

## Video Public Comments

[Aaron Culler - SROs](#)

[Beth LaPierre - Reopening Schools](#)

---

Disability Rights of North Carolina  
SROs

Dear Chair Sutton and WCPSS Superintendent Moore,

In September 2020, we stand at a pivotal juncture in all of American history. For an entire summer millions and millions of people took to the streets across the country, braving the summer heat while wearing masks to battle the spread of coronavirus as well as the ongoing pandemic of anti-Black police violence. We all know about the countless cases nationally, but Wake County has not been exempt. Keith Collins, a Black man with a disability, was shot by a Raleigh police officer multiple times and killed on January 30, 2020. Our students are keenly aware that these incidents of anti-Black discrimination and disability discrimination are not limited to the streets.

The presence of SROs in schools has a profound impact on students of color and those with disabilities, who are more likely to be harshly punished for ordinary behaviors or behaviors related to their disability. SRO presence in schools is related to higher rates of suspensions and expulsions and in schools staffed with SROs, students are significantly more likely to face arrest and juvenile court referrals. In 2018 in NC, Black students were nearly six times more likely to be arrested at school and school activities than white students. That disparity was among the worst in the country. Youth stopped by the police report emotional trauma and post-traumatic stress. Further, youth stopped by police at school report more emotional distress and negative reactions than those stopped in other locations.

[https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(19\)30334-9/fulltext](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(19)30334-9/fulltext). This is particularly problematic for students with disabilities, who may already face severe emotional challenges.

In addition to creating barriers to learning, students who enter or even just have contact with the juvenile justice system are more likely to drop out of school. Instead of paying for SROs, Wake County Public Schools should reallocate funds toward preventive programs and alternatives to criminalization. This includes fully-staffed, school-wide restorative justice initiatives; community peacebuilders; social workers; physical and mental healthcare professionals; other resources to support families and community members, as determined by them. We stand with the Enloe High School students, the Wake County Black Student Coalition, the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, Education Justice Alliance, and the ACLU of North Carolina. We want #CounselorsNotCops and #PoliceFreeSchools so all Wake County students are safe, supported, and can attend school free from trauma-inflicting experiences.

Sincerely, Disability Rights North Carolina

---

Assia Ivanov  
Reopening Schools

I am very disappointed about the decision of this school board to delay opening the schools until further

notice. I have one child in middle school , who has to spend months without any real interaction with other children. The emotional toll is enormous . Mental health, social development and academic success of children is entirely excluded from your decision of keeping children "safe". With more than half the children voluntarily participating in VA , you do not have any good excuse not to open the schools in a safe manner and serve those, who their parents feel comfortable sending to school. Please open our schools immediately.

---

Eliza Wiora  
BLM

How can we tolerate MARXIST CURRICULUM at WCPSS? I call for abandoning the BLM curriculum from our schools due to its origins and principles! The curriculum contributor and BLM founder Patrisse Cullors is a self proclaimed "trained Marxist". Trained by Eric Mann,convicted terrorists the 60's& 70's bombings! It is disturbing that such a person would be a role model for the school system's anti-hatred , anti-oppression curriculum!!! By bringing BLM into the classrooms, activist educators are allowing the most radically divisive movement in modern American history , to warp children's worldview! As one of many parents and taxpayers I demand my voice to be heard and BLM curriculum removed from WCPSS ! Thank you!

---

Jenice Ramirez  
SROs

Dear Chair Sutton and WCPSS Superintendent Moore, The time is now! Time and time again we see how our black and brown students are being pushed further and further into the school to prison pipeline. It must stop. We need to listen to the needs of our youth take into consideration all aspects of the child and where behaviors come from. We should be investing our money into programs that heal our students, that uplift our students, that allow our students to build their sense of agency in our communities. Instead of investing funds in SROs we should be investing the funds into implementing the Peacebuilder Program by helping students, parents, and community members at each school. We should be looking into community partnerships that provide safe spaces for our black and brown students to speak up and be heard on what their needs are. The answer to healing is not policing.

---

Katie Haberman  
SROs

Demands:

1. Remove all SROs from WCPSS schools and end all contracts between WCPSS and law enforcement agencies.
2. Invest the funds, previously used to police students and additional funding into implementing the Peacebuilder Program by helping students, parents, and community members at each school coordinate the hiring, training, and assignment of pay Peacebuilders.
3. Enlist the support of local colleges and universities in assessing the program's impact on school climate, discipline disparities, school-based arrests, and community engagement.
4. Assist parents, students, and community members with making adjustments to their school's

Peacebuilder program based on assessments of the program's overall impact.

SUBJECT: Remove Wake County SROs to Keep Students Safe

Dear Chair Sutton and WCPSS Superintendent Moore,

I want a future where all students are treated with dignity, love, and respect. But with police officers in Wake County schools, Black students have 73% of school-related delinquency complaints despite representing only 22% of the student population. I am concerned that school resource officers are funneling Black and Brown students toward the school-to-prison and to the school-to-deportation pipeline. Wake County Public Schools should follow the example of multiple school districts across the county and immediately terminate all law enforcement contracts and remove police from schools.

Instead of paying for SROs, Wake County Public Schools should reallocate funds toward preventive programs and alternatives to criminalization. This includes fully-staffed, school-wide restorative justice initiatives; community peacebuilders; social workers; physical and mental healthcare professionals; other resources to support families and community members as determined by them.

I stand with the Enloe High School students, the Wake County Black Student Coalition, the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, Education Justice Alliance, and the ACLU of North Carolina. I want #CounselorsNotCops and #PoliceFreeSchools so all Wake County students feel safe.

Sincerely,

Katie Haberman

---

Paula Moten-Tolson  
SROs

Dear Chair Sutton and WCPSS Superintendent Moore,

I recommend that Wake County Public Schools reallocate funds toward preventive programs and alternatives to criminalization instead of paying for SROs. This includes fully-staffed, school-wide restorative justice initiatives; community peacebuilders; social workers; physical and mental healthcare professionals; other resources to support families and community members as determined by them.

I stand with the Enloe High School students, the Wake County Black Student Coalition, the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, Education Justice Alliance, and the ACLU of North Carolina. I want #CounselorsNotCops and #PoliceFreeSchools so all Wake County students feel safe.

Sincerely,  
Paula Moten-Tolson, Ed.D  
Shaw University

---

Anna Thome  
SROs

Dear Chair Sutton and WCPSS Superintendent Moore,

I want a future where all students are treated with dignity, love, and respect. But with police officers in Wake County schools, Black students have 73% of school-related delinquency complaints despite representing only 22% of the student population. I am concerned that school resource officers are funneling Black and Brown students toward the school-to-prison and the school-to-deportation pipeline. Wake County Public Schools should follow the example of multiple school districts across the country and immediately terminate all law enforcement contracts and remove police from schools.

Instead of paying for SROs, Wake County Public Schools should reallocate funds toward preventive programs and alternatives to criminalization. This includes fully-staffed, school-wide restorative justice initiatives; community peacebuilders; social workers; physical and mental healthcare professionals; other resources to support families and community members as determined by them.

I stand with the Enloe High School students, the Wake County Black Student Coalition, the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, Education Justice Alliance, and the ACLU of North Carolina. I want #CounselorsNotCops and #PoliceFreeSchools so all Wake County students feel safe.

Demands:

1. Remove all SROs from WCPSS schools and end all contracts between WCPSS and law enforcement agencies.
2. Invest the funds, previously used to police students and additional funding into implementing the Peacebuilder Program by helping students, parents, and community members at each school coordinate the hiring, training, and assignment of pay for Peacebuilders.
3. Enlist the support of local colleges and universities in assessing the program's impact on school climate, discipline disparities, school-based arrests, and community engagement.
4. Assist parents, students, and community members with making adjustments to their school's Peacebuilder program based on assessments of the program's overall impact.

Sincerely, Anna Thome

---

Kaitlyn Daniels  
SROs

Dear Chair Sutton and WCPSS Superintendent Moore,

I want a future where all students are treated with dignity, love, and respect. But with police officers in Wake County schools, Black students have 73% of school-related delinquency complaints despite representing only 22% of the student population. I am concerned that school resource officers are funneling Black and Brown students toward the school-to-prison and to the school-to-deportation pipeline. Wake County Public Schools should follow the example of multiple school districts across the county and immediately terminate all law enforcement contracts and remove police from schools.

Instead of paying for SROs, Wake County Public Schools should reallocate funds toward preventive programs and alternatives to criminalization. This includes fully-staffed, school-wide restorative justice initiatives; community peacebuilders; social workers; physical and mental healthcare professionals; other resources to support families and community members as determined by them.

I stand with the Enloe High School students, the Wake County Black Student Coalition, the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, Education Justice Alliance, and the ACLU of North Carolina. I want #CounselorsNotCops and #PoliceFreeSchools so all Wake County students feel safe.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Daniels

In Solidarity

---

Martha Mora  
SROs

I am writing to express my concern on the presence of School Resource Officers in Wake County schools. Given the disproportionate implementation of school discipline, I advocate for the schools in my child's county to follow best practices and invest in counselors and social workers.

