

# Board of Education of Anne Arundel County | February 16, 2022

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

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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

Tuesday, March 1, 2022  
12:00 pm  
Board Room

### Policy Committee

Monday, February 28, 2022  
3:00 pm  
Virtual

### Equity Committee

Tuesday, March 8, 2022  
11:30 am  
Virtual

### Budget Committee

Monday, March 14, 2022  
12:00 pm  
Virtual

### Board Workshop

Monday, March 14, 2022  
6:00 pm  
Board Room

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

## 6:00 pm 2. Opening/Recognition

2.01 Invocation

2.02 Pledge of Allegiance

2.03 Approval of the Minutes

2.04 Establish Agenda Order

2.05 Recognitions

2.06 Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award

## 6:30 pm 3. Reports

3.01 President's Report

3.02 Equity Committee Report

3.03 Budget Committee Report

3.04 CRASC Report

3.05 CAC Report

3.06 Superintendent's Report - School Operations

## 7:45 pm 4. Public Comments

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

## 8:15 pm 5. Consent Items - Award of Contracts (A)

5.01 COBRA and FSA Administration

5.02 Fire Alarm and Public Address Systems Replacement - Jacobsville ES

5.03 Security Vestibule - MacArthur MS

5.04 Security Vestibule - Northeast MS

5.05 Security Vestibule - Southern MS

## 8:30 pm 6. Action Items (A)

6.01 Administrative Personnel Appointments

6.02 Items of Legislation

### Policy Revisions - Third Reading

6.03 Emergency Plans - Code EH

### Policy Revisions - First Reading

6.04 Public Comment at Board Meetings - Code BCB

6.05 Board Evaluation - Code BI

### Other Action Items

6.06 Superintendent's Recommended Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Budget and Six Year Plan

6.07 Superintendent's Recommended Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget

## 10:00 pm 7. Review Items (R)

7.01 Monthly Financial Status Report

## 8. Motion to Enter Executive Closed Session (as needed)

Note: Since the Board has conducted two public hearings on the Superintendent's recommended FY2023 operating and capital budgets, it will not take public testimony on budget-related items on February 16. Public testimony may be submitted on the posted budget amendments only. Should the Board not be able to complete its work on the budget on February 16, it will hold a special meeting on February 17, if necessary, to complete the budget request.

The following testimony was submitted for the February 16, 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 3.06 Superintendent’s Report – School Operations**

1. It is time for the Superintendent to remove ALL mask mandates. Only certain, properly fitted masks are even remotely effective at stopping viruses, and even these masks only protect the person wearing it. The cloth masks that the majority of students and the rest of the public are wearing are little more than “facial decorations” according to CNN doctor Leanna Wen, who has also recently gone on the record to say that they shouldn’t be mandated and that it should “shift to an individual responsibility BY THE FAMILY” whether or not to mask their child. Give the control back to the parents to decide if their child needs to wear a mask! Parents know their children best!

Nicole Kinstler  
Severna Park

2. Please force the MSDE to implement clear and consistent off ramps for unmasking in our schools. Almost all states on the East coast has issued a reversal of masks mandates in schools. Using both MDH and CDC guidance as part of three off ramps is inconsistent and complete data manipulation by the MSDE. Force for directions and clear guidance and data on how to accomplish the off ramps for our schools. They published these off ramps two months ago with no direction to our superintendents on how to implement any of the off ramps. You must push, as our Board of Education, to have control over masks just like you had to with reopening last year. Students’ mental health and social skills are being compromised every single day. Please put forth a motion that forces the MSDE to use data that is clear and consistent across one agency and to give clear guidance to superintendents immediately.

Elizabeth Fine  
Gambrills

3. End all mandates. Unmask our children.

Crystal Clarke  
Annapolis

4. I am writing to you today on behalf of the stakeholders in Anne Arundel County. Not long ago, the MSDE had a meeting and at that meeting, they developed science-based, data-driven off-ramps for Maryland School Districts to know when a good time would be to drop the mask mandate for their schools. So far, these conditions have only been recently met by Howard County. Now, a very vocal minority is once again speaking out in response to what other local governments are doing and are fueled by the stories

coming out of Canada about the protests regarding mandates of any kind.

