or you are no longer needed.

Noelle Lang  
Crofton

2. I am NOT in favor of the addition of the new course titled LGBTQ. As a retired high school teacher from our county, there are far more important courses that could be added such as teaching our students how to budget their money, etc. The youth of our public school system do NOT need a course such as this one.

Carolyn Smith  
Severna Park

3. I am writing to enthusiastically support both proposed courses: African American History in Anne Arundel County and LGBTQ+ Studies. Learning about history deepens our understanding of the past, present, and how we navigate the future. The more specific we can get with our historical subjects the more meaningful the learning experience can be, especially when students see themselves or immediate environment reflected in the content. After teaching GCC and PVA GCC for Anne Arundel County, I get excited reading these course descriptions because they extend and deepen those pre-requisite conversations we sought to have with our students in 9th grade...the relevance of getting to know the history of the grounds with which you live, how identity plays a huge part in someone's lived experience, learning about barriers and barriers broken down, discovering heroes and historical figures you identify with, acquiring a new lens' for seeing the world and its peoples, reflecting together in civility with classmates...there is so much power and richness in expanding one's personal lens. We are in desperate need of an LGBTQ+ Studies course, there is a rich people's history that is not currently reflected in our history curriculums. LGBTQ+ students can feel a sense of erasure when they are not represented, that should be enough reason to approve of the course. But those who are not a part of the LGBTQ+ community have just as much to gain from an opportunity to understand deeper and more fully the LGBTQ+ community through its rich history.

Catie Russo  
Arnold

4. I oppose the inclusion of the two courses recommended for inclusion in the public school system; African American Studies and LGBTQ+ Studies. Each course description states that the topics are covered in the US History curriculum. I feel that if a student wishes to learn more about these topics, then they can research on their own. Teachers may also provide a list of books and other resources for them to access on these topics.

Christine Hunt  
Crownsville

5. I oppose the inclusion of the two courses recommended for inclusion in the public school system: African American Studies and LGBTQ+ Studies. Each course description states that the topics are covered in the US History curriculum. I feel that if a student wishes to learn more about these topics, then they can research on their own. Teachers may also provide a list of books and other resources for them to access on these topics.

Jay D Crouthers  
Crownsville

6. Will someone please explain why AACPS is concerned with approving new elective courses right now? I was shocked to see this as an agenda item, and even more surprised that George Arlotto has already taken the time to review and recommend approval of these courses. The content of the courses is irrelevant to my point, although I understand there is grant money and funding tied to social justice initiatives.

<https://marylandeducators.org/racial-and-social-justice-issues/>

<https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/racial-social-justice>

The truly mind-boggling aspect of this agenda item is, WHY ARE WE WORRIED ABOUT ADDING COURSES WHEN WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TEACHERS FOR THE COURSES WE ALREADY HAVE? We see and hear and read about educator burnout, the additional stress of teacher shortages that is wreaking havoc on our educational system, not having enough substitute teachers, our educators sacrificing their planning time and lunchtime to cover for each other, the list goes on...

Do teachers have time and energy to spare for new elective courses? Can we give them their planning periods and lunch breaks back first? Can we let them figure out the best way to tackle the PD days that are already scheduled? Can we show them some compassion rather than pile more on top of their already back-breaking load? Is social justice where we should be focusing our teachers' efforts when so many children are struggling with traditional subjects as evidenced by the Maryland test scores? Please reconsider where your priorities lie.

Tina Belford  
Linthicum

7. I'm concerned about courses newly approved. After all the teaching of critical race theory and social justice the past few years, jamming down our kids' throats the idea of white privilege and white people oppressing black people, causing white children to feel like they are evil or ashamed, and black children to be discouraged due to being oppressed, it irks me to see yet one more course that is likely going to just rub salt in wounds that have just been opened. Had it not been for the massive push of Critical Race Theory being taught in schools, I would not have a problem with this class. And how will this class be taught? I anticipate it will be taught with focus on slavery and oppression. More of the same race-baiting, divisive CRT indoctrination. After everything that has transpired, why would I think any differently?