---

Yuri Yamamoto  
SROs

Dear Chair Sutton and WCPSS Superintendent Moore,

I am a parent of a student in a WCPSS school and am very concerned about the current state of police involvement in Wake County schools. I am particularly concerned about extremely high rates of delinquency citations of black and brown students, and how these disciplinary actions would determine their future into prisons and deportations instead of productive citizenry. I expect Wake County Public Schools to create preventive and restorative justice programs for students who experience economic and social inequities and traumas based on their marginalized identities instead of punitive measures. In addition, I request that the WCPSS trains its board members, teachers, administrators, students and parents about the problems of racial inequity in this nation and here in Wake County so that we can change the curricula and school climates to be more inclusive and welcoming to all students and employees. All these plans and programs should be developed in consultation with the communities most affected by the current system of criminalization of black and brown students.

I stand with the Enloe High School students, the Wake County Black Student Coalition, the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, Education Justice Alliance, and the ACLU of North Carolina. I want #CounselorsNotCops and #PoliceFreeSchools so all Wake County students feel safe.

Sincerely,

Yuri Yamamoto

---

Jaime Erickson  
Virtual Academy/Remote Learning

While recognizing the immense challenges, factors, and input the board and our schools face in implementing online learning, WCPSS needs to do better, especially as it relates to younger, K-2, and disadvantaged students. One look at a mom's group or a neighborhood group or social media, and you'll be inundated with young students in tears (my own included). What's worse is why you're not seeing and hearing—students with parents who don't or can't advocate for them, who are alone and struggling, or

who are on the verge of giving up completely. How can you do better? Here are a few suggestions:

Equity issues abound in current implementation. Allow K-2 teachers to use recorded lessons and use the live teaching for what they excel at: small group and individualized teaching. My son is a 1st grader at Scotts Ridge Elementary Virtual Academy and is in a learning group with 2 other children in his class, facilitated by an adult at all times. Even in this very privileged position, NONE of them can keep up. NONE of them can focus for 2 straight hours of virtual interaction. If they miss a portion of a meeting or an entire meeting (because it was too fast, they were sick, had a meltdown, etc.), there is NO way for them to catch up on what they missed. No supplemental videos, no teacher recordings, no review materials—nothing. What about young children who can't do their schoolwork until a parent gets home later in the day? What about those with little adult support? Today our kids had to skip specials because they needed time to work on earlier lessons. This is an accessibility and equity nightmare. Do better.

Current schedules do not align with expectations for 5-8-year-old students. Offer live lessons and interaction in the morning and allow the afternoon for independent work. Today, our students were in a live meeting from 9:15am-11:05am (which involved lectures and several assignments the students couldn't keep up with), followed by instructions to spend 10 minutes on the Letterland application. The lessons were inappropriate, the time expectations online absurd, and the outcome worthless. All it resulted in were tears and having to skip specials to re-align their learning goals from the meeting without the computer. It's evidence of what current pedagogical research says about virtual learning for this age group. Do better.

Learning outcomes for the year need to be adjusted. Focus on high-priority outcomes for early grades. Our day crams morning meetings, Letterland, literacy, writing, math, and science/social studies into six hours. Given the current challenges we face, give teachers the flexibility to be creative while working to meet priority standards like reading and reading comprehension and math. Have literacy and phonics one day, math and science the next. Offer supplemental learning materials for students to review; offer a variety of interventions and assignments. Do better.

Teachers know best. Listen to them. Every teacher I know is stressed beyond belief. They're crying as much as the students. Yes, the public wanted more "live" teaching; yes, they wanted more of a "regular" school day. But the public is not educated in pedagogical best practices or curriculum development. It is not your job to please the public. It is your job to serve our students. Do better.

As a teacher myself and a fierce advocate for our public schools, I respect the work you've done so far and the thought that has gone into acclimating to this new and confusing environment. But I'm sick of being told to be patient and to "have grace." What is happening right now is unsustainable at best and detrimental to learning, accessibility, and equity at worst. The board and WCPSS are currently failing our students. Do better.

---

Rhonda Hinnant  
ACT & SAT Testing Centers at WCPSS

Hello All-

It is my understanding that several Wake County high schools were not open 8/29/2020 for SAT testing. This is a HUGE concern of mine and other WCPSS parents. My senior high school daughter is currently

enrolled to take the ACT on Saturday 10/24 /2020 at Broughton High School. That date is extremely close to the potential school reopening date of 10/22. While several colleges and universities are making the SAT/ACT "Test Optional", this clearly does not state that they will not review any submitted scores which can easily provide a potential student with a competitive advantage for admission and/or scholarships. In fact, my daughter has confirmed that later w/a few UNC system admission officers. I'm begging you to please keep open WCPSS on Saturdays to accommodate SAT/ACT testing.

Sincerely, Rhonda Hinnant

---

Kathlene Judd  
SROs

The same disproportionate harassment experienced by Black adults happens to Black children in and out of schools. One of those situations we have an opportunity to address at this moment. My Black WCPSS second grader should not be afraid to walk back in school due to the presence of police officers. Overwhelmingly Black students make up the school-related delinquency complaints, 73%, while only being 22% of the student population. At this moment I am holding you all accountable to put the best interest of all children first.

Instead of paying for SROs, Wake County Public Schools should reallocate funds toward preventive programs and alternatives to criminalization. This includes fully-staffed, school-wide restorative justice initiatives; community peacebuilders; social workers; physical and mental healthcare professionals; other resources to support families and community members as determined by them.

I stand with the Enloe High School students, the Wake County Black Student Coalition, the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, Education Justice Alliance, and the ACLU of North Carolina. I want #CounselorsNotCops and #PoliceFreeSchools so all Wake County students feel safe.

Sincerely,  
Kathlene Judd

---

Yolanda Speed  
SROs

SUBJECT: Remove Wake County SROs to Keep Students Safe

Dear Chair Sutton and WCPSS Superintendent Moore,

I want a future where all students are treated with dignity, love, and respect. But with police officers in Wake County schools, Black students have 73% of school-related delinquency complaints despite representing only 22% of the student population. I am concerned that school resource officers are funneling Black and Brown students toward the school-to-prison and to the school-to-deportation pipeline. Wake County Public Schools should follow the example of multiple school districts across the county and immediately terminate all law enforcement contracts and remove police from schools.

My son, Micah Speed, would have never had such a public Incident happen at Wake Forest if there had been some kind of peace building Programs implemented in that school. Racism is a taught behavior and we adults and educators

become complicit when we don't correct it when we see it or hear about it. Change won't come with policing! We will see change only with outreach programs that promote peace and racial acceptance !

Instead of paying for SROs, Wake County Public Schools should reallocate funds toward preventive programs and alternatives to criminalization. This includes fully-staffed, school-wide restorative justice initiatives; community peacebuilders; social workers; physical and mental healthcare professionals; other resources to support families and community members as determined by them.

I stand with the Enloe High School students, the Wake County Black Student Coalition, the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, Education Justice Alliance, and the ACLU of North Carolina. I want #CounselorsNotCops and #PoliceFreeSchools so all Wake County students feel safe.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Speed

---

Linda Riggins  
SROs

Please remove SROs from WCPSS and reinvest funds for Peacebuilding Programs; hire and train diverse individuals to coordinate/implement the Peacebuilding program.

---

Adrienne Brewer  
Reopening Schools

Is there a consideration for letting the younger elementary school grade children in school as soon as possible. I have sat next to my first grader for the past 11 days and it is not sustainable. It's too much for the little kids to learn this way. My 5th and 6th graders can handle it so much better.

---

Allison Crumpler  
Reopening Schools

Please define practical and what metrics are involved in that measurement.

Do you have a punch list of items needed in order to implement Plan B? If so what are those items and how can parents help?

How have enrollments changed this fall?

How are you monitoring VA implementation and measuring effectiveness?

Have you discussed the option of phasing in students now starting those with special needs, ESL (I believe at one point it was planned to bring these children back ASAP), IEPs....?

---

Allison DelPiano  
Virtual Learning Schedule

Will WCPSS address the schedule expected of students - particularly elementary students. There is zero

flexibility as it stands currently for my children. WCPSS policy currently does not allow for recording of live sessions but at my children's school no recorded alternatives are available - this means when there are internet interruptions, poor quality camera views on teacher side, and distractions the content is missed. Will WCPSS be soliciting feedback? Will WCPSS adapt to more flexibility? It appears Cumberland County schools have adjusted to allow flexibility.

---

Amy Douglas  
Reopening Schools

Please allow in person school for our regional special Ed and special ed prek students. I have 4 kids in wcpss schools and work full time. The amount of work I have to do to endure my special Ed kids getting FAPE is more than I have hours in the day. I am working around the clock with little sleep at my paid job and my unpaid job of educating my kids. Surely one of the wealthiest counties in N.C. can do better and get our most vulnerable kids back in class in person at least part time. The governor has not mandated that schools be closed and they can open at reduced capacity. My older kids grades 6 and 8 dislike remote learning but they are doing well because they can read and write. I am suffering. I have supported wake public education for 25 years as a voter in this county. I also see how our regular ed younger (Kinder and 1st grade) kids and families are suffering. Please help.

