

9-15-2020 Board Meeting: Public Comments

Video Public Comments

- [Leila Potter - Virtual learning causing undue stress on families with special needs children](#)
 - [Calla Wright - Low Performing Schools/Southeast Raleigh/Restart Schools](#)
 - [Michelle McWilliams - This is how online learning is going for my elementary aged children. They are completely disengaged. I chose the option that the Board provided to send my children to school in-person. Stop denying us the option that we chose! Open schools now!](#)
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Written Public Comments

Lisa Geagan

Our Schools need to Open

I am a Wake County parent who is requesting that the school board begin to phase in Plan B students Oct 1. This is an action that should not require a vote because it is simply planning for the safe return of our children and faculty to school. I understand the school board will be presented additional information next week. I ask that the school board schedule an emergency meeting, following Tuesday, to plan the phase in approach. Every day the school board waits is another day in a child's life.

Ashlea Fields

Plan B

I am a concerned Wake County parent who is requesting that the school board begin to phase in Plan B students Oct 1. My children are not receiving the education they need! This is an action that should not require a vote because it is simply planning for the safe return of our children and faculty to school. I understand the school board will be presented additional information next week. I ask that the school board schedule an emergency meeting, following Tuesday, to plan the phase in approach. Every day the school board waits is another day in a

child's life. We can do better! Private schools and daycares are making it work and so can WCPSS!! We need action and plans and tangible dates!

Candy Blackmon

Reopen schools please

I am a Wake County parent & teacher who is requesting that the school board begin to phase in Plan B students Oct 1. This is an action that should not require a vote because it is simply planning for the safe return of our children and faculty to school. I understand the school board will be presented additional information next week. I ask that the school board schedule an emergency meeting, following Tuesday, to plan the phase in approach. Every day the school board waits is another day in a child's life.

Very Important Looking at metrics is NOT progress! We need action and plans. Tangible dates!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Candy Blackmon

Jessica Kilduff

In person instruction

Schools across the country have figured out how to make in person instruction work safely with social distancing, minimizing class size and taking proper pre cautions. Are you telling me that WCPSS can't figure this out? Perhaps WCPSS doesn't want to figure it out. This is absurd. As parents we see district after district from across the country returning to some version of in person for these kids. If you have a busing problem work with other districts to figure out how to make it happen. My gosh we are supposed to be a leading education system yet can't figure this out? Maybe yet again this is evidence that our size is getting the best of us. Time to move toward smaller districts. Time to put our best foot forward and support the kids returning as safely as possible allowing for those who do not wish to return to remain virtual.

Kevin Hill

Covid-19

The CDC now says that if you get Covid 19, you can recover at home. At home! And they clarified their statistics that only only 10% of the covid deaths were directly due to the virus and the majority were elderly. Therefore, given the fact that the CDC and many other country medical organizations, have downgraded the virus and confirm it is weakening and our ability to

combat it is rock solid, why dont we return to normal. Instead of quarantining all of society, or in our case, the entire school district, why not only quarantine the elderly and high risk individuals. Look at the essential places that never stopped working - there has been zero outbreaks at these places. Even at places that returned to school, and cases increased, there has been no increase in morbidity rates. Please give the kids the option to return to school. Because most of society did that months ago. At my job, that has 7 global sites, we never stopped going to work and we reported 2 cases total. Lets get creative. We can do it! (Also, Tell the governor we will open the school doors if he increases the teachers salaries). Thank you and god bless.

Sarah WallaceSchool

Reopening

As a parent of two Wake county high school students, I am witnessing the difficulties of virtual learning on a daily basis. If my kids who have their own computers, quiet work spaces and high speed internet are still having technical difficulties, I can only imagine how it is for other families. The system is inequitable. Bottom line; it doesn't work. These kids need to be back in school as soon as possible.

Stacey Hansen

Why we should bring kids back to school

Children are the foundation of our future. The decisions we make for them each day directly affect the overall health of society. Today in Wake County, you can shop at any store and I know when I am out an about Crossroads parking lots are packed, get take out to eat, go out to eat and I have had to wait in lines to get a seat, sit at a brewery or winery, visit your doctor, specialist, or therapist, go to the gym, bowling alley, play a sport on a league and I have seen soccer games and spectators all across Wake County as I drive around, kids are in daycares, there are places (buildings like YMCA's, Gymnastic warehouses, etc) that are hosting Virtual schools so parents can work and many of the adults are at work in buildings and visiting clients. This is all life locally in Wake County. Life as I see it is in full swing. Yes restrictions are in place and yes we have been educating our youth about this new way of life and living it for the past 6 months. Practice the 3 W's, wear a mask, wait 6 feet apart, and wash your hands correctly. These kids are trained to live in this new world.