We are not out of this pandemic yet. Omicron is waning but until the vast majority of the planet is vaccinated, we will continue to see variants and we will continue to have waves. Taking the masks off prematurely will prevent them from being put back on when and if the time comes.

So, what am I here to ask you? I'm here to ask you to stand your ground against what Governor Hogan is asking you to do. I'm asking you to hold your ground against what other local leaders will ask you to do. I am asking you to stick to the data-driven off-ramps that MSDE provided in December. Please put politics aside and position yourself as science-minded. Look out for the good of our teachers, students, and families in AACO, and keep the masks on until the off-ramps are met.

Jennifer Greeff  
Millersville

5. in the classroom. My son in first grade is struggling with reading like the rest of his class. He has puked twice in a mask that are being forced to use when PE is indoors. My daughter has stopped communicating with friends , she stated no one can hear her so why bother. Cloth mask most children are wearing are useless per the CDC. You have seen all the test scores. The developmental and psychological damage mask have done will take years to remediate.

Elizabeth Boone  
Crofton

6. If/when MSDE votes to put mask decisions back to county BOE's, please remember student/parent/staff choice. The decision can no longer be just about covid science but all science including mental health, developmental etc.

Jennifer P.  
Davidsonville

7. MSDE is cherry picking data to support their narrative. They are using the CDC website to track our transmission rate and the MDOH website to track vaccination requirements. This is 100% deliberate because we happen to meet the vaccination requirement per the CDC, but not MDOH, and in contrast we meet the transmission level of Moderate on the MDOH site but not per the CDC. MSDE is using data manipulation to achieve the desired results of unattainable metrics. They should be using one source and one source only. The fact that they're using two is dishonest and manipulative. How is it that these appointed, non-elected bureaucrats have more control over our children then our elected officials do? Our students can literally go anywhere in this state maskless, except to school. AADOH recently published a graphic showing that the masks that

everyone has been wearing for the past two years do absolutely nothing to stop the spread of Covid. This is nothing short of gross political theater. This is not March 2020. It is time to do what a growing list of countries and surrounding states have done and announce that we're going back to something more like normal. COVID precautions have fallen unfairly on those with the lowest risk. What we are doing to kids is unnecessary and tragic. We're making kids, who have a COVID survivability rate of 99.98% mask up like bandits. Unfortunately, the thing that's getting stolen is their education, their mental health and their social skills.

Kim A Pratta  
Edgewater

8. Please reconsider and put forth a motion to delay start time implementation until 2023-24 school year. Transportation is still a mess, bus drivers are still lacking, and special education transport is not even considered in the report. Staff are drowning in recovery from the pandemic, and this start time implementation will only force more teachers to step away from the profession. Brightspace has not even launched for families since the initial launch in September; if you can't launch a learning platform in a timely manner across a school district, how do you plan to launch transporting over 80,000 students to school in less time with condensed stops? Focus on the now! You have a superintendent to hire! Kids are struggling and so are families. We need no more changes!

Elizabeth Fine  
Gambrills

9. Hello, I am writing in reference to a concern over the Anne Arundel County school hours changing in the fall of 2022. If you review the Anne Arundel County boards decision regarding the hours, you will quickly see that school bus drivers hours will be cut along with their weekly pay as currently we drive 4 schools in the a.m. and 4 schools in the p.m. In the current proposed model, to be able to make it to the schools in a timely fashion we now will only be driving for three schools in the morning and three schools in the p.m. My boss has all but confirmed that our hours will be cut from 40 to 30 hours. Currently I work a 40-hour work week, in the new model it will be 30 hours. Affecting my family income of \$200 less per week. I am not sure if anyone has reviewed the effects that this is going to have on the school bus drivers, however several drivers who have uncovered how the change will affect their livelihood are considering leaving the profession. In the new model additional school bus drivers are needed to complete the plan, hence now even more bus drivers will be needed because of those who are deciding to leave the profession. Back in the fall when school bus drivers were needed, the county offered the school bus drivers and AIDS a \$5 an hour raise and at this time I feel that only honoring the \$5 an hour raise, with the hours being cut, will be the only way that you may be able to survive retaining current school bus drivers....