---

Amy Klabon  
Reopening Schools

Please define practical and what metrics are involved in that measurement.  
Do you have a punch list of items needed in order to implement Plan B? If so, what are those items and how can parents help?  
How have enrollments changed this fall?  
How are you monitoring VA implementation and measuring effectiveness?  
Have you discussed the option of phasing in students now starting those with special needs, ESL (I believe at one point it was planned to bring these children back ASAP), IEPs....?

---

Angel Bolton  
Reopening Schools

- 1) I've seen that kids will return to classrooms when "practical" -can you please define practical and what metrics are involved in that measurement?
  - 2) Do you have a punch list of items needed in order to implement Plan B? If so, what are those items and how can parents help?
- 

Angela Elliot  
Reopening Schools

What metrics will you follow in order for us to know when you will be opening schools for in-person instruction? How do you hold accountable the fact that more than half of the WCPSS students have opted for in-person instruction this semester? What measures are you all putting into place right now in order to make it happen? After only a couple of weeks of virtual instruction, I am even more concerned with students' emotional and mental well being not learning alongside their peers in an educational environment. This is also a serious financial stress on many families, including mine, as I have had to

leave my employment in order to stay home with my children and manage their online schooling. If the school district doesn't implement in-person instruction soon, I think more families will leave the school district in search of alternative learning choices. We are already regretting the private school spot we gave up as we thought we'd be able to do partial in-person instruction when the school year began. On behalf of so many families who WANT in person instruction, please begin setting up the plans in order to make it happen.

---

Anna Bazemore  
Lack of school work

Lack of education

This online school is beyond ridiculous. My 5 year old has 1 hour of school a day and it's either his teacher reading or watching a video. He cannot learn this way. He HATES IT. They are too young to be able to digest learning this way. With 50% of people choosing virtual academy, the other 50% should be in the school building. Otherwise just cancel the year of school because it's beyond a waste of time for everyone. My 6th grader watches slides all day and he hates it. This is not what school is supposed to look like. Parents do not want their child on a screen all day! Do better wake county. Give our children a real education. What you are offering them sucks. It's beyond stupid. Do better!

---

Ansley Cella  
Reopening Schools

Please reopen schools so we can reduce further mental, physical, and emotional health risks to children. The guidelines have been developed. It's time to implement them without further delay.

---

Arlette Lambert  
Reopening schools

Let me start by thanking you for serving on the Wake County School Board. I know that this is not a job that you take lightly--not in the past & certainly not in these unprecedented times.

I am writing to you again as the mother of a kindergartner at Banks Road Elementary School. Back in July I encouraged you to "stay the course" with Plan B & to not take away the choice of the parents to send our children in-person to school. She started her public-school education August 17th & needless to say there have been bumps in the road over the past few days. My family is still waiting on a Chromebook to be issued from Wake County Public Schools. We were just notified yesterday that hers is ready for pick-up NEXT WEEK. This means my daughter will have gone 3 weeks without quality technology for her education & is totally unacceptable in my book.

I also want to say that I fully understand the risks of COVID-19. But I also know that Wake County Schools has a REASONABLE plan in place with the health & safety of our children in mind. Please, trust your plan & get these children back in school sooner rather than later. Families who do not feel comfortable or safe have the option to move online. Cases of COVID-19 are going to pop up but we cannot panic and shut everything down time and again.

My daughter has struggled with online learning but thrives in person at her child care facility. She said it herself that she doesn't learn being online--she needs her teacher live & in-person in front of her. Our children need connection with their peers & educators.

Social distancing WORKS. Masks WORK. And our school is doing an AMAZING job. I trust your decisions and will support WCPSS in any way I can. But we need to know that you are making cool headed decisions.

---

Cara Leary  
Reopening Schools

In light of the updated CDC information regarding case numbers, recovery, and death rates, when can we anticipate our students starting school?

How can parents help make the transition to plan B a reality starting in Q2?

Specifically to Crossroads Flex High School, why are these students not allowed back in a building? They do not have busses nor a cafeteria where logistical issues may be a problem. They have an enrollment of 150 students. Is there a way we can get the students in for their live instruction with teachers? How can parents support this and help make this a reality soon.

---

Carey Harris  
Reopening Schools

With a lot of the counties in the state moving forward with in-person learning on a rotating schedule, what actions have been taken for Wake County to move in the direction of getting kids back in school soon? Have cohorts for plan b students been made or are in the process of being made? With half the county in Virtual Academy, why can this not be accomplished in the next few weeks? Parents have been given the choice to do all virtual or plan b. We expect our children to be in school if we chose plan b as part of a rotating schedule this semester.

---

Caroline Carrison  
Reopening Schools

We moved to the WCPSS last year, so I consider us to still be fairly new to the school district. I do not know much about what is going on behind the scenes in terms of plans to reopen, but I do not hear much about creative ideas regarding finding a way to get children back before Christmas. The lack of communication has made me feel resigned to the idea that we will just not return to school - and that seems completely avoidable if we have good leadership and creativity. What if the approach was, "we have to go back by October, so how are we going to make this safe? How can we mobilize willing parents to help? How can we mobilize the community?" While I recognize that organizing online learning is a real challenge, defaulting to it in order to avoid addressing or taking responsibility for tough decisions seems like a cop-out. I wonder what happened to the suggestions we all sent regarding how to return to school. I wonder if the school board is getting and considering ideas from private schools, daycare centers, parents who are willing to do whatever it takes to help get children what they need. It seems like a "we can and will do this" approach would give us all more of a sense of community and participation, and perhaps more control, in this crisis. Many of us are willing to do more to help our children go back to school. I would like for the public school community to be better and fully informed regarding what exactly the school board is pursuing in order to make school happen - what are the metrics being used to determine when it will make sense to go back? Are we just kicking the can down the road instead of taking an "all in" approach? What is currently being done behind-the-scenes to ready our buildings, our buses, our

teachers, our lunchrooms to be safe? In short, what is the plan? As others have pointed out - Many of us were ready and willing to try Plan B, recognizing its potential flaws and understanding the risk. If we are ready and willing, the school system and school board should be ready and willing to take that risk as well, with a well-considered plan for possible flaws and failures. Thank you .

---

Carolyn Meiners  
Reopening Schools

What needs to happen in Wake County (1.,2. And 3.) to allow our children back to school in person?  
Once met, is your plan in place and ready to execute?

- 1) Please define practical and what metrics are involved in that measurement.
- 2) Do you have a punch list of items needed in order to implement Plan B? If so, what are those items and how can parents help?
- 3) How have enrollments changed this fall?
- 4) How are you monitoring VA implementation and measuring effectiveness?
- 5) Have you discussed the option of phasing in students now starting those with special needs, ESL (I believe at one point it was planned to bring these children back ASAP), IEPs....?

---

Catherine Kibbe  
Reopening Schools

What, specifically, needs to happen in order for schools to welcome students back on campus? What specific metrics are being used to drive decisions?

---

Christa Gala  
Reopening Schools

We MUST realize that the costs of shuttering Wake County Public Schools FAR outweigh the benefit. Please consider that many at critical levels of reading will fall behind, not just now, but, truly, forever--especially those without parents at home to help. Additionally, at-risk teens are likely never to return the longer this continues. Consider your special needs children as well--those with IEPs, ESL students! The risk of contracting COVID-19 with any serious effects is minimal for these age groups. Even your data show that. Look at the daycares and camps that have been open for months. Look at the private schools. Look at other states. Yes, there are a few cases, but of no great impact to the public at large. Remember, these students don't live together or "party" together as we've seen at the college level. And I speak from experience; I taught face-to-face at a university before it was called back, and I felt safer in my classroom than in any grocery store or restaurant. Simply put, this is approaching the level of ridiculousness. The American Pediatric Association isn't advocating public school closure. Neither is the CDC. WHY ARE WE DOING this to our children? Please. Give us an option. Between 50 and 75 percent of parents have already elected VA. Let the others who want and need to go back, GO BACK. Please! As a teacher, and knowing many teachers, there are teachers who will volunteer to go back as well. And please quit using terms like "when it's practical, we'll go back." Just stop it. It's elusive and intentionally evasive. If we can eat in restaurants unmasked and drink at bars in breweries, also unmasked, then we

can damn well get the 25 percent of kids who need to be back in the classroom back in the classroom. Be willing to try.

---

Connie Haynes  
Reopening Schools

We MUST realize that the costs of shuttering Wake County Public Schools FAR outweigh the benefit. Please consider that many at critical levels of reading will fall behind, not just now, but, truly, forever--especially those without parents at home to help. Additionally, at-risk teens are likely never to return the longer this continues. Consider your special needs children as well--those with IEPs, ESL students! The risk of contracting COVID-19 with any serious effects is minimal for these age groups. Even your data show that. Look at the daycares and camps that have been open for months. Look at the private schools. Look at other states. Yes, there are a few cases, but of no great impact to the public at large. Remember, these students don't live together or "party" together as we've seen at the college level. This is approaching the level of ridiculousness. The American Pediatric Association isn't advocating public school closure. Neither is the CDC. WHY ARE WE DOING this to our children? Please. Give us an option. Between 50 and 75 percent of parents have already elected VA. Let the others who want and need to go back, GO BACK. Please! Please quit using terms like "when it's practical, we'll go back." Just stop it. It's elusive and intentionally evasive. If we can eat in restaurants unmasked and drink at bars in breweries, also unmasked, then we can damn well get the 25 percent of kids who need to be back in the classroom back in the classroom. Be willing to try.