Regarding the LGBTQ+ history, AACPS has no business sexualizing our children in a HISTORY class. Children minds are very malleable; with all the focus on LGBTQ in school now, it seems that students are being encouraged to be confused about who they are, or to purposely be in conflict with their parents who believe there are only two genders. Is AACPS going to teach this in elementary school? That information is conspicuously missing from the class description sheet. Why does the class encourage students to honor and respect the LGBTQ community? This is not AACPS' job. Teaching respect for others is the parents' job.

Peggy Williams  
Severna Park

8. The new curriculum that is being put forth should be withdrawn immediately. LGBTQ and African American History is College Level content and should be taught as a college elective or covered in college-level sociology, psychology or political science. What is even more troublesome to me is that Dr. Arlotto has already recommended approval for these courses so that means that this has all been in the works, but the public is just being made aware of it a few days before the BOE meeting, when it's basically a done deal. This is sneaky and deceitful, along with a complete lack of transparency. It's problematic that there are "behind closed doors" decisions being made that are secretly being pushed through with a total disregard for public input. These topics are extremely sensitive and potentially divisive. Let me ask you, when will you offer a course that teaches the history of Christianity?? Can we please stop focusing on the appearance of being "Woke" and get back to basics? Now is not the time for the introduction of radical and progressive curriculum! Please consider offering courses that supplement current core classes which are required for graduation instead. The recent test scores show that students are so far behind from the lack of in person learning over the past two years. We must return to educational models that focus on classical liberal arts which aims to educate the whole person, mind, body, and soul.

Kimberly A Pratta  
Edgewater

**ITEM 7.07 – Chesapeake Science Point Charter School Elementary School Application**

1. I would love Board to consider the application submitted by Chesapeake Science Point Charter School for Elementary class, but I am oppose of their admission policy, which gives enrollment preference to CSB staff kids, current student siblings, Governing Board member children, former student siblings. When will county resident gets priority? With the preference method, we as county resident will never get the opportunity to put our kids in CSP where they can learn robotics and science.

Binayak Joshi  
Hanover

2. As a graduate of the class of 2021 from Chesapeake Science Point, the CSP experience remains fresh in my mind. An attendee of the school since the sixth grade I spent the majority of my grade school career within the walls of CSP and honestly, I wish it could've been longer. I would not be in the place I was today without CSP. More than the excellent staff, opportunities, and attention, the peer group I had at CSP motivated me to become the best version of myself and I know I will have them for life. The addition of a CSP elementary school will be so beneficial as now from the age of 5 students will be able to have a motivated, safe peer group for their entire school career. Looking back on it, my hardest year at CSP was 6th grade right as I came in from Hebron Harman Elementary in Hanover, MD. If I had the CSP environment and rigor from kindergarten I (as well as a lot of my peers) would have been a lot more prepared for middle school and beyond. I hope the board can look at the success of my peers and I and realize it is in their best interest to open Chesapeake Science Point elementary.

Dhruva Kothari  
Hanover

3. Chesapeake Science Point gives students a great advantage in their school career, by providing advanced classes combined with supportive educators. Exposing students to a diverse population of peers, imposes values of acceptance. Along with this the tight-knit community of CSP creates lifelong friendships. With the Chesapeake Science Point Elementary School, children would get earlier access to the resources which grow CSP students into educated young adults.

Raine Ingulia  
Crownsville

4. Please allow for the elementary school for CSP to be created.

Shannon Motsco  
Ellicott City

5. When I was in the 5th grade, everyone would talk about how they wanted to go to CSP because of how amazing their academic curriculum is. It was considered prestigious among the other middle schools. When I enrolled it validated me as a student and encouraged me to be involved in the school. I was taught at a higher level of education than most students in the same grade as me but in a different school. At a young age CSP teaches students advanced education and offers excellent electives to help in the real world such as business and finance. CSP also offered me programs that I did not know was possible like taking college classes in school and AP classes. My love for education grew and I succeeded as a student at CSP. I joined many clubs such as the math team, science Olympiad, seaperch, robotics, and MDOT bridge. In all clubs, I went to nationals numerous times in my clubs, and learned much more about science and engineering.