Nancy Bryant  
Brooklyn Park

10. Anne Arundel county has met the 80% vaccine off ramp. You need to lift the mask mandate and allow kids to return to a normal learning environment. Mask have cause developmental and psychological effects and it going to take years to remediate the damages.

Elizabeth Boone  
Crofton

11. What sense does it make to require children to continue to mask up in school settings when other mask mandates have been lifted? At-risk adults have the option to vaccinate, wear a mask or work remotely. Since the beginning of the pandemic, children have been at the lowest risk of serious illness or death from COVID, yet they are disproportionately impacted from the theatre that is “wearing” a mask. Most students do not wear them properly & most students do not wear masks that provide a measurable barrier to the spread of COVID. Yet two years later, students are still paying the highest price.

I just began volunteering to read with second graders identified by their teachers as needing some extra attention. When I first met my student, all I wanted to do was smile at her & show her how happy I was to spend reading time together. Regretfully, I could not. However, what was even more depressing was the realization that this student had likely not seen an in-person smile since the first part of her kindergarten year. How do you think that will impact her long-term academic abilities???

Enough already. Elected BOE members must vote to end the AACPS mask mandate now and honor your mission to ELEVATE ALL STUDENTS...ELIMINATE ALL GAPS.

Shannon Ballard  
Davidsonville

12. AACO has reached the 80% vaccination rate. Please vote to make masks optional for school children.

Stephanie Spadaro  
Edgewater

13. AACO HAS MET THE 80% VAX RATE. One of the ‘off-ramps’ determined by MSDE.

My 4th grader had to stop wearing her glasses due to masks fogging them up. Anti-fog spray / different masks don’t work. We’ve tried everything. She has since stopped wearing glasses and has constant headaches and blurred vision.

We saw with Omicron that no matter how vaxxed, boosted and masked you are, if you are meant to catch the virus you will. Enough is enough. Adults can gather in large

crowds with strangers, and no one bats an eye, but our kids who are with the same classmates in the same pods during the school year have to be masked up. None of this makes sense. Science and logic at this point are not adding up. End the mask mandates and let our kids return back to school without masks.

Ana Freitas  
Gambrills

14. Dear Board Members,

In light of the latest data showing that Anne Arundel County has now reached 80% vaccination rate, I urge you to rescind the mask mandate for our children. You have always vowed to follow the science through this pandemic, and it is overwhelmingly clear that masks are doing way more harm than good to our kids. I have witnessed firsthand the detriment that a mask has been to my child's reading and learning. Too much time is spent by teachers policing proper mask wearing and causing anxiety about germs than focusing on academics. Please give our children their normal school experience back. It is time. As our Governor has said, we need to learn to live with this virus, not in fear of it. Thank you very much.

Megan McCuen  
Edgewater

15. The past 2 years has been a game of who can make the most money. Why aren't more doctors willing to practice compassionate medicine? Why aren't more state and local school board members willing to practice compassionate education? Because of fear and money. And who is punished the most? Children. The least vulnerable amongst us are forced to endure the highest cost.

We have endured "2 weeks to flatten the curve," lock downs, mask mandates, vaccination coercion, failure to reopen, more mask mandates, vax or test requirements for athletes, the list goes on and on. All the while, the goal post continued to move and a return to "normal" stretched further and further away. If you sit back and think about your time on this board over the last 2 years, are you proud of your accomplishments?

