

[Laura Wood - Composting at Schools \(Video\)](#)

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Erin Baylis

Lack of senior celebration or communication at GHHS

I am EXTREMELY disappointed about how the principal has handled Seniors at GHHS. No communication went out to parents for submitting a senior poster until a few hours before they were due today. Why not? The other schools in Wake Co have done so much for their kids. Many parents and kids are very upset. Parents were ready and willing to help and still are and nothing from the principal. The BOE needs to step in and get some questions answered for the sake of all of the families. Please.

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Heidi Blankenship

The start date for year-round schools 2020-21

Hello, I am a parent of three school-aged children who attend public school in Wake County. Two are assigned to year-round calendar schools and one to a traditional high school. I am writing to express concern about the lack of information available regarding the start of the new school year. The year-round schools need to begin as previously scheduled in July. Our infection rate remains at less than 8%. The CDC recommended schools NOT close, yet their guidance was ignored. Given that the infection rate among the pediatric population in North America is less than 2%, there is absolutely no evidence to support schools remaining closed or operating via remote learning. There is also zero evidence to support schools opening with desks 6 feet apart, people wearing masks or anyone checking anyone's temperature. The fact that you all would foist these additional job requirements on our already overworked and underpaid public school employees is untenable. Have you stopped to ponder how difficult remote learning has been for our teachers who also have children? By the way, if children are "silent carriers" and all 162,000 of them were forced to go home in March, why didn't we have significantly higher numbers of positive cases? There's much speculation within the community regarding the start of the school year, adding to the already divisive nature of public debate. The unemployed need to focus on finding jobs. Parents who have worked from home for the last several weeks will be expected to return to work, creating a significant childcare dilemma for many local families whose year-round children would normally be in school. Working parents should not be forced to juggle remote learning supervision and their jobs any longer. Children in unstable situations who rely on the structure and stability school provides should not have to live with fear and uncertainty any longer. Your lack of transparency and inability to communicate effectively with parents and the broader community is appalling. We are anticipating the start of school in less than 8 weeks. Our children are asking questions and we don't have any answers. North Carolina students have already been deprived of 9 weeks of the quality education they deserve, as well as the social and emotional development they need to grow and flourish. No amount of internet access or clever remote learning strategies can replace the experience of going to school. One only has to go shopping, visit the beach or a local lake or trail to see people are no longer going home. A federal judge has ruled that churches are allowed to meet. Therefore, if families can go to the beach, lake, store or a local greenway and attend church, there is no valid or logical reason why they should be prevented from starting school in July. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing your decision in the very near future.

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Stacy Dugan  
Remote Learning

I am writing to request the School Board consider providing Remote Learning as an option going into the 2020-21 school year for families that have family members at high risk if they contract the Corona Virus. This would provide teachers who also need to isolate the option of teaching remotely, and will reduce the number of students in the schools to help provide for better social distancing requirements for those attending.

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Richard LaBrosse  
Year round start and IEP's

I have 3 children in Holly Grove Middle. Year round has been an incredible asset to 2 of them with IEP's. They both suffer much more than severe information retention loss with too long a break. I wanted to take the time to advocate for as early an opening as possible. And barring that access to and help work maintaining a school load appropriate to them. A month or more break with no school support will set them both back far enough to make the eventual start fast more difficult.

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Kennedy Velasco  
Year round start dates

I respectfully request that year round schools start ON TIME. Distance learning is not a burden for my family but it is a burden for many. Children need to be back in school to be able to learn at their full potential while allowing many families to return to work. Please start on time.

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Natalie Lanier  
Continuing online learning for 20-21 school year

My hope is that WCPSS provides an online option for those who do not feel comfortable sending their kids next year.

I think WCPSS should HAVE to provide the option so that all children have equal access to education under the law. Plus, it would take some of the burden off of the school in terms of capacity and social distancing. I think you could ask the teachers who are immunocompromised to teach the online classes, and the teachers without underlying health conditions to teach in person.