With the extra curriculums, sports, and advanced education, CSP lives up to the hype of what every parents talk about. My years in CSP lead me to advance in the real world. I got accepted into many colleges that I did not ever believe I could like St. Mary's, Penn State, and Stanford. Therefore, I strongly believe that CSP ES is beneficial to the county school system. With an addition, it would motivate students at a young age.

Sarah Vo  
Hanover

6. Dear Board Members,  
A charter school operator cannot identify a school facility until a charter petition is approved. Lack of facilities cannot be used as a reason to deny a charter petition as per the state department's recommendations. Despite these facts, CLF has identified an ideal facility at a great location, negotiated a lease agreement, and is ready to sign the lease as soon as the charter petition is approved.  
The report details do not reflect our efforts related to the facility.

Eric Derin  
Elkridge

7. We want that school to be open up please.

RAEESA BHATTI  
Glen Burnie

8. To whom it may concern,

I have worked with Chesapeake Lighthouse Foundation and I can truly say they are one of the best ran organizations in Maryland. The way they care for their students and go above and beyond to ensure success after High School is truly amazing to see. They are

always investing in their facilities which trickles down to their students and the grades speak for themselves. CSP has been instrumental in Anne Arundel County and it only makes sense to continue the success with an Elementary School specializing in IT and Robotics which is extremely important in today's world. The state of Maryland needs more Schools like the ones under CLF to truly showcase how far our kids can go when provided the right vehicle. We look forward to having a CSP Elementary in Maryland!

Thanks,  
Austin Eber  
Baltimore

9. It appears that the charter school review process in Anne Arundel County has unrealistic and unreasonable expectations of what can be included in a charter school application. It also appears that the process violates what the State dictates about what can and cannot be considered when reviewing charter school applications. The section on governance ignores the facts that CSP is ranked as the best charter school in the state and CLF is the largest charter school operator with a stellar reputation and track record, which have been explained in a reasonable fashion in the charter petition. We fail to understand why using traditional recruitment efforts are seen as insufficient methods when those same methods have proven to attract more than 700 applications year after year for only 80 available seats. The review on instruction argues that the charter petition failed to articulate how it is different from AACPS schools. Our opinion is that our current school and the charter petition is unique in many ways, however, according to the state department's model policy guide "It is not a requirement that a public charter school demonstrate unique programming or innovative approaches". The petition clearly outlines use of cutting-edge technology and curriculum in coding, robotics, and virtual reality programs. The pedagogical philosophy is based on project based learning and extended learning, which have proven to be successful at our current schools. Stating that Special Education and ELL staffing are insufficient without reference to student numbers at a school yet not established is pointless...

Zayn Ak  
Laurel

10. Chesapeake Science Point gives students a great advantage in their school career, by providing advanced classes combined with supportive educators. Exposing students to a diverse population of peers, imposes values of acceptance. Along with this the tight-knit community of CSP creates lifelong friendships. With the Chesapeake Science Point Elementary School, children would get earlier access to the resources which grow CSP students into educated young adults.

Raine Ingulia  
Crownsville

11. We are in need of CSP elementary.

Alia Mahgoub  
Severn

12. Good Afternoon,

I would like to make a statement of support for the CSP Elementary Charter. I have lived in AACo my entire life, and have been through the AACo school system. The addition of an elementary charter school would, in my opinion, massively bolster the education system of Anne Arundel county. As someone who went to an Anne Arundel Co. Charter school for middle and High school, I can vouch for their effectiveness in educating youth and providing a positive impact on this counties school system. I live and work in AACo. and fully support an Elementary Charter school, specifically a CSP Elementary in this county. After an education at CSP, I have lead a successful graduate academic career, and now contribute meaningfully to our counties workforce as a cyber security professional. I am a top paid researcher, and thank CSP for the education they were able to provide to me. Once again, I support CSP charter schools and I urge you to vote for an allowance of the CSP Elementary charter.