It is crucial that all mandates end immediately. The freedom of choice needs to be reinstated into this community and this country once again. As Dr. Robert Malone says, "where there is risk, there must be choice." When you go to the doctor and have a medical procedure, you see a surgeon, they explain the risks, and then you make a choice. The same applies to masking and vaccinations.

Do the right thing. Stand up against evil. End all mandates immediately. There are no more excuses now that we have met one of the "off-ramps" set up by MSDE.

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

Amy Willey  
Pasadena

16. As reported by the Maryland Department of Health on Monday, 2/14, the Anne Arundel County vaccination rate has reached 80%. It is time to remove the school mask mandate. Imagine what a HUGE mental health boost it would be for your students to be able to remove their masks in school by March 1st, almost exactly TWO YEARS after their very last day of "normal." I implore you to take action immediately. Your students are counting on you!

Heather Sanders  
Crofton

17. Anne Arundel County has met the MSDE identified 'off-ramp' for ending the public school mask mandate of 80% vaccination rate (MDOH data, 2/14/22). It is time to end the mandate and allow masking to be a parental choice. Please do not transfer your fear or personal feelings to our children. Allow parents to make health decisions for their own children. VOTE TO END MASK MANDATES!

Jennifer Fold  
Linthicum

18. Natural Immunity is Science. Between vaccinated and NI, we have far surpassed your off-ramp metric. You cannot pick and choose which science you want to follow and be taken seriously.

Any society that would use their children to shield themselves from harm is not worth saving.

Curtis Fisher  
Crownsville

19. As a graduate of Anne Arundel County Public Schools, I plead/beg you to end the mask mandate for children. Mask mandates are ending in the county, state, and across the country. Now is the time.

Please end mandates for our children so that they can go back to being normal kids.

Great video of kids celebrating the end of mask mandates. This can be Anne Arundel County children.

<https://twitter.com/hollandcourtney/status/1491996868829614081?s=10>

David Morsberger  
Davidsonville

20. BOE, it is time to stop all mandates in relation to Covid-19. Masks are doing more harm than good. There is no need to push for children to be VAXXED. They have never been at risk for Covid and its variants. much less for Omicron. Please invest in our children's REAL education and not in their health. The Parents should always have the last word. Stick to Teaching the basics. They do not need sex mis-education. They do not need to know about skin color differences.

Marie Andrea Poulin  
Gambrills

21. Masks need to be taken off the children; risks outweigh the benefits. First, masks deceive people into believing they are protected, and thus they may enter unsafe crowded situations, or wander into public with symptoms thinking they are safe with the mask. This is why Denmark discourages masks. Second, masks can cause physical and psychological harm to society and to people, especially children. It stokes fear, divides people, and makes people uncomfortable, anxious, and often short of breath. Children constantly touch the masks, reuse them, which is much more harmful. obstructing their oxygen intake is extremely harmful as well. This cannot be our new normal; let children breathe. They are at 99.999% risk for contracting and transmitting covid-19.

Virginia Kolakoski  
Annapolis

22. My name is Laura LaRosa and I am a mother of 4 kids. I have a PhD in Environmental Health Sciences from Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, with a focus on industrial hygiene and aerosol physics.

I am writing to request that you end all school mask mandates, which are greatly hurting our children while not providing ANY protection against transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus as the science has clearly shown. I can provide links to 30 peer reviewed studies showing the ineffectiveness of masks against respiratory viruses.

Masks are as effective as stopping the SARS-CoV-2 virus as a chain link fence is at keeping mosquitos out of your yard because the size of the aerosol particle is too small.

Many other countries and states are finally embracing the true science and lifting these unnecessary and ineffective mandates (i.e. England, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Ireland, and states such as Virginia, Florida, Connecticut, New Jersey, Oregon, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Nevada). I implore you to do the same.