- 1) Please define practical and what metrics are involved in that measurement.
- 2) Do you have a punch list of items needed in order to implement Plan B? If so what are those items and how can parents help?
- 3) How have enrollments changed this fall?
- 4) How are you monitoring VA implementation and measuring effectiveness?
- 5) Have you discussed the option of phasing in students now starting those with special needs, ESL (I believe at one point it was planned to bring these children back ASAP), IEPs....?

---

Courtney Davis  
Reopening Schools

Can you please let us know your guidelines for reopening the schools and how we as parents can help ready the schools (donating supplies, volunteering our time, etc?). Online learning is disastrous. Thanks.

---

Dana Parrish  
Reopening Schools

Do you have a punch list of items needed in order to implement Plan B? If so, what are those items and how can parents help?

---

DeAnn Alphin  
Reopening Schools

Have you discussed the option of phasing in students now starting those with special needs, ESL (I believe at one point it was planned to bring these children back ASAP), IEPs....?

Are you still discussing the rotating schedule for schools?

If you do not allow the students to return in Oct, what will you do to ensure those children who fell behind in the spring do not continue to fall behind in the fall semester?

---

Elizabeth Marin  
Reopening Schools

What specific metrics and thresholds are being used to determine when schools will begin to reopen? Is there any set schedule in place for review of these metrics to determine dates for phased reopening?

---

Emily Perry  
Reopening Schools

I understand that WCPSS is in partnership with Duke researchers as well as state and local public health agencies to continuously monitor COVID cases, their trajectories and community spread. Can the school board share guidance given from the Duke researchers and local agencies with parents so that we are better informed of the reasons why decisions are made?

International data shows that the reopening of schools has not played a major role in the spread of COVID-19, and that countries that reopened schools after their cases trended down did not see large rises in coronavirus cases. Is the Scientific Advisory Board considering that data?

WRAL just reported that researchers from Northwest Evaluation Association, an educational nonprofit, found that students "may have missed approximately 30 percent to 50 percent of what they were supposed to have learned," as a result of the shutdown in the spring. WRAL said that should schools remain online all fall, data from the "national consulting firm McKinsey & Co. (indicated) students will lose the equivalent of almost seven months of learning...For white students, it's six months. Black students would lose more than 10 months, Hispanic students nine months and low-income students will essentially lose a full year of schooling." What is the plan for making up this loss and bridging the gap between low-income students and the students who have more available resources? Our children and your students are falling behind.

I understand that Keith Sutton told WRAL that students would return no earlier than Oct 22 and only when it is practical. Can you please define what practical means? What metrics are involved to determine that it is "practical" for students to return to school in person?

---

Holly Weischedel  
Reopening Schools

Children of Wake County are continuing to fall behind while private daycares have operated safely and consistently since COVID first struck our state. Finding a way to send our children back safely comes down to strategy and adherence, not time. Waiting it out is no longer an option as working parents continue to perform their jobs and educate our children. My youngest child has attended daycare this

entire time due to the school's commitment to following all guidelines, while acting quickly to make decisions and implement changes when asked to do so. Why can't WCPSS do the same? We have delayed long enough. Let the parents who chose Plan B truly have an option to send our children to school. The welfare of thousands of children is at stake the longer they are kept out of school.

Not every child has a parent who can stand over them during virtual classes, ensuring they know how to log in. Not every child has reliable internet and a parent to push them to do their best. These parents are not the ones reaching out, so I am reaching out on their child's behalf. Do the right thing and make a plan, WCPSS.

---

Jaime Weathersby  
Reopening Schools

Do you have a punch list of items that are required to get plan B moving forward? If so, can you share what those items are and if there is something parents can do to help move this forward?

---

Jennifer Bryant  
MVP

Good Day. I have a junior at Fuquay High School who has successfully completed all levels through Honors Math 3. He has an IQ of 143 and a GPA of 4.1 currently. When MVP was released, I was not concerned. My son learns easily and quickly so it should not have been a problem. It was a monumental problem. My child maintained his math grades with the help of a \$35/hour tutor for the first 2 years of high school. She is a math teacher who assured me that he really "gets" math but he cannot teach it to himself. I truly believe that MVP has some redeeming qualities but it is more a way of thinking. The problem with MVP in WCPSS lies in introducing it too late in the students' careers. By the time my son was handed the workbooks and told to work it out, it was too late. Teachers were not properly trained in its use and the students were already trained in traditional math learning. Rather than scrapping the program entirely, why not try this. Pull the curriculum for now and reintroduce it properly at the elementary level as soon as children begin learning math concepts. Because MVP is a mindset, it MUST be taught from the very beginning as a way of approaching math problems. Pull it and reintroduce it properly in first grade with effective teacher training and you will have the first resounding MVP success in the country.

---

Jennifer Buff  
Reopening Schools

- 1) Please define practical and what metrics are involved in that measurement.
- 2) Do you have a punch list of items needed in order to implement Plan B? If so, what are those items and how can parents help?
- 3) How have enrollments changed this fall?
- 4) How are you monitoring VA implementation and measuring effectiveness?
- 5) Have you discussed the option of phasing in students now starting those with special needs, ESL (I believe at one point it was planned to bring these children back ASAP), IEPs....?

---

Jennifer Williams  
Live instruction

I am a veteran teacher of 20 years. I have a masters degree and am national board certified since 2010. I have 22 years with the state of NC. Please reconsider the amount of live instruction required for elementary students. We can provide content using a “flipped classroom” model. This allows students to access content asynchronously and opportunity to discuss, enrich and review synchronously. Teachers can provide small group time as needed. 2.5 hours of live instruction is entirely too much time on a computer. Please reconsider these guidelines.

---

Joanne Wagner  
Reopening Schools

As both a Pediatrician working in Wake County and a parent of students in the Wake County Public School System, I have seen the effects, both personally and professionally, of stay-at-home learning.

The American Academy of Pediatrics stresses the importance of in person learning. There are the obvious benefits of face to face instruction and the teacher’s ability to interact in a more personal way with students. However there are less obvious benefits. When students are not in school there is an interruption of supportive services which often results in social isolation, making it difficult for schools to identify and address physical abuse, sexual abuse, substance use, depression, learning deficits and suicidal ideation. Time at school can be the only time some children are getting quality physical and emotional care. Not only are they missing this care and spending more time in a less than beneficial environment when they are not in school, but school staff members are missing the priceless opportunity to identify at risk children.

Giving families in need laptops and WiFi access is helpful but many students are home alone with little to no guidance or support. These tend to be lower socioeconomic students and now the gap in education is quickly becoming larger.

During this pandemic, students are suffering in rapidly increasing numbers from depression and anxiety. I have seen a marked upswing in my office. Being socially isolated at home is making this exponentially worse.

With virtual academy in place, students who are high risk or do not wish to return to school have an option. Opening schools to in person learning gives the rest of the students a choice as well. In person learning can be done safely and with minimum risk. The private schools have demonstrated this. We owe it to these kids to make the accommodations and give them the opportunity.

---

Jordyn Shumpert  
Health Resources in Schools

As a Wake county student, I’ve seen the lack of resources for students’ health first hand. Schools don’t have full time nurses and mental health resources are severely underfunded for the amount of students in our county’s schools. With the added stress of a pandemic, new learning environments, and an increase in people’s time spent in potentially dangerous homes. The new situation is a stressing one and if we reallocated SRO funds, which was not effective before school closures, we would be able to positively

affect WCPSS student safety. SROs are unnecessary for this year and are a sign that schools are more concerned with jailing kids than their health needs. Do better.

---

Josie Tattersall  
Reopening Schools

Is it still your plan to have children with ESL, IEP and special needs and learning disabilities to return to school sooner due to the difficult learning environment for these kids in an online setting?

---

Julia Gray Hooks  
Reopening Schools

What needs to be accomplished to move forward with initiation of Plan B?

---

Kacey Ragsdale  
Reopening Schools

1. How much of a role is transportation playing in the decision not to return in person? If so, is that based on the transportation survey that was issued before school began? I ask because I think many parents who did not decline transportation would be willing to do so to get their kids back in school.
  2. When you say that we can return to school in October "if practical," please describe what is needed for it to be "practical."
  3. What can parents do to assist with getting kids back in the classrooms?
- 

Karla Davis  
SROs

As a WCPSS parent with two school-age children, I know that fostering a learning environment at home OR at school requires deescalation and a desire to hear what is going on with the child/teen if they are behaving outside of protocol established for the environment. When authority with legal power to step in, escalate, and leverage criminality is ever-looming, this correlates negatively with the goal of learning and growth. If a restorative and supportive approach can't be taken with minors along the way, at what point in life can they expect a guiding hand and second chances?