Several options:

For the teachers that are immunocompromised or live in a household where there may be someone, they can choose to teach from home. They can Teach 50 kids two subjects, 2 teachers per grade level

Or

Teach 100 kids one subject, Four teachers per grade level

Or

30 kids all subjects, 1 teacher

(Depending of course on how many students are needing to stay home)

As far as the online instruction, they can use videos already on YouTube or other instructional sites to teach new material. Google class meet twice a week, office hours available on google meet for each child and their parent once a month to check in or more often as needed.

Regardless, it's not going to make everyone happy but hopefully this is a temporary situation that would meet the needs of all our kids.

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Amanda McKenna  
Covid 19 - Year Round Calendar

Hello and thank you for your time. Regarding year round calendars I believe our children need to go back to school. This virus is not going anywhere anytime soon and we cannot keep our children isolated for a year + . I believe they will suffer academically if online learning continues. Our children are not successfully learning new things online. They are successfully reviewing what they have learned but not learning new material. I have heard that alternating learning days is an option however unless you are fully sanitizing the entire school after each day it will not make a difference because the germs live on surfaces. I believe you should start school in August for year round and alter/shorten the track outs...such as 10 weeks in 2 weeks off etc. Thank you again for your time and the work you are putting into this.

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Poppie McNierney  
Year Round Schedules 2020-2021

The students need to go back to school ON TIME and IN-PERSON. The data collected over the past few months does not justify a continued shut down of in-person school. The students are suffering physically and mentally by not being in school, and those outweigh the extremely small risk of COVID-19. The online learning is a complete joke, and students are given busy work to check boxes by the states. Our students need an actual education, taught by actual teachers, in a safe environment. Schools provide more than education - they provide meals for the food insecure, they provide safety from domestic violence, they provide love from teachers, they promote a positive mental health, they need to be OPEN.

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Dana Behan  
Year round calendar consideration

Dear Board Members,  
We are a high-risk family. Please remember that there are many families who will be at much greater risk when classroom learning resumes. As much as I want them to get back to classroom learning, it isn't good for anyone to do that prematurely. Please keep our children, families and communities safe. Year-round kids should not be sent back any earlier than traditional. Please don't use our kids to test the waters. Thank you!

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Kathryn Kornbau  
Year Round School

I hope that the board considers all aspects when considering opening year-round school in person in July. Previously the school board has REFUSED simple cleaning procedures, such as cleaning cafeteria tables in between students. Scientific evidence has shown that coronavirus can live on plastic surfaces for 2-3 days. Despite my numerous emails to the board and principal about the need to clean tables, as this pandemic was beginning in Feb/March, you did nothing to protect our children. Children should not be roaming halls to change classes, temperatures should be checked every morning before getting on the bus, let alone the building, extra cleaning precautions. I don't think this is feasible. This is not going away any time soon. We need to have better virtual learning options. LIVE teaching, not just giving the kids a YouTube Video and quiz. Teachers need to actually teach virtually, not just give a little work for the week. We have had adequate time to get used to this new lifestyle, now we need to teach our children and not let them fall behind, especially in the STEM fields. Our current math curriculum (MVP/Open Access) also needs to change and get out of the "group learning" model, as that is not going to be conducive to social distancing or remote learning for the foreseeable future. Thank you.

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Annamaria Vesely  
Start of Year round schools

Good day. I'm writing regarding the start of year-round school for the 2020-2021 school year. Please strongly consider starting the kids on time and on schedule. I understand that there are still concerns with the virus and the spread of it. However, these kids (and their parents) need a more return to normal. By the beginning of July NC is scheduled to be operating nearly as normal. I know that's "pending reported cases" etc, but honestly, there isn't widespread enough testing to prove effective at really knowing how far spread it is in the community. A lot of public health experts state that there will probably be a resurgence in the fall, which means we'll probably be back to partial or fully online in the fall/winter. Please let them start the school year off normally. As you consider how to get the schools started again, please also think about impacts to working parents. Most families I know have two working parents. Kids going every other day (a rumor I heard) is untenable for those that have to work. Employers are only going to be flexible for so long and the back and forth will probably be harder on them. Even a week in person a week online is more "consistent" than every day switching it up. Hopefully you are seeking the advice of child development experts when making these decisions. When/if online classes are resumed/continued, please PLEASE consider real time lectures/teaching. Most kids have a hard time with this online learning. Being in a virtual environment where you can engage with the teacher in real time might be better, like online real time lectures. Thank you for your hard work in providing the best decision for the kids.