In my home specifically, mom, dad, and 4 kids, we attend well checkups, dentist appointments, orthodontist, had tooth surgery, broken finger surgery, physical therapy sessions, eat out at restaurants, get take out, shop in grocery stores and other stores, attend boy scout camping trips, boy scout eagle projects, girl scout meetings in person, ballet class in person, participated in swim team, gotten haircuts, pedicures, and my husband leaves for work each day to meet with clients and sometimes goes to his office to attend work meetings (he works in generation for Caterpillar to make sure hospitals and IT businesses are not without power). All of these businesses in Wake County have employees who did not get to say I do not want to go to work at a building with people and still get a paycheck. Right now the only thing my kids can't do is go to school.

If school returned parents could return to work or get their work done at home. Kids would have some reprieve from the walls of their homes that they sit behind for so many hours each school day. We may all start to feel healthier physically and mentally. The economy may start to boost again and also get healthier.

The news has stated at least 100,000 kids in North Carolina are not connected adequately to learn right now. I am not certain what amount of these kids live in Wake County however the Constitution states, "All kids living in the United States have the right to a free public education. And the constitution requires that all kids be given equal education opportunity no matter what their race, ethnic background, religion, or sex, or whether they are rich or poor, citizen or non-citizen." If you have any role in education right now you know that this right/law is not being met.

Kids are the future. We need to take care of them, nurture them, educate them, and provide them opportunities. Otherwise what will our future be?

Please actively listen to what the families of wake county want for their children. There are options for families who cannot return to school for health reasons, virtual academy. For the families who can return to school lets create a healthy plan and make this happen for the health of our children and future!

Michele Lee

School Reopening Plans

As a parent and WCPSS middle school teacher of over 10 years, I can honestly say that it has taken almost the entire first quarter of school to acclimate students and staff to online teaching and learning. We are progressing steadily in a positive direction and building momentum with positive results. If we were to reopen in the 2nd Quarter, it is going to be a huge shift for both teachers and students. We need more time online in virtual learning to make steady progress with students and continuing to build momentum. The more we change schedules in our buildings if students return in person in the 2nd Quarter, the more we lose in terms of continuity in learning and consistency with students. Students need consistency now more than ever and switching to in person cohorts in the 2nd Quarter is going to cause an upheaval in our daily routines in our classes as many of our classes are MIXED with both virtual academy and in person cohorts in the same class. It will erode the consistency and continuity that we have been building since August 17th. Please consider these factors and the needs of students and staff before bringing back cohorts in 2nd Quarter.

Erika Bronson

Get kids back to school

I am a Wake County parent who is requesting that the school board begin to phase in Plan B students Oct 1. This is an action that should not require a vote because it is simply planning for the safe return of our children and faculty to school. I understand the school board will be

presented additional information next week. I ask that the school board schedule an emergency meeting, following Tuesday, to plan the phase in approach. Every day the school board waits is another day in a child's life.

Very Important Looking at metrics is NOT progress! We need action and plans. Tangible dates!

Ryan McAward

Concerned Special Education Parent

We live in Mr. Fletcher's district but are parents to a special education Pre-K student who is currently assigned to Yates Mill Elementary School. This is our second year in the district and have a ways to go before our son and daughter both graduate high school. We know these times are uncertain and wanted to express our gratitude for the work being done to ensure the safety of the WCPSS students, staff and teachers. We are requesting that the school board begin to phase in Plan B students as quickly as possible and no later than October 1, 2020. We need actions, plans and tangible dates.

The past few weeks have been a struggle for my son and this past Friday he was in tears and screaming about how much he hates "virtual school" – begging to go to his daycare classroom. At 10:35am, we finally shut the computer down and took him to in-person school. To make matters worse, he woke up this morning and before I could even turn on his light told me that he "wasn't going to virtual school today". This breaks my heart. My 4-year old should be excited about going to school, improving his social skills, catching up on his developmental delays, learning and having fun. If he already hates school, this will be a long road to graduation.

My wife and I have been in constant communication with my son's teacher and we know she is doing everything she can to make this year a success. As parents, it is our job to ensure our children are getting the best education they can possibly receive. We firmly believe that WCPSS has an outstanding special education program and watched our son grow before our eyes last year at West Lake Elementary. Our goal for virtual learning is to survive and ensure this experience does not alter his perspective on learning. We want him to wake up every morning and be excited to ride the bus, see his friends, and tell us what he learned that day during our family dinner. Our hope is that we can put the virtual learning behind us as quickly as possible and do what is best and what is right for our son.

Again, we ask that the school board schedule an emergency meeting to plan the approach and communicate the actions and timeline to reopen.

Every day the school board waits is another day in my child's life.