Perhaps more importantly, research shows us that children and teens of color are targeted by school law enforcement at a much higher rate than white children and teens. This is detrimental to communities of color as it launches a child and their family into a criminal system that leads to further negative outcomes, versus a restorative approach that helps to meet the actual needs of the child. Our schools need counselors, not cops- we must IMMEDIATELY terminate WCPSS's relationship with RPD and show our students that we hear them and we are here FOR them.

We understand that counselors instead of cops is not an equal budgetary trade. The budgetary gap should be filled by reallocating funds from RPD's city budget to make up the difference. Protecting and fostering young minds and hearts is fundamental to a learning environment that is expansive.

Authoritarianism may feel easier in the short run, but it erodes our communities and city, starting at this critical juncture.

---

Kathryn Punch  
Length of school day for K-2

Can WCPSS please re-evaluate the length of the school day for k-2 grade students. I have a kindergartener that is struggling with the amount of screen time and it is so hard to be positive knowing that it is not at all appropriate for her to have to sit in front of a screen and expect to be able to stay focused with 19 other children in the group knowing that I would not be able to with this many people in a meeting for work. They are not able to interact socially with that many students and I believe they could benefit so much more from smaller groups of students that meet a few different times. I am struggling with the decision to leave my daughter in WCPSS and have her hate school as she currently states every day. It is truly heartbreaking for a mother who is a strong believer in public schools that I may have to remove her because the schools are being forced to offer developmentally inappropriate instruction through the amount of time they must be live teaching.

---

Kay Meres

Response to comment on 8/18

Members of the school board,

I wanted to thank WCPSS and the school board for refusing to be neutral in situations and times of injustice (to paraphrase Desmond Tutu's great quote). As one of the nation's largest school districts, WCPSS is in a unique position of influence. I applaud WCPSS and their educators for living up to their mission statement: "Wake County Public School System will provide a relevant and engaging education and will graduate students who are collaborative, creative, effective communicators and critical thinkers."

Despite constant pushback from certain individuals, WCPSS has continued assert the importance of allowing and encouraging educators to " face racism, talk to students about racism, and become allies in racial equity spaces" (<https://tfcloudshare.com/wcpssoea/racial-equity-resources/>). This not only allows students to develop critical thinking skills, but also ensures that students are receiving an education that is relevant to current circumstances.

Please know that you have the support of many individuals. We understand the importance of educators having and moderating these tough, but necessary, conversations with children.

---

Kelly Mann

Plan B Implementation

I am interested in getting clarification on Plan B Implementation.

1. Please define "practical" and what metrics are included in that definition?
2. How are you monitoring the VA engagement?
3. Is there a punch list of items parents in favor of Plan B can help with so we are ready to get our kids back to school?
4. How do enrollments differ this fall compared to last fall in Wake County?
5. If we see significant decreases in enrollments will this result in loss of faculty positions?
6. What specific statistics do you have to share re student engagement last spring?

---

Kolby and Jeanette Brown

Sound Education for At Risk Students

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. We have a breakdown in school culture. High school teachers do not want to help struggling kids. The goal of education should be to develop a very positive experience. This is not happening for all students at high school. A strong leadership in place will allow students to feel welcomed and safe. As the largest school system in North Carolina the objective should be engagement and a love for learning, instead rigor and stress is happening in the classrooms. With whom does a parent address school culture? The mission and vision of WCPSS needs to be amended. The school system needs to be inclusive. Please address and work with at-risk kids. Many of these at risk students do not come from poverty, so stop lumping them as if they all do. Learning differences vary from all economic backgrounds. These students have a right to a sound education.

---

Kristi Ward  
Reopening Schools

1. Can we see the metrics that are being used to guide the reopening plan (i.e. daily infection rate below 5% or lower using a 14 day average OR a downward trend in infections for 14 days)?
2. Can the school board share the guidance given from Duke researchers and state and local health agencies with parents to be better informed of the reasons why decisions are made?
3. How can a date of October 22nd or January 1st even be on the table at this point when we are looking at quickly changing trends in virus patterns? What other factors are affecting your decision?
4. What is the plan for making up for the 'spring learning loss' doubled with 'summer learning loss' in our children's academics? This is in addition to a deficit of approximately 10 hours/week in virtual learning versus in person learning. Our children and your students are falling behind.

---

Kristin Nagy  
SROs

Student Resource Officers are extremely harmful to our school environments. Black students and other students of color are severely marginalized and discriminated against and can not feel safe in our schools due to the presence of unnecessary police in our school. In the wake of police violence in our country, the right choice for WCPSS is to cut ties with city police and invest in our school communities, mental health resources, and behavioral support to prevent issues rather than cause further harm.

---

Leigh Max  
BLM curriculum

Please remove from the curriculum the 1619 project and the BLM resources. I don't want my tax dollars paying for lies and turning children into Marxists.

---

Linda Nicholas  
Reopening Schools

My son, a Junior, already has 5 failing grades on assignments due to technology problems and has been marked absent in classes he attended. He has come to me crying saying he is going to fail. He has a 3.9 GPA. How can a teacher mark a student absent when they are in class? Where is the leniency with technology problems? We purposely did not choose Virtual Academy because he needs to be in the

classroom to learn properly. He is happy to wear a mask and social distance. Schools can be opened safely.

---

Lisa Whynot  
Virtual Learning

1. Since the majority of parents/students want Plan B vs. VA what are you doing to implement that ASAP? What is your criteria for moving towards Plan B? Especially now in light of adjusted data from the CDC.
2. Why are Plan ABC students currently placed in classes with VA students? Won't that make it difficult to separate should WCPSS go to Plan B? Or was that by design to force virtual learning?
3. Please explain what the OEA's purpose is in the WCPSS. I am greatly concerned with the information that the students are being exposed to in the virtual classroom. What I have seen is not age appropriate in most cases. It also appears to be more about decisiveness than diversity. Black lives matter is a Marxist organization by their own definition and highly inappropriate for the classroom. Words like "whiteness" and "white privilege" are racist stereotypes and could be construed as bullying and shaming tactics. Again, completely inappropriate in a classroom setting. Do you think this teaches open mindedness and acceptance?
4. WCPSS needs to pick a lane. Teachers state they want parents to be involved in their students' education but yet much of what is being taught has a distinct political bias. In doing so you alienate those families who do not have those same political leanings. You can't have it both ways. What do you think is most conducive to a child's education? To teach them how to think or what to think?

---

Mary Beth Cornelius  
Reopening Schools

When Plan B was explained, we were told that students would be divided into 3 groups, effectively reducing the population into one third. This, we were told, was the most effective way to implement safe social distancing in the schools. The families in WCPSS were also told they could choose the virtual academy if they weren't comfortable with their child attending school - even every third week, with only one third of the population. Almost half of the students in WCPSS chose the virtual option, so automatically the student population was reduced by approximately 50%. So, we now have only one third of half of the student population in the physical buildings at any given time. I may not be a math whiz, but that's a lot less than a third! So why are ALL students being FORCED to do virtual? And why aren't students with disabilities and/or special needs, who struggle to learn virtually, being prioritized to have in-person instruction? How did we go from desiring a third of students to be at school at a time, to now ZERO students can be in school? Why does WCPSS keep moving the goalpost?

---

Mary Holmes  
Addressing the needs of the most vulnerable

I hear a lot about access to technology with laptops being delivered. What I don't hear anyone talking about is who is doing the teaching? Why isn't anyone discussing the reality of life for families that live in abject poverty that are receiving the laptops? I have several families, including a 70 year old great

grandparent, raising great grandchildren that can readily tell you the challenges they face with this learning situation. When the school system “tweets” about the number of laptops they are distributing, our most vulnerable children with a paucity of resources at home are not addressed. It begs the question, how has the school system gleaned important information from families experiencing homelessness? As you are aware, there are at least 7000 homeless children in Wake County and these children require considerable and targeted services to ensure they are on a successful trajectory. I am trusting that you have had your McKinney Vento liaison in these discussions to keep you informed about the crucial status of our families experiencing homelessness and that their needs have grown exponentially since March. Have any of you visited the motel rooms where many of our children live to see the conditions that families are faced with as they attempt to engage their children in virtual learning? I assure you, it would be eye-opening. Like any other parent, many are fearful of sending their children to school with the current state of Covid in our community. Yet, imagine a family with 3-4 kids in one motel room trying to learn virtually—just imagine!

Elected officials have known we are living in unprecedented times since March and yet this suddenly feels like a mad scramble to figure this out. Did the medical advisory board really just get formed in August or is that when it was announced? I know for a fact that local pediatricians are telling you that the risk for some staying home is higher than the risk of the virus. As I listen and read the Wake County School news releases, no one is talking about these vulnerable children and how their needs will be addressed. I am aware of the resources within our community and am grateful for those organizations, yet aren’t those children that are sent to the Y or The Boys and Girls Club just as susceptible to Covid-19 as if they were in school? Tweeting about FAST is not the whole story-as you know, you have to have transportation and many of these families do not. Let’s tweet about that too. As you know travel sports have occurred all summer long with no Covid deaths, but there is no access to these activities for families living in poverty—only families of privilege. We don’t have a zero risk option here.

The people who are most impacted by this are not following you on Twitter, they are not watching the school board meetings, they are not filling out surveys and they do not vote for school board members. They do, however, deserve to be heard and they deserve a choice too. Please assure me that you all are spending time with these folks and not just relying on teachers who are already overworked, underappreciated and underpaid to take care of all of their needs too.