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Shannon Wymer  
Year-round start date

I am not comfortable with my daughter going back to school in early July. What are the latest projections showing an increase in cases through June, I don't think we can look at going back to in-person before August.

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Nicole Bailey  
Working parents

As a dual income family and both currently back at work, I have grave concerns regarding homeschooling my child, and childcare if school has shortened days or weeks. I feel my child is at a disadvantage in learning with not being in school the full 5 days a week.

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Katherine Townsend

Year Around / Bridging the Gap

After several emails, I have yet to get a response from anyone regarding your plans or lack thereof for the schools that are supposed to begin July 6th.

What are the plans for filling in the gaps that have been caused by the prolonged distance learning? Not all of us are fortunate enough to be able to devote an entire day to meeting the educational needs of our children as we have jobs and responsibilities of our own to ensure there is food on the table and a roof over our heads. When will the curriculum be updated and what tools will be used to measure the at home progress or lack thereof? What tools will be used to ensure our current students will be fully prepared for state testing should that requirement be still in place for the upcoming school year? What support and resources will the teachers be given to ensure all standards from the previous school year have been covered and how to appropriately track that progress? How do you plan to fit 5.5 quarters worth of educational content in a 4 quarters? These are very real concerns that are coming up faster than any of us think. I do not want to spend the first few weeks should we start in July scrambling like this county did at the beginning of this situation, which I will also point out is unacceptable. As a hurricane prone state, the 15th largest school district in the country, WCPSS should have had a contingency plan in place for a situation where learning had to take place remotely. While not a single person could have ever dreamed the time would extend to basically a full quarter and then some, the first few weeks with little instruction could have been covered in such a plan should it have been in place and communicated to teachers, staff, parents, and students. It is a scenario that our neighbors to the East faced in previous years. While I applaud your efforts to make the seniors feel special, I express my distaste for how you've handled the large population for which you serve. You have failed to provide adequate plans for the future of the students that will still be in your care for years to come and seemingly focused on students that are no longer a part of your concern really. Might I suggest this board start putting the needs of the majority of students before the minority. What are your plans to help your current student have what they need to hopefully get to where this year's seniors are with year little struggle? As parents and as tax paying citizens of this county and state, this is information we are entitled to and keeping us in the dark will only reflect poorly on the offices held come November.

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Jacqueline Masterson  
keeping school normal for students

When I talk to people about going back to school, many think that we will be wearing masks and keeping social distance. I want it to be known that there are parents out there who are not ok with this. I do not plan on making my children wear masks for the length of a school day. It isn't healthy and will likely cause breathing health problems. There isn't any way to ensure children will keep their masks on, especially elementary school aged children and defiant students. It is not the teachers' burden to enforce it. It's not a feasible idea anyway, you can barely understand a person talking through a mask, nevermind trying to teach. Please send our children back on a regular schedule with increased sanitation. No more remote

learning, in school five days a week. Teachers need to get back in the classroom, working one on one with their students. Parents need to get back to work and we need to get back to normal for the mental health of our children.

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Sean Grumbein  
Virtual school next year

My employer has already announced that the company will remain virtual thru 2021. Given the unpredictable nature of covid in adults, and the newly discovered inflammatory condition seriously affecting children, even those with no health conditions, I would like to see the option of keeping my children home and learning virtually with wcpss.

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Paige Fowler  
Provide A WCPSS Central Office Directory including Job Descriptions

Dear Board Members -

With remote learning continuing until the end of this year and into the beginning of next school year 2020-2021 please consider having a directory page on your WCPSS website. Parents call the main line and do not get a live person. Many times, parents leave a message in the central office voice mail box which does not get checked and no returned phone call. Parents need a directory page with names, job descriptions and email addresses.