Thank you,  
David Kravets  
Annapolis

13. My youngest sister goes to Chesapeake science point high school. She enjoys the challenges and the focus on STEM and being pushed outside the box. My daughter is now about to enter school as a PreK student. I could only dream of something like this for elementary schoolers. And see them achieve their full potential and such a great environment.

Lobna Babiker  
Odenton

14. As a CSP senior who has attended the charter school for the past 7 years, I can faithfully say that the creation of an elementary school will only prove to be beneficial for future students. I look back at my tenure only to see the innumerable amount of opportunities that the school presents to students. I have multiple friends who both formerly and currently attend CSP advance to ISEF, the national science fair, with a past graduate even winning 1st place. Simply looking at the accomplishments of CSP graduates indicates just how effectively CSP cultivates and prepares its students. Previous college professors have made remarks regarding how CSP graduates handled their lab reports with significantly more ease and excellence than their peers. Another remarkable aspect about the school is its sheer diversity. Students don't realize the impact of it, but the exposure to a myriad of different cultures promotes a phenomenally healthy ideology

towards how they perceive others which is rarely observed in most public schools. This diversity allowed CSP to produce two winning teams entirely composed of women of color in STEM at the AASHTO national TRAC Bridge Building competition. Thus far, I myself have participated in programs with the Maryland Department of Transportation on 3 different occasions, one of which being an exclusive opportunity to test and review a Sphero self-driving robot. Given these experiences, there is no doubt in my mind that an elementary school would allow children to grow indescribably in these diverse and fostering environments.

Julian Woel-Popovich  
Crofton

15. CSP has been a dream come true for both middle and high schoolers . They keep kids on track and hold them to high level of education. Opening a Elementary school will benefit our youngsters to have a great head start.

Hina Khan  
Severn

16. We are in need of CSP elementary.

Alia Mahgoub  
Severn

17. Last fall my son applied to attend Chesapeake Science Point. After a lottery determined who filled 74 6th grade spots for the 2021-2022 school year, my son placed 82nd...on the waiting list. If the demand for CSP is so great that the waiting list is 3 times longer than the list of those accepted, I can only imagine the level of interest for a STEM elementary school will be just as enthusiastic.

Anne Arundel County needs more school choices, not less. Let's make CSP Elementary happen. It's too late for my son, but not too late for another future mathematician or scientist.

Linda Sienkiewicz  
Severna Park

18. I believe that several parents will benefit from having the high quality education that CPS offers to middle and high school to elementary school. I don't have young kids anymore but I love the level of education that so far mu daughter has been getting in middle and high school.

Claudia Marcela Hatch

Severn

19. It has been my distinct pleasure to work for Chesapeake Science Point Public Charter school for the past two years. Merely from an employees standpoint, this is an incredible familial school. I have consistently felt as though my coworkers have supported my needs, filled in my gaps, and encouraged my growth. This has made me stronger teacher and benefitted my students tremendously. It would only benefit AACPS and these students' futures if there was an elementary school that provided the same type of education at the elementary level.

Kelly Heyde  
Baltimore

20. As a former student of Chesapeake Science Point, I think that it is in the best interest of other AACPS students to open a CSP elementary school. I attended CSP from 6th through 12th grade and graduated in 2018 with a 3.5 GPA, many extra curricular activities, and some amazing memories. One thing that CSP is able to offer that no other public school in this county can, is an intimate and extremely diverse environment. I feel like the diversity in CSP helped prepare students for college and beyond as we learned about different cultures, heard different accents, etc. We are blessed to not have the same ignorance that people who have not experienced this have, making us better students, employees, and just better people. The intimate environment of the small school also has many benefits. For me, it helped me succeed in my studies. I could ask a teacher a question when I needed help, they would offer to help us on their lunch or even after school. No students fell behind and my entire class graduated on time. The welcoming and nurturing environment these teachers created for middle and high school would be especially important and successful in an elementary school, during a child's most formative years. I hope you consider opening this school, I know for a fact that it would be an amazing learning environment and benefit so many children. Thank you.