We are all scared and concerned about our health and our futures. I work with children in this community as a speech therapist - face to face, with a mask. My biggest fear is that I would unknowingly pass it on to a child, not that I would be infected by a child. I believe that a school re-entry is possible with HALF the total number of students, but it will require hard work to keep our children and staff safe. Public acknowledgement from our school officials regarding the negative impacts of virtual learning for children living in poverty is essential. So, I am asking all of you please use your voices to speak for the underserved, disadvantaged children in our community. They desperately need your voice and your promise that you are willing to do the work to ensure their needs are addressed.

---

Meredyth Cooper  
SROs

I am writing to support the removal of school resource officers from Wake County Public schools and reallocate those funds to bring in more counselors and services to support students' well being at school. A 2018 study on school resource officers in North Carolina by Kenneth Alonzo Anderson of Howard

University found that, "offering matched SRO funds to increase policing and training was not associated with reductions in reported acts (infractions) per school year, a key measure of school safety." Another analysis of federal data found that Black students in North Carolina are six times more likely to be arrested at school than White students. Officers in schools strengthen the school to prison pipeline, and it is imperative that WCPSS take steps to dismantle this. School must be a safe and supportive environment for ALL students to learn, grow and thrive. Thank you.

---

Morgan Lyon  
Reopening Schools

- 1-Please define practical and what metrics are involved in that measurement.
  - 2-Do you have a punch list of items needed in order to implement Plan B? If so, what are those items and how can parents help?
  - 3-How have enrollments changed this fall?
  - 4-How are you monitoring VA implementation and measuring effectiveness?
  - 5-Have you discussed the option of phasing in students now starting those with special needs, ESL (I believe at one point it was planned to bring these children back ASAP), IEPs....?
  - 6- Many schools are doing this extremely effectively, I know this is a large school district but no excuse to not be open with safety measures in place. Our children are the ones suffering the most from all of this.
- 

Natalie Stevens  
Length of school day for K-2

I am so supportive of our teachers. They are doing a great job. I am just concerned that kindergarteners are getting burned out being in front of the computer from 9-3. Is there any way to do synchronous work in the morning and then independent assignments/ asynchronous work in the afternoon to avoid burnout?

---

Nicole Bauer  
Reopening Schools

Have you discussed the option of phasing in students now starting those with special needs, ESL (I believe at one point it was planned to bring these children back ASAP), IEPs....?

---

Paige Marsh  
Reopening Schools

My husband, Ken and I are asking for continued progress to allow elementary children to return to the building and engage in reasonable and safe processes. I hope their mental health is equally considered to their physical health. I am  
Willing to volunteer to assist in any ways needed.

---

Rachel Long  
BLM curriculum

According to your document on diversity that you came up with this summer you chose to include BLM slogans and to be advised by this organization that goes against being a peaceable citizen ! (Example:

No justice no peace ) this promotes hatred and violence against others and productive law and enforcement which is needed to provide safe communities! Not to mention the organization members of this group promote Marxism and communism! Also some of you I understand want to get rid of school reinforcement officers on campus? Is this true and do you plan to promote to change the curriculum to teach an alternative history than what our historians have taught?

---

Randa Bordelon  
Privacy during Virtual Learning

Why are our middle school students (HGMS) being told they'll get in trouble if they have a parent present while instruction is going on? I'm a parent and a very concerned parent at that. I want to know what's being hidden. We as parents have every right to be in the same room and listen on, and I will.

Virtual Learning: How do expect our elementary children to learn in this environment? The computers on the teacher and student sides are "glitchy". Sitting at a computer for this length of time is not healthy for our little ones. Parents of K-1st (speaking from experience) have to sit side by side with their child to help them navigate the curriculum online. The list goes on.

---

Rebecca Hancock  
Returning to School

1. What benchmarks is WCPS board using to determine "Practical."
  2. Why are teachers and staff not considered essential workers?
  - 3.. Please work with the 50% of the families that want their kids back to school.
  4. Returning to school 2020 will require leadership, creativity, backbone on the part of WCPS board. The emotional and psychological damage on the children by not returning to school is in the board's control.
  5. What are the logistics that is stopping our students from returning to the classrooms? Please be specific, name top 5. Clearly other schools in the city, state, country have returned to the classroom. It's completely possible.
- 

Rolanda Byrd  
SROs

Demands:

1. Remove all SROs from WCPSS schools and end all contracts between WCPSS and law enforcement agencies.
2. Invest the funds, previously used to police students and additional funding into implementing the Peacebuilder Program by helping students, parents, and community members at each school coordinate the hiring, training, and assignment of pay Peacebuilders.
3. Enlist the support of local colleges and universities in assessing the program's impact on school climate, discipline disparities, school-based arrests, and community engagement.
4. Assist parents, students, and community members with making adjustments to their school's Peacebuilder program based on assessments of the program's overall impact.

SUBJECT: Remove Wake County SROs to Keep Students Safe

Dear Chair Sutton and WCPSS Superintendent Moore,

I want a future where all students are treated with dignity, love, and respect. But with police officers in Wake County schools, Black students have 73% of school-related delinquency complaints despite representing only 22% of the student population. I am concerned that school resource officers are funneling Black and Brown students toward the school-to-prison and to the school-to-deportation pipeline. Wake County Public Schools should follow the example of multiple school districts across the county and immediately terminate all law enforcement contracts and remove police from schools.

Instead of paying for SROs, Wake County Public Schools should reallocate funds toward preventive programs and alternatives to criminalization. This includes fully-staffed, school-wide restorative justice initiatives; community peacebuilders; social workers; physical and mental healthcare professionals; other resources to support families and community members as determined by them.

I stand with the Enloe High School students, the Wake County Black Student Coalition, the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, Education Justice Alliance, and the ACLU of North Carolina. I want #CounselorsNotCops and #PoliceFreeSchools so all Wake County students feel safe.

Sincerely,

Rolanda Byrd  
Executive Director  
Raleigh Police Accountability

---

Sandy Bridger  
Reopening Schools

Please define practical and what metrics are involved in that measurement.

Do you have a punch list of items needed in order to implement Plan B?  
If so, what are those items and how can parents help?

How have enrollments changed this fall?

How are you monitoring VA implementation and measuring effectiveness?

What plans are inlay for the class of 2021.

---

Sanga Bull  
SROs

Why does WCPSS still employ school resource officers rather than cops in schools at a time when most students will be doing online schooling? Furthermore, we already know there is no complex process to remove cops in schools, so why have you not headed the ceaseless protests by many organisations, teachers, and students to institute counselors and/or peacebuilders instead of hiring cops from a racist, murderous police force such as RPD and other PD's?

---

Sarah Noah  
Reopening Schools

1. Please define “practical” and what metrics are involved in that measurement.
2. Do you have a punch list of items needed to effectively implement Plan B? If so, what are those items and what can parents do to help?

---

Serenity Hargrove  
SROs

Dear Chair Sutton and WCPSS Superintendent Moore,

I want a future where all students are treated with dignity, love, and respect. But with police officers in Wake County schools, Black students have 73% of school-related delinquency complaints despite representing only 22% of the student population. I am concerned that school resource officers are funneling Black and Brown students toward the school-to-prison and to the school-to-deportation pipeline. Wake County Public Schools should follow the example of multiple school districts across the county and immediately terminate all law enforcement contracts and remove police from schools.

Instead of paying for SROs, Wake County Public Schools should reallocate funds toward preventive programs and alternatives to criminalization. This includes fully-staffed, school-wide restorative justice initiatives; community peacebuilders; social workers; physical and mental healthcare professionals; other resources to support families and community members as determined by them.

I stand with the Enloe High School students, the Wake County Black Student Coalition, the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, Education Justice Alliance, and the ACLU of North Carolina. I want #CounselorsNotCops and #PoliceFreeSchools so all Wake County students feel safe.

Sincerely,  
Serenity Hargrove

---

Sheila Charles  
Reopening Schools

It is absolutely crazy that Wake County cannot get our children back in school. Every other county in this state is back in, in some capacity. You are holding willing and able children back from learning and growing because you are placing our entire counties children in one group and treating them the same. It is absurd. If parents want to send their kids to school, they should be able too. If teachers are scared to teach, then they need to step aside and let someone who is willing and ready to teach. k-3 specifically are not made to sit in front of a screen all day doing apps all over the spectrum and limited teacher instruction. Furthermore if our teachers are at school teaching for the few 20 minute slots they are providing during the day and are being paid, and we can't go back, why in the world can't wake county figure out how to have teachers teach their daily curriculum live every day as if kids were actually in school like the private schools are doing. It is not a funding issue. There has to be a way to figure this out and it not cost a fortune. Especially since teachers are already streaming spurts of classroom time throughout the day. Also wake county, have you accounted for the fact that most households have more than one child with parents who have to work.... how are these parents able to work bouncing between two different schedules and classrooms every day. Children under 3rd grade cannot do their daily work alone. A parent has to sit with them to keep them on task and focus all day. Have you thought about a

phased in approach. Maybe beginning with k-2 and special ed going in first?? Seems much smarter to phase kids in rather than say no one can go. We live in one of the largest counties in the state and the fact that we are one of a few that have not allowed kids to go back in is embarrassing!! You've had 6 months wake county!! 6 months!!!!