Laura Escandell LaRosa  
Annapolis

23. Student mask mandates should be revised to optional. CDC and WHO studies continue to show that children are less likely to spread COVID, develop severe complications, or contribute to community spread at any appreciable level. However, WHO studies and recommendations specifically state that there is “potential impact of wearing a mask on learning and psychosocial development.” Current COVID variants are still effectively managed by vaccination campaigns and those vaccinated adults working at our schools stand little risk from mask mandate revision. Rejection of the WHO, CDC, and real-world evidence to the contrary of mask mandates is simply emotional or, worse, political. If you claim to be educators, take an honest look at the evidence, which will lead you to remove the mandate.

Joshua Tiley  
Edgewater

24. Please vote today to end the AACPS mask mandate so students, teachers, staff and anybody in the buildings have the option to wear a mask or not. AACO has met the 80% Vax Rate which was an off ramp determined by MSDE. It's been two years of no normal for our kids. My son is in 2nd grade and he has been in virtual or wearing a mask his entire schooling which is impossible to read emotion or communicate during this critical time of development. His test scores are showing below average and I have two older kids that never had this problem. Dr. Arlotto even wrote back to me in an email that he is concerned about all of the students, particularly our youngest learners. Many states all over the country are ending the mask mandate now. Please please end the mask mandate so masks can be optional. Thank you so much for your time.

Jaime Ansted  
Pasadena

25. Please allow individuals the right to choose if they want to wear a mask. Our students ,staff and teachers have suffered enough through this pandemic. All science is clear now on masking and it's time to let people choose. I am so disheartened on the narrative that is going around about parents who fight to ask for choice. I can't believe my eyes sometimes when I see comments about parents who want choice or parents that want unmasking because, they have watched their kids suffer emotionally as well as academically. These comments are supported by very influential people in our school system. For example, of such comments - “they all rejoice when people die of covid. They won't miss their kids if they die and will laugh if their kids become disabled because of covid.” Is this really what you think of us?

Melissa Anne Idleman  
Pasadena

26. Please vote "No" against mask mandates. It's a personal decision, so vote against tyranny. Force the MD BOE to also vote against mandates.

Bill Love  
Severna Park

27. At the February 14 Severna Park High School varsity basketball game, a friend's 16-year-old son came to watch. He was looking forward to connecting with parents and friends he hadn't seen for a while. After the first quarter, one of the SPSHS assistant principals walks up to the boy and motions for him to come down from the stands. The assistant principal tells him he must leave the game because his mask was under his nose. The boy had no warning. She kicks him out of the game. The boy had to call his dad to come pick him up. This is uncalled for. While some kids at this high school and others are drinking, doing drugs, and participating in other unhealthy, negative behaviors, this kid was watching a school basketball game. The administrators need to focus on the important issues... suicides, drugs, the overall mental health of these kids! Shame on the AP for kicking a kid out of a high school basketball game for this. Priorities need to be set straight. We are on the brink of insanity. Consider protecting and caring for the mental and emotional health of the children and follow the science that they are at no risk from this virus. Those that are so zealous in masking these kids by punishing and excluding them in this way are in no way helping the mental health crisis taking place. STOP sacrificing the children. Use your energy to DO THE RIGHT THING- make masks optional.

Peggy Williams  
Severna Park

#### **ITEM 6.06 Superintendent's Recommended Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Budget and Six Year Plan**

1. I missed the sign in time which is too strict. I wish to speak on FY2023, which is funding for benches in sports. This is pointless as too much money is already pushed into sports as it is. What the school needs is more money for the arts and sciences, as those fields is what the future needs more than running a ball around a field.

Richard Walker  
Annapolis

#### **ITEM 6.07 Superintendent's Recommended Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget**

1. As one of the "founding" teachers of Triple E, I urge the board to reject this amendment and continue to expand the program to Old Mill. After teaching the program for 7 years and at 2 different schools, I have seen firsthand the eye-opening critical thinking and the wonder of creation which goes on in Triple E classrooms. With everything that has been lost during this pandemic, the ability for students to do hands on work and collaborate is needed more than ever. And the provision of desperately needed planning time is and

added bonus. We need to move forward and fulfill the promise to all elementary students and teachers. It is an investment that will last a lifetime.