Carrie Stafford

Plea to reopen schools

Dear Wake County Board,

I'm sure you have received countless emails requesting or demanding that schools open in October and I've just been made aware of the group ""Wake County Families to Safely Reopen Schools."" I, too, strongly believe in the Wake County Public School System, school administrators and teachers. I also believe schools can safely reopen if you vote to open schools utilizing the Strong Schools Public Health Toolkit. The Governor himself strongly recommended that schools open under the guidelines of Plan B. Families, students, and most teachers who are uncomfortable or fearful of covid-19 HAD THE OPTION of enrolling or teaching through the Virtual Academy. The remaining students, teachers and staff are eager to physically return to schools. I have a first grade daughter who is not receiving a quality education by staring at a computer screen all day and is falling behind academically. Remote learning is ineffective and completely disengaging for young learners. It is absolutely not a replacement for in-person learning and almost fully eliminates student-teacher interaction. My daughter's attention levels are diminishing, she is having difficulty understanding assignments, and struggling with a lack of social interaction. Elementary students, especially K-2, cannot learn virtually, struggle with absorbing new material, and desperately need social interaction with their fellow classmates. (This is not a reflection on any teachers because they have been wonderful as they navigate this nightmare). All private schools that I am aware of are now open with very little issues around covid. In the instances where there were positive case(s) in a school, the school safety protocols were followed and school resumed at the appropriate time. Why was a very detailed and comprehensive 23 page toolkit created if we're not implementing it? Further, with the safety guidelines in place along with the state mandate of face coverings, schools should be healthier than ever this year as face coverings and extra cleaning will control the spread of flu and other viruses. Covid-19 is not going away anytime soon and we cannot hide behind computer screens until we feel completely safe to be around other people. There is risk with anything you do in life and we cannot productively ""do life"" under the oppression of fear. We have a detailed plan of action and can no longer punish students, teachers, and staff who are eager to get back into the classroom. We can no longer deprive students of the quality education they deserve and have a legal right to under the Every Student Succeeds Act, signed into law by President Obama in 2015. Please vote to do the right thing and transition our kids and teachers back to schools by October 1, 2020. Wake County families, teachers, and staff are putting their hope and faith in you to do so. Thank you!

Sabrina Hess

Reopening schools under Plan B

Dear WCPSS Board Members,

Please take immediate action to allow our schools to reopen for in-person instruction under Plan B as allowed by Governor Cooper and as is being implemented by other school boards across NC. I understand the complexity of this decision and the difficulties associated with this action in a county as large and diverse as Wake County. However, there have historically been obstacles to overcome and ingenuity required for many of the changes and initiatives that this board, and its predecessors, has overseen. A stark difference is that in this case options for those with differing opinions and concerns can be accommodated. With the creation of the virtual academy we as parents were given this choice. Every household in this county weighed their risks and benefits and made the difficult decision that was best for their family, while understanding that to return meant complying with the guidelines for reopening. Please honor the choices made by thousands of parents. These decisions were not made lightly. It is my belief that many parents, like myself, chose Plan B because we were concerned for the safety and welfare of the whole child. The lack of natural, social interactions, increase in screen time and loss of strong, personal relationships with teachers and other positive adult role models will have lasting effects on our children. These losses will be felt even more keenly by families who rely on special services.

This board is capable of safely bringing children back to the classroom. I recognize the risk that our faculty and staff will be taking and realize that more changes may be necessary to further safeguard when children return to campus. I believe that we as parents and tax payers have elected a child-centered, creative collection of individuals who truly can pivot and make this change happen in a timely and transparent way instead of cowering from this challenge. This decision and timeframe will personally affect all of our children. I love and appreciate both of my children's teachers, but when my Kindergartener's list of learning goals for the week does not include "make a new friend" or "learn a new game at recess" but instead "learn to control your mute button independently" I know, as a mother, that this is not right. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jennifer Cherry
Virtual Kindergarten

The 2.5 hour live teaching time requirement by Wake County is developmentally inappropriate for the younger grades. It is inexcusable that the county did not find a way to tailor the virtual academy requirements to best meet the needs of students in different grade levels. How is it logical for a kindergarten student and a fifth grade student to have the same live teaching requirement in a day? Wake County needs to free the teachers in the younger grades to reduce the live teaching time and instead offer more small group instruction in smaller increments to better meet the developmental needs of students. Parents are not looking for an internet babysitter to occupy a school day's worth of time for our children. We are looking for developmentally appropriate education that enriches the lives of the students. This 2.5 hour requirement is preventing teachers and parents from working together to find the best way to serve our youngest learners. 2.5 hours is above the amount of screen time recommended for 5 year olds by the American Academy of Pediatrics. School at home cannot replicate school in a

classroom, but a first step towards making this a better experience for students and parents is creating a set up that stops making filling a certain amount of time a goal and instead focuses on offering the best education for each grade level.

Angela Humphries

Serving students

This School System gets away with all sorts of nonsense, yet some families continue to choose to send children to these government-run schools.