---

Shirley Tang

The rights of students and parents , and WCPSS's lack of support for such

Dear Board Members, Superintendent Moore, and Chief of Staff Dr. Gardner,

I am disappointed. Particularly because Mr. Brian Dokimos publicly commented that he had requested twice for a copy of the Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. Yet, twice, the district failed him with no answers.

Granted, the Bill might not exist in WCPSS. As an educational advocate for 13 years, I am unaware of its existence. However, that is not a valid excuse for WCPSS to ignore Mr. D's concerns about the district's lack of transparency on student rights. At least, the district should have provided this link to the New Policy Manual that showcases many of WCPSS's policies: [https://boardpolicyonline.com/bl/?b=wake\\_new](https://boardpolicyonline.com/bl/?b=wake_new)

Many policies outline the rights of students related to Mr. D's concerns. Such as:

- Policy 1710, Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying
- Policy 1720, Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying Complaint Process
- Policy 1730, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities
- Policy 1740, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure
- Policy 1742, Responding to Complaints
- Policy 3400, Evaluation of Student Progress
- Policy 3520, Special Education Programs/Rights of Students with Disabilities
- Policy 3610, Counseling Program
- Policy 4125, Students Experiencing Homelessness (Students in Transition)
- Policy 4300, Due Process
- Policy 4302, Use of Seclusion and Restraint
- Policy 4700, Student Records

In addition, the school community should know that an Old Policy Manual –[https://boardpolicyonline.com/bl/?b=wake\\_old](https://boardpolicyonline.com/bl/?b=wake_old) – also exists. “Old” only means this Manual contains many current policies adopted prior to May 2015, according to WCPSS. Two policies are notable here: Policy 2305 and Regulation Code 2305 R&P(1): Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct. They outline how employees should treat the students, among other provisions.

All school administrators and employees are required to comply with the above policies created mostly in accordance with state or federal laws.

Mr. D also mentioned that WCPSS's website is “extremely layered and difficult to find information.” This is very true. E.g., why are the 2 links above not included in the dropdown menus under the Parents or Students tabs on the website for their easy access?

Is it because the rights of students and parents are not WCPSS's priorities or even concerns? Let's see:

- In 2014, WCPSS largely ignored the feedback from advocates in the community on WCPSS's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement with 11 law enforcement agencies in the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program;
- In 2017, WCPSS "offered" advocates to review Policy 6410 Code of Student Conduct. Yet, the district ignored the advocates' resulting feedback to improve equity and fairness in student disciplinary matters.
- In 2018, advocates proposed an Advocate policy to give parents and students the right to have support from advocates. WCPSS worked on the policy; however, 2 years later, it still sits on the district's policy shelf, while school officials continue to limit and even block parents from advocacy support.
- In 2019, advocates reviewed Policy 4309 Student Behavior – Code of Student Conduct (the newest version of Policy 6410). Again, WCPSS largely ignored their feedback and input.
- In 2019-20, advocates reviewed draft Policy 1150 Equity and recommended equity measures in all student matters, including discipline and academics. It has been sitting quietly on WCPSS's policy shelf for 8 months.
- In 2020, advocates again reviewed the SRO Program's MOU agreement. WCPSS failed to provide the Board members the time, before the agreement's renewal deadline, to consider the community's feedback. Meanwhile, the members had time to discuss other student matters with no imminent deadlines.

Sincerely,  
Shirley Tang  
Founder of uCANcomplain, Inc.

---

Stephanie Baker  
Length of Virtual School Day

Having a 7 hour virtual school day is not the same as a 7 hour in person day. For many children, this rigorous day in front of a computer will not be sustainable. Has there been any thought on ways to shorten/condense the day or make certain parts (ie specials) optional?

---

Stephanie Hadad  
Reopening Schools

K-2 needs to be in the building. We can spread them out throughout the whole school. They are missing so many foundational skills that can safely be taught in person. By utilizing the whole school we can make very small class sizes, utilize staff, provide half days and ensure that students are making reading growth.

---

Tara Blizzard  
Virtual Learning

My kids have yet to learn anything this year and my five year old has regressed considerably given the early end to last school year. Virtual learning assignments require 100% parent supervision as young

children cannot navigate the technology which is next to impossible when also trying to work from home. Children need to go back to school ASAP.

---

Tara Boyd  
Virtual Learning

Please address inconsistencies among schedules. Each school seems to have their own expectations, attendance requirements, schedule, etc. Elementary in particular. Some are "live" in the morning and office hours/independent work in the afternoons. Others are spread out throughout the day. Among the grade levels at a school, there's no consistency in timing of live, creating confusion and frustrations. It is becoming extremely difficult to navigate, especially for working parents, and taxing on our younger children.

I ask that elementary schools adopt a half-day learning environment, with office hours after lunch.

I understand some kids flourish in these learning environments, but our younger kids typically do not. Each day it becomes increasingly apparent that my younger children would benefit more by being removed from WCPSS if remote learning continues as a full schedule as our only option.

---

Taylor Cordes  
SROs

Hello, I attended Wake County Public Schools from 3rd grade through 12th grade and taught at a WCPSS high school for two years. During my time as both a student and a teacher, I cannot name an incident in which the SRO was helpful. This became extremely apparent to me once I was the teacher and was helping respond to fights or incidents in the school. Every single time the SRO showed up, tensions escalated. The students had no relationship with him. He was just the man with a weapon that could arrest them. You could see real help and progress when the intervention teachers intervened. For the majority of the fights I witnessed, the intervention teacher was the one able to deescalate students and diffuse the situation. Pay our intervention teachers more and staff schools with the support personnel needed to care for students. SRO's are not helping us care for students and they continue to perpetuate the school-to-prison pipeline. I did not feel safer as a student nor did I feel safer as a teacher by having an SRO in the school. Schools shouldn't be a place where students get arrested.

---

Tonya Chapman  
Reopening Schools

children need to be in school, what metrics need to be met to reopen?

---

Reopening Schools

I think that WCPSS is failing the children of Wake County and doing a disservice to the taxpayers that have funded WCPSS with our taxes for years and now have no real in person education. Along with just about every other parent I know, I was very disappointed in the remote learning that started last spring but somewhat gave them a break but it's unacceptable to me that the schools can't or won't open this fall and I think that they should (i) open up schools for in person learning for any while who chooses to do so while allowing some who would rather stay out of school still do home school or virtual academy which ensures that everyone at school will voluntarily want to be there and be comfortable with the very low risk and (ii) refuse to pay teachers who aren't willing to work in person while still holding a position for them elsewhere

if they so choose as otherwise there's no motivation for teachers to come back and work. Why would we harm the tens of thousands of kids (and their parents) by not having real in person school simply to appease a small handful of older teachers who are scared to come into work? Wouldn't it make a lot more sense to let the teachers who are scared just stay home?

---

Yakob Lemma  
SROs

Speaking from a students perspective, I feel endangered when I go to school. I feel unsafe, I feel unloved. I am scared of my School Resource Officer. In the past 20 years, over 100 school shootings have happened and not a single SRO has stopped one. In Wake County, Black/ African-American students are 3x more likely to be arrested/ suspended than white students. 73% of complaints to the justice system were against Black students in the 2018-2019 school year when Black students only make up 22% of WCPSS enrollment. Why is that? As a Black student, I am already getting racially profiled in my gas stations, in my parks, I can't even play basketball without getting stopped and searched. So why should I continue to live in fear in my own schools? SRO's do more harm than good, we should invest into mental health advocates and peacemakers to create schools a place for love. ALL of our students need to feel safe. Abolish SROs and invest into our students. Thank you.

---

Camille Haims  
Teacher/Student Collaboration

Dear Wake County Board of Education Members

Relationships between teacher and student are critically important for academics and behavior. Many slower developing learners are described as unmotivated, and manipulative. Teachers have reported that they would much rather work with average or above average ability students. Teachers report feeling that working with slower developing learners is unrewarding. Teachers ignore the slower developing learners and do not develop a bond with them. They also feel it's on them to advocate but do not show them or teach them the skills to advocate.

Families School Supply List for 2020-2021  
Patience  
encouragement  
positivity  
understanding  
kindness  
respect  
Compassion

This school list must be handled with care and concern. It must be ongoing to be effective. Instead we see it happening only for the first three days of school. Please remind your staff to be mindful in this pandemic. Those working in the school system including teachers are public servants, putting the needs of students first is essential. It's a K-12 public school system.