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Ann Gooch  
Lack of Transparency in 2020/2021 Reassignment Plan

I am a resident of the Ashley Woods neighborhood, which was reassigned this year out of Highcroft Elementary and Mills Park Middle, the schools which our neighborhood were assigned to since they opened 10 and 15 years ago, respectively. As part of this reassignment to Turner Creek Elementary and Salem Middle, we were also given a calendar change from traditional to multi-track year-round. Ashley Woods is a very small neighborhood with approximately 35-40 students attending Highcroft, and 15-20 attending Mills Park.

The stated goal of this reassignment by the Board was "to reduce enrollment and to remove trailers at Highcroft and Mills Park". Despite lengthy conversations with Board members and Student Assignment Staff, the true rationale for this reassignment remains a mystery.

- The reassignment does not reduce overcrowding at either school. The caps at both schools remain the same. This year alone, 70+ new residents were allowed into Highcroft, and 150+ new residents allowed into Mills Park. In other words, new residents are being let into these schools, while established residents who lived in their houses well prior to the caps, are now being reassigned out to make room. I have firsthand knowledge of multiple families who purchased brand new homes in brand new subdivisions still under construction and they got seats at Highcroft Drive Elementary and Mills Park Middle while longstanding students are being pushed out. Our students are not being reassigned to fill a new school, they are being pushed out to schools that, in some cases, aren't proximate or even in an adjacent geographic base.

- The reassignment does not remove trailers at Highcroft. No trailers are planned to be removed through at least 2025 according to the facilities trailer plan.

- The reassignment does not improve operational efficiency to transport Ashley Woods students to the same schools that are already receiving overflow students from Highcroft and Mills Park, plus additional calendar applications schools. Of the under 100 students in our neighborhood, we'll now have students going to Highcroft Elementary (grandfathered), Turner Creek Elementary, Green Hope Elementary, Baucom Elementary, Mills Park Middle (grandfathered), Apex Middle, Salem Middle, and Green Level High. (Busing will be provided to Turner Creek, Baucom, Apex Middle, Salem Middle, and Green Level High.)

As many Board members know, we engaged with you and Student Assignment throughout this process, posting in the forum, attending meetings and open houses to understand the rationale, to help brainstorm alternate ideas, and discuss how to minimize the impact on those students stuck in the middle of this reassignment. Despite all our efforts, our seemingly simple questions remain unanswered. And despite all our applications and appeals, our students never got a last day at their schools, a chance to say goodbye to their teachers and friends. This time has been filled with tons of anxiety for all as to what the future looks like for our students. This reassignment has left our students feeling especially abandoned and anxious, all for an unknown objective.

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Monica Moreno  
Special Ed Students have a Voice – Feature Them Be Inclusive

Dear Ms. Cathy Moore, Chair Mr. Sutton, Vice Chair Ms. Cash and all Board Members. I have been following the WCPSS FB Page and WCPSS twitter page. I have listened to board meetings. I have noticed that Special Ed students are not nearly recognized for their contribution to the schools they attend. Many of them hold jobs within the schools they attend. I have also observed that their achievements are rarely recognized at the district level. All students can make great strides in their achievement level. As a board lets feature these students and staff on a regular basis. Please be the change and work toward changing the mindset of Special Ed in Wake County Public Schools. Feature Students and Teachers who work very hard to get these students achieving. Updates on Special Ed should be provided at board meetings by Assistant Superintendent Karen Hamilton.

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Christa Townley  
2020/2021 Student Reassignment Plan

Board Members Staff,

I am 17+ year resident of Ashley Woods Subdivision who's neighborhood has been assigned from our community schools of Highcroft Drive Elementary and Mills Park Middle (traditional) since its inception, and moved to Turner Creek Elementary and Salem Middle School (year round schools). Ashley Woods is a small, established neighborhood of 39 elementary students and 15 middle schools students to date.