Betsy Brininger  
Glen Burnie

2. Please vote AGAINST amendment #8. I have two children in the Old Mill Cluster and have been hoping and hoping to get the Triple E program at their school. In two recent studies done over 114 schools and 6,00 students, 50% from low-income households project-based learning significantly outperformed traditional curricula, raising academic performance across grade levels, socioeconomic subgroups, and reading ability." DO NOT TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY AWAY FROM OLD MILL. Other schools have this program and it is NOT FAIR to take away this amazing opportunity from our children!!!! My information is from this article: <https://www.edutopia.org/article/new-research-makes-powerful-case-pbl>

Jennifer Fishback  
Crownsville

3. VOTE AGAINST AMENDMENT 8 in the 2023 budget. Old Mill deserves the Triple E program and it is NOT EQUITABLE to offer the program to other parts of the county and not Old Mill. The research supporting PBL continues to build and it would be a disservice to our students not to give them this opportunity.

Bryan Fishback  
Crownsville

4. Parents in the Old Mill cluster are against Amendment 8. The BOE cannot simultaneously promote the greatness of AACPS and also cut/prevent programs that enhance student learning. The EEE program is a way to reach all types of learners. I urge you to read educational research regarding the importance of project-based-learning, collaboration, problem solving, and hand-on learning experiences for children. The research is on the side of the EEE program.

Instead of cutting this program, the BOE should be looking for ways to include this program in every cluster. Students in clusters without the EEE program are not receiving the same educational opportunities as students in clusters that already have the program. In addition to the educational benefits for our students, teachers would greatly benefit from the block of additional planning time provided by the addition of a fifth cultural arts period. Please vote "no" on Amendment 8. Please bring the EEE program to the Old Mill cluster.

Kyle Curran  
Crownsville

5. This class is a gift. Students need the social interaction and critical thinking that takes place here. It was both of my children's favorite class when we were in another school. Please keep funding for this program and include it in Millersville elementary. In a world full of computers these children need conversation.

Dana Thomas  
Crownsville

6. I just wanted to voice my opposition to elimination of the expansion of the Triple E program the Old Mill Cluster. I'm a parent with 3 children in this cluster. Two are in elementary school. Our school would greatly benefit from the Triple E program. I know it's been in the pipeline for us for quite a while and delaying even longer is wrong. This cluster already suffers from horribly outdated facilities. Let's at least give the children some advantage. This program would make them more engaged and excited about learning.

Courtney Hannon  
Crownsville

7. I have a daughter with cystic fibrosis who needs a program like this for her mental health!! Please don't eliminate this program!

Jessica LANTZ  
Crownsville

8. I against Amendment 8. The BOE cannot simultaneously promote the greatness of AACPS and also cut/prevent programs that enhance student learning. The EEE program is a way to reach all types of learners. I urge you to read educational research regarding the importance of project-based-learning, collaboration, problem solving, and hand-on learning experiences for children. The research is on the side of the EEE program.

Instead of cutting this program, the BOE should be looking for ways to include this program in every cluster. Students in clusters without the EEE program are not receiving the same educational opportunities as students in clusters that already have the program. In addition to the educational benefits for our students, teachers would greatly benefit from the block of additional planning time provided by the addition of a fifth cultural arts period. Please vote "no" on Amendment 8. Please bring the EEE program to the Old Mill cluster.

Danielle Randall  
Crownsville

9. As a parent in the Old Mill cluster, I am against Amendment 8. What would be the point of cutting this program from our cluster? Are our students not as important to the BOE?

Our children should be given access to any possible programs that can further educate and open their minds in all things STEAM and cultural studies. I believe that this program is essential for elementary aged children in today's society. It will also be to the benefit to our overworked teachers, giving them extra planning time. This program should be implemented in all AACPS elementary school, no exceptions. Please allow my child, and all future children in the Old Mill cluster, the benefit of the EEE program.