Regards,  
Ms. Camille Haims

---

Susan Book  
SROs

Hello, as the board considers their contracts for SROs, I ask to reconsider SROs entirely. I know others will quote stats and figures. I just know how they make my elementary child feel. He has Autism. Our schools call SROs when they feel he is a threat. In his case, he said threatening words. He has said those words when melting down. His brain is in free fall. Neurons firing in the wrong places. He sometimes hasn't even a memory of words said. Yet an SRO was called. Called to intimidate? Called to have a talk with someone who has no memory of the incident? It has been a true source of trauma. A child now afraid of officers. A child afraid that they are bad and criminal, when what they really are, is simply disabled and still learning how that disability affects them. Take the tool away. Give our schools better tools. Maybe if we spent more money on real help for our kids, my child wouldn't meltdown so much in the first place. Re-prioritize our money for the sake of all children

---

Jillian Barnett  
Mask Policy

Dear Wake County Board of Education Members

When we return to in person school will students be permitted to wear masks that display slogans and sayings – for example BLM, Back the Blue, Gay Pride, Trump 2020. Will these be permitted in schools?

Thank you

Jillian Barnett

---

Fernando Martinez  
SROs

Dear Chair Sutton, School Board members and Superintendent Moore, We are writing on behalf of the Education Justice Alliance. We urge Wake County Public Schools to follow the example of multiple school districts across the county and immediately terminate all law enforcement contracts and remove police from schools. We all want a future where all students, regardless of their race and ethnicity are treated with dignity, love, and respect, and placing police in schools sends the opposite message. With police officers in Wake County schools, Black students have 73% of school-related delinquency complaints despite representing only 22% of the student population. EJA is concerned that school resource officers are funneling Black and Brown students toward the school-to-prison pipeline and can potentially put undocumented students in deportation procedures. We have communicated this worry and our family's concerns for the last eight years and we are in dismay that you are not listening. Families are literally torn apart by school police and you are failing to protect those that are most vulnerable. Instead of paying for SROs, Wake County Public Schools should reallocate funds toward preventive programs and alternatives to criminalization. This includes fully-staffed, school-wide restorative justice initiatives; community peacebuilders; social workers; physical and mental healthcare professionals; other resources to support families and community members as determined by them. EJA wants #CounselorsNotCops and #PoliceFreeSchools so all Wake County students feel safe.

Sincerely,

Letha Muhammad and Fernando Martinez

---

Rebecca Cathcart  
SROs

I urge you to remove police from Wake County schools and end contracts between WCPSS and law enforcement agencies. Overwhelming evidence shows that the presence of SROs in public schools puts children of color in danger. This is a danger that ruins their lives and ripples outward to the communities that make up Wake County, North Carolina, and the nation. When officers inflict disproportionate force and criminal consequences on children in the halls of their schools that violence robs them of a safe learning environment. It robs them of their childhood. By funneling students of color into the criminal justice system, we lose our young people and the chance to shape them as full and equal citizens. These are the people who will inherit our communities, public institutions, and shape our country. Police presence in schools often removes children from their families and communities. The harm from that trauma goes deep and spreads wide. We all feel it socially, economically, and emotionally. Closing the trap door that leads from Wake County public schools to the criminal justice system is an imperative and it is common sense.

---

Mr & Mrs Norman B. Goswell  
Leadership

To whom it may concern

NCDPI mission statement: Our mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

Leadership is the ability to articulate a vision and walk the path, such that it inspires people to rise above the banality and strife of their common-day existence and achieve a higher and common goal. Taken by Harvard.

Generations are affected by ineffective leadership found in your schools. Our daily lives are affected the most by decisions made by school boards. As people in this community we voice our opinions and concerns. No feedback from the board or local school. No conflict resolution. WCPSS is in the business of education. Educating children/minors to be successful in all areas of life. Re-evaluate WCPSS leaders, the faces that represent this school system.

---

Kristin Beller  
SROs

Good afternoon, board members and Supt. Moore.

I write to you today to ask you to consider very carefully the issue of removing SROs from our school campuses. This past summer, our students, staff and community watched as yet another Black man was murdered by the police. Mr. Floyd's murder hit all of us a little differently because, unlike those killed by gunshot, we watched as he was slowly strangled with a knee on his neck and we listened to his cries, pleading for his life. Our students watched that, and whether they are Black or non-Black, each student has been moved by those 8 minutes and 46 seconds. For some, it was a visual of their greatest fears. They may have seen a similar look in a police officer's eyes as they were arbitrarily questioned on campus. For some, it reinforced some type of ingrained superiority that, if left alone and allowed to be nurtured by the compounded experiences they witness at other times, will grow into a dangerous and stagnant sense of righteousness. Some may have watched and immediately felt shame because they

were reminded of times they found themselves in situations where they, like the other three officers, were bystanders to racialized violence and did nothing to stop it. Either way, damage was done. And the solution isn't to hide students from the video, it's to demonstrate how to do things differently.

Our schools are about learning. We are centered on students and nurturing their growth, so when students are telling us that something needs to change, we need to listen. I am not asking or proposing that SROs be removed from every building today (although I believe they could be). I understand that there is currently a misconception that runs deep throughout our system, and is reinforced by our colleagues, that if the assigned SRO is a good person and builds positive relationships that they are proving the benefit of having an SRO in the building. I return to my original sentence in this paragraph - our schools are about learning. We teach children who are still learning behaviors and appropriate interactions. Instead of spending money to train a law enforcement officer to build positive relationships and unlearn all the LEO training in which they spent years, we should invest that money into school social workers, counselors, behavior specialists, restorative practice coaches and training for all staff. If we want to be as effective as possible with our funding, this shift would be a much more impactful use of our funding. As educators we know that when a child demonstrates undesirable behavior, there is almost always a need that is going unfulfilled. Our task is to develop a deep enough understanding of the student to determine what that need may be and then to address it with an intervention. Sometimes those interventions are food-related or attention-seeking. Sometimes they are based on a lack of relationship or have a medical connection. We need staff whose sole purpose is to help identify and fill those needs instead of a police officer who is being trained to try to accomplish some of that when and if they think it's appropriate and if they have not perceived an encounter as a disciplinary or criminal encounter. We currently have an officer in many of our buildings who has to be trained to not see our students as criminals but as children. This is not a position that will cultivate the environments we strive to create in WCPSS schools as laid out in the strategic plan.

I understand that what I'm asking you to consider is not a quick fix and would take an investment of time, energy, funds, and a commitment made by educators, school leaders, parents, and students in order to be successful. I also think that something that is so deserving of this should be tried in school communities where there are already people working with and supporting the students who are willing to make such a commitment. This year happens to be the best year to start conversations about this. Currently, there are no students in the buildings which means there is no need for SROs right now. We are in the practice of communicating in ways that could be more accessible than before. Our students deserve for us to try to think outside of the box, to think in a way that will unite our community around student needs, and encourage adults to break away from our past conceptions about what and why SROs exist to reimagine how we can teach new behaviors and nurture climates that create a positive, caring environment in every building. The staff and our students' parents deserve this too. Can you imagine what our schools could be like if we could really master the art of community care within them?

With gratitude,  
Kristin Beller  
President of Wake NCAE

---

Kendall Triplett  
Length of school day for K-2

What is your suggestion for kids who are K-2 that have parents with either multiple children or a full time job and they can't help the kids manage getting from screen to screen. Are we ok with allowing these kids

to fall behind? In addition, when they are spending all day on a screen and complaining about headaches at night, are we just saying it is the best we have right now?

---

Kristin Green  
BLM curriculum

We the people are fed up with the indoctrination of our children! Parents should always have the first and last say in what their children are being taught! We will not sit back and let you push this Marxist movement on our children with your BLM curriculum! It is also not the state's decision whether or not our children learn about LGBT. You have a duty to these kids to teach them so they may think for themselves, not brainwash them! Just know that parents are completely fed up with the education system and the school board itself. If you continue to push your leftist agenda, you will be voted out!!! Parents are waking up and they are tired of your ignorance!

---

Carrie Bley  
MVP

WCPSS Board Meeting (Virtual)  
9/1/2020  
Carrie Bley Comments

## SECONDARY MATH CURRICULUM

One thing I haven't tried with you over the past year of our advocacy is brevity. SO I'll Keep this short.

I always imagined that the data we have shown you to support our parents' concerns over these inadequate math resources would have changed things. I hoped the anecdotal stories would help the Board decide to collaborate with staff to understand these curricular deficiencies of MVP, Open up Resources and EL Education. I continue to hope that something we say will resonate with you.

We are waiting for a very clear teacher and student survey opportunity about your MVP, Open up Resources curriculum. We are in year 4 of implementation of these three programs. Such data could have saved all of a world of valuable time over the past year.

We are asking for student representatives to be placed on the board. If you are not seeing the devastation of these curriculum's on your students. Then you are simply not paying very close attention. These students have earned the right to voice their opinions and help the Board Members and WCPSS central staff understand their needs. Especially in this time of virtual learning.

-Carrie

---

Virginia Williams  
SROs

As a concerned citizen who works with youth in the Triangle area, I know that having cops in schools creates a climate of fear and over-disciplining, especially of Black and Brown students. Schools should be a place where students can learn from their mistakes rather than be subjected to criminal penalties for

behavior that is consistent with youth development. These environments harm the students who get caught up in the criminal system, and they harm all students who daily arrive at schools with police cars parked out front, and see police involved in routine discipline, and learn that Black and Brown children need to be controlled by law enforcement. I urge you to redirect district resources instead to fund school counselors and social workers who can help students learn the skills they need to achieve and thrive in the school setting and beyond. Thank you for your attention to this matter.