September 2019: The objectives we were told The Board was trying to accomplish were:

- 1) To reduce enrollment at Highcroft Drive Elementary and Mills Park Middle .  
If you truly want to accomplish that objective, targeting a neighborhood with 15 middle school kids and 39 elementary isn't going to even make a dent in this goal.

Both of these schools are capped but the majority of new residents are not being capped out to the overflow schools. In the 2019-2020 school year alone: Highcroft let in 70+ new students; Mills Park Middle School: 150+. New residents are being let into these schools while established residents who have lived in their houses well prior to the caps are being reassigned to make the room for them.

2) Removing trailers from HDE:

According to the facilities trailer plan, no trailers are planned to be removed through at least 2025 according to the facilities plan.

3) Improve Operational Efficiency:

With this new plan in place you have actually decreased operational efficiency, increased the number of buses/bus routes to various schools within our neighborhood.

In meeting together with several board members on multiple occasions and also with Reassignment staff, we should have been able to leave those meetings with sound answers, a clear plan and valid information. Instead, it was the "I am going to have to get back to you." or "That is a question for Reassignment Staff." or pass the buck game (BOARD VS REASSIGNMENT STAFF game). No one was ever able to give us clear answers or any explanations to questions, nor was any follow up given either, except that it was confirmed that Ashley Woods's particular assignment was directed by the Board. These decisions are life changing to our families and neighborhood kids who no longer have the ability to go to school together because: some kids are grandfathered, some kids are now in year-round vs traditional, some left for private or charter because they are tired of Wake County antics, etc . You have taken a long standing 20+ year old neighborhood that supported and participated in their local schools and decimated a community.

I come from a long line of respected educators and have always supported our local schools, school administration, etc., but I must say I have come out of this year (and last) with a lot of distrust and extreme disappointment on how things have been handled. COVID19 has certainly challenged the school system in every way possible and I acknowledge the good work and effort that is taking place during these unprecedented times. However, this reassignment proposal#2 has been going on since the Fall of 2019 and for our neighborhood the Fall of 2018 (reassignment proposal #1). I am disappointed that the Board could have chosen to rectify/do the right thing for us for the 2020/2021 school year, but chose not to. Neighborhoods that have been around long before enrollment issues and caps came into play should have some seniority and weight in assessing reassignment issues.

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Fernando Martinez and Letha Muhammad  
Re-opening the schools under Covid-19

Education Justice Alliance (EJA) is writing in reference to COVID-10 health emergency. We understand the district is starting to plan for the re-opening of schools in the fall. Governor Cooper, under the advice of the health officials, has initiated phase one of lifting the stay-at-home order we expect public schools to re-open for the next school year under different circumstances. EJA has been hosting a series of weekly Community Conversations for the last two months in which Parents, Students, and Educators have engaged in honest conversations about the pros and cons of digital learning, and other challenges and needs under Covid-19. One thing we know for sure is this health crisis has transformed our families, the community and our public education system, and for that reason we believe it is imperative that WCPSS meaningfully engage students, parents and classroom teacher, those directly affected by school policy, in

a transparent conversation about re-opening the schools and an emergency plan for in case we get a second wave of COVID-19 once the schools start. EJA is happy to partner with the school district in identifying, recruiting parents and students to participate in the re-opening schools committee. Please let us know who EJA should communicate with to follow-up on this matter. Also, here is a link to the multiple Community Conversations we hosted for the last two months.

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Christianne Stooks  
Composting at Lincoln Heights

As an Environmental Inquiry teacher at Lincoln Heights and as a global citizen who is charged to teach our youth about the importance of taking care of our Earth, I feel that it would be important to try and utilize composting as a way of reducing our waste. Not only would it be "practicing what we preach" but we could be a trailblazer and pilot program for Wake County. We could, thereby, impart our message and be the environmental stewards we strive to be for other schools who would hopefully continue the practice. Know that we would not take this lightly and under the direction of Mrs. Wood would do a great job and enlist the expertise of those who understand how to manage this. You won't be sorry!

With hopeful regards,  
Christianne Stooks  
Environmental Inquiry Teacher  
Lincoln Heights Environmental Connections Magnet Elementary