Noor Elgharbawi  
Hanover

21. As a mother of a young daughter and wife of an educator, I know the importance of education. In my daily role of a clinical social worker, I come across many families who aren't able to provide the specialized instruction or learning environment needed for their student. Some schools are too big, while others don't offer the special curriculum required by their child. I have always suggested alternative education avenues but many of those families do not have the funds for private education or one on one tutoring. This is where a school like CSP Elementary could be useful to provide a choice for families regardless of income. Please see the community need for such a charter school and consider CSP Elementary. Thank you.

Seema Vadalia  
Hanover

22. I am mother of three children that graduated from Chesapeake Science Point Charter School and one child already graduated from Ivy League school (Cornell University) and the other two children are presently in Cornell University. My short story is about testimony of CSP charter dedicated and professionalism of the staff, therefore I am in support of CSP Elementary.

Oluwakemi Oyemade  
Severn

23. I've worked for Chesapeake Science Point for the past 14.5 years. I have seen the success of the students and the relentless work of the teachers to make sure they succeed. I've also witnessed students that came to us with behavioral problems and are now well behaved and getting better grades. I would highly recommend the Elementary School.

June Calvert  
Linthicum

24. Having a charter public school option for elementary students will enhance the middle and high school experience for Chesapeake Science Point students. Parents should have the opportunity to apply for this option for their children, especially when their zoned schools are not meeting parents' academic expectations.

Cherisse Mays  
Hanover

25. My name is Glenda Washington. I am a lifelong educator and serve as the Director of Communications for Chesapeake Lighthouse Foundation (CLF). When we heard that the Anne Arundel Office of Alternative Education is recommending the Anne Arundel County Public School (AACPS) Board of Education deny the charter petition for Chesapeake Science Point Elementary, needless to say, we were all very disappointed and somewhat baffled. Why would a group of esteemed educators withhold from the children of Anne Arundel County such a great opportunity? It is well known and documented that our model works.

For 17 years our dedicated parents, staff, and students have worked tirelessly to ensure the school's success! Chesapeake Science Point Middle/High School (CSP) is now recognized as a Maryland State Department of Education Five Star school. US News ranks CSP as the most successful charter school in the state, and the best high school in the county. Additionally, our STEM Focus has resulted in numerous competitions and awards.

This recommendation to deny this application seems nonsensical. We have not been provided feedback, of any kind, during the process and now at the very end, the feedback is very vague and antithetical to our record as an experienced, successful operator. We are therefore petitioning the Anne Arundel County Public School Board to cast a vote independent of the Anne Arundel County Office of Alternative Education and grant our application. Thank you for your consideration.

Glenda Washington  
Bowie

26. Working at Chesapeake Science Point with middle and high school students allows me to witness the growth and development, and unique opportunities, that CSP offers. The implementation of an elementary program would enable students to take part in these opportunities for their full academic experience with AACPS. I highly support the development of a CSP elementary program.

Mary Beth Shepherd  
Pasadena

27. I am writing in reference to the denial of a elementary charter school at Chesapeake Science Point Charter School. My daughter has been a student at the Middle/High School now since 2018. This school has helped her excel in so many ways. She has been on the Principal's Honor Roll/Honor Roll the majority of the time she has been at the school. She loves the small class size that allows more hands on experiences. She she's that applying to this school was the best decision has made so far for her academic career. She has had numerous colleges already trying to recruit her when she graduates in 2025.