Valerie Jones  
Millersville

10. Do not cut funding for the EEE program for the Old Mill cluster. EEE is needed in all elementary schools and should continue to be implemented across the county. When some schools do not have EEE while others do, that is inequitable.

Lauren Elfring  
Baltimore

11. Do NOT cut funding for the expansion of the Triple E program in the Old Mill Cluster. It's not fair that other clusters have had this opportunity for YEARS and we still don't have it and won't get it in the near future. Old Mill deserves better. Reallocate the funding earmarked for free AP/IB testing for every 9-12 grader. That is a waste of money. All students are not (and should not be) college bound. It is absurd to cut Triple E, which everyone should have access to, but fully fund testing that many students don't want or need. Vote against amendment 8. The students of Old Mill deserve better.

MEGAN E GREENWELL  
Millersville

12. Parents in the Old Mill cluster are against Amendment 8. The BOE cannot simultaneously promote the greatness of AACPS and also cut/prevent programs that enhance student learning. The EEE program is a way to reach all types of learners. I urge you to read educational research regarding the importance of project-based-learning, collaboration, problem solving, and hand-on learning experiences for children. The research is on the side of the EEE program. Instead of cutting this program, the BOE should be looking for ways to include this program in every cluster. Students in clusters without the EEE program are not receiving the same educational opportunities as students in clusters that already have the program. In addition to the educational benefits for our students, teachers would greatly benefit from the block of additional planning time provided by the addition of a fifth cultural arts period. Please vote "no" on Amendment 8. Please bring the EEE program to the Old Mill cluster.

Josiah John  
Millersville

13. Please vote against amendment #8

I cannot say enough how much it would benefit and enrich our school. It would also give teachers an extra hour of planning each week since they wouldn't have students for the current computer class. Our children deserve to have this class! I substitute in the old mill cluster and see regularly how much they need any and all funding to improve.

Moriah Haefner  
Millersville

14. I'm absolutely disgusted by the proposed budget and amendments. \$3.4M for athletic improvements is more than the recommended budget for Health & Safety (\$1.2M), Aging Schools (\$575K), School Bus Replacement (\$900K), and Health Rooms (\$350K) combined. I think that's unacceptable! Not to mention, the proposed increase to the already astronomical athletic budget and CUTS to professional development and busses. It says a lot about your priorities. I oppose this budget and amendments. Get your priorities in order. The county already has an athletic program, your primary focus should be the education, health, and safety of our children!

Aimee L Bark  
Odenton

15. I, and other parents in the Old Mill cluster are against Amendment 8. Please do not cut programs that enhance student learning. The EEE program is essential to reaching all types of learners. I urge you to read educational research regarding the importance of project-based-learning, collaboration, problem solving, and hand-on learning experiences for children. The research is on the side of the EEE program. Instead of cutting this program, look for ways to include this program in every cluster. Students in clusters without the EEE program are not receiving the same educational opportunities as students in clusters that already have the program. In addition to the educational benefits for our students, teachers would greatly benefit from the block of additional planning time provided by the addition of a fifth cultural arts period. Please vote "no" on Amendment 8. Please bring the EEE program to the Old Mill cluster.

Amy Grasso  
Millersville

16. I support the amendments proposing cuts to Professional Development if the goal is reducing burdens on teachers so they can focus on the core function of teaching. Teachers are consistently overburdened and there should be a focus on ways of reducing those burdens. When I was in the military years ago, there was a sense of constantly being overburdened by many similar to the ways teachers feel today. There was always another 'good idea' being added to our requirements that had nothing to do with the job or mission, such as the 6,947th professional development course required

for promotion without removing any previous requirements. There was this unwritten belief that taking away from your personal and family time to check off another box somehow made you a better service-member. There is only such much time in the day. There is a concept known as degree creep, especially in healthcare related fields. You can extrapolate ideas from this concept and apply them to education. Constantly requiring more and more education whether informal or formal does not guarantee better outcomes for teachers or students.

Adam Wyndham