From a parents point of view I feel that this school has been a gift. My child no longer feels left out but accepted. She's not just cruising through school like my two other children that have graduated out of AACPS schools. This school challenges her to excel and push for what goals she wants. I feel that you should reconsider your conclusion and approve for a elementary school that could help so many students.

Lori Smith-Tornkvist  
Brooklyn Park

28. I am voting in support of the CSP elementary school initiative. My daughter has been a student of CSP since sixth grade. The rigorous curriculum has aided in her educational growth and understanding of complex science and math concepts. In her first year at CSP she struggled to keep up and required after school support. I believe that if an elementary program was established, the CSP/Lighthouse curriculum could be better instilled in young developing minds - thus making it easier to transition to the more

complex subjects in middle and high school. CSP is a highly successful and decorated institution. It is in the counties best interest to offer our elementary students a unique opportunity to succeed and support the advancement of higher education in the state of Maryland. Please vote "yes" to a CSP elementary school.

Sarah Mouton  
Odenton

29. My daughter currently goes to CSP. I would like for my grand children to also go to an elementary school with such great standards.

Abdelgalil Mustafa  
Odenton

30. I work at Chesapeake Science Point Public Charter School. I have worked at other schools and found the students in this school to be more focused on their work and better behaved.

Karen Carre  
Pasadena

31. My daughter goes there and loves it. Great seeing her grow. My grand daughter is about to enter school on the fall and it would be great for her to have such a similar experience.

Intesar Abdelwahab  
Odenton

32. These kids need a better education and CSP elementary will be the cornerstone to help prepare our children and future.

Anthony White  
Hanover

33. Both of my children attend/attended CSP for middle and high school. They have built lasting relationships with teachers and students. The education that they receive there is stellar and I believe that schools that offer STEM and STEAM educations help lessen the gap for women to pursue those fields. My oldest is graduating from Towson in the spring with a two degrees one in mathematics and the other computer science and it all started with Chesapeake Science Point. I can only imagine what would happen if we reached our children at an earlier age.

Rhonda Jones  
Severn

34. My name is Ashish Vadalia and I have been an educator in the county for the past 10 years. Half of those years were at Meade High School, and the other half at CSP. I have served many roles in this county from classroom teacher, department chair, to even curriculum writer, but regardless my mission has always kept students front and center. CSP has become one of the most successful schools in the county and that is to be celebrated not only by the charter school or its operator CLF, but by AACPS. We at CLF listened to all of the students, and parents who have flooded your inboxes and filled public statements imploring us to open a CSP Elementary school. This level of public interest and our amazing relationship with AACPS led us to submit our petition. This board was presented with a review from the superintendents team that asks you to not approve the petition. I know there is precedence for this board to consider the merits of this petition regardless of the superintendent's recommendation, as you have done so in the past on important community topics such as safely reopening schools. At the very least I urge the board to ask the superintendent's team to reach out to CLF and obtain any supporting documentation they may need in order to delay the vote. At the end of the day a great working relationship between CLF and AACPS will only lead to the continued benefit of AACPS students.

Ashish Vadalia  
Hanover

35. Please unmask/make masks optional.

Thank you.

Matt L. Robison  
Arnold

36. It seems the charter petition review process has unrealistic expectations of what can be included in a charter school application. It also appears that the process violates what the State dictates can and cannot be considered when reviewing applications.

The governance section ignores the fact that CSP is ranked as the best charter school in the state and CLF is the largest charter school operator with a stellar reputation and track record, which has been explained in a reasonable fashion in the petition. I fail to understand why using traditional recruitment efforts is seen as insufficient when those same methods have proven to attract more than 700 applications year after year for only 80 available seats at CSP.

The review on instruction argues that the charter petition failed to articulate how it is different from AACPS schools. Our opinion is that our current school and the charter petition is unique in many ways, however, according to the state department's model policy guide "It is not a requirement that a public charter school demonstrates unique

programming or innovative approaches". The petition clearly outlines the use of cutting-edge technology and curriculum in coding, robotics, and virtual reality programs.

Annessa Wilson  
Jessup