Recently, your communications staff denied records requests to detail Cathy Q. Moore's long list of hidden expenditures.

Hmmm.

You'd think taxpayers could easily access these details, since they're the ones actually paying these expenses. Please have the County send me another tax bill, so I can pay your staff the fees she needs to disclose accounting records.

What extortion!

Communications staff gave false information about how many lawyers the system uses and those associated costs. Staff stated Tharrington Smith was the only lawfirm used , yet documentation proves otherwise.

What transparency!

The system is providing free childcare to staff who previously paid their own ways. The system is ok shelling out services to those who may need them... and those who never did. It's as though the system has an infinite pile of taxpayer dollars, and staff to fill whatever positions they create on the fly.

What luxury!

Speaking of more luxury, the system is handing out costly Hotspots and new devices when they haven't even verified if they're needed.

You'll be looking for opportunities to have staff duplicated(spending more) and have multiples doing the jobs individuals were able to do prior to the March closing.

Now, parents are emboldened to hold the system accountable, but they should know it's not possible to demand a

monopoly do a better job.

The board and lots of wcpss staff fight against parents and students having options in K12 schools because this protects their jobs and the government-run monopoly. The monopoly man gets \$200 everytime you pass by.

What union?! Nothing to see here.

It's time to listen to the people you're ignoring. They're not going away. May they become loud and active enough to drown out your desires for more tax money, employees, new empty school buildings (yes, they still being built-we know !) while kids are given less education.

Education tax dollars must follow students because the system takes advantage of taxpayers by turning a deaf ear to those with whom they disagree ...and fails to serve their students.

Turn a deaf ear to special interest groups endorsing your campaigns and LISTEN TO FAMILIES.

I send my sincere thanks to great teachers, staff and admins everywhere.

Carrie Weymer

Opening Schools back up

I have three kids in the wake county school system. All three of them are struggling with online learning and they are certainly not getting the caliber of education my tax dollars are paying for. I have a normally straight A student with 2 D's and a C right now. I'm concerned about their futures and the mental and emotional toll this is taking on all of them. I want to know the plan for getting these kids back into the classroom.

Melanie Smalley

Teacher Poll

When was the last time that you polled the teachers about coming back to school? Will you be polling them again as their feelings may have changed about re-opening schools and working in the classroom again?

Alex Kearney

Social/Emotional

How are you planning to address and handle the both short terms and long terms social and emotional effects virtual learning has had on our children? Why don't we see more support for educators to provide more SEL for our kids? Instead of jumping into math and reading assessments, we should be assessing the mental health of these kids.

Brittany kopec
Single Parents

What is being done to aid single parents? I cannot stay home with my child, as i work full time to support us. I cannot afford to send him to camp (\$250/wk). I am struggling a lot and all free or reduced camps have been full for months.

Cheralyn Baker
WCPSS - phase in Plan-B

As parents of a Wake County Public School Student, tax payers, a working mom, and essential employee dad, we implore you and Wake County Public School Board to make it your absolute priority to begin to phase in Plan B students beginning October 1st, 2020.

Educating our children is essential. These are the young adults of our future - WE are their only advocate. YOU were voted in to be their advocate! Their dad is an essential employee and goes to work without hesitation to ensure that the public is safe - it is his essential duty to protect. Our kids deserve better than what is currently being done. Please consider education and your position to advocate for our children, as ESSENTIAL.

Many other counties are making solid plans to get their children back to school. Wake County School Board needs to schedule an emergency meeting following this Tuesdays meeting to plan for the safe return of our children and faculty to school.

Please consider basing your decisions off the local information and resources from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, rather than the national media and news.

We need action and plans from the board with tangible dates

Elaine Mercil
Return to class and remote learning
To Whom it May Concern

Recent Covid numbers show that the elderly and most vulnerable are the ones still being impacted by Covid. I'd like to propose that all wake county schools open up safely and the county offer online learning to families that have elderly in their home or have underlying health conditions. Protect the weak and vulnerable while allowing families to go back to school. This would be extended to teachers and staff members that fall in the category.

Safely entails the following; masks be worn in busy hallways, daily temperature checks, hand washing, student participation in wiping down work areas, social distancing of 3 feet and each family signing a waiver releasing the school district of any all all liability should their student fall

ill. Parents donate wipes every year, let's have each child provide their own wipes/sanitizer that move with each student. If someone is infected by covid, the flu or any other virus there will be a scrub down of that class room within a 24 hour period and class will resume to physical learning after. All athletic programs should follow the same protocols and be reinstated immediately with spectators signing waivers and wearing masks at indoor events if they cannot social distance. Outdoor events and athletes do not wear masks and must pass a temperature check. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Julea danielson

2 high school level items still needed

Unfortunately it looks like high schoolers virtual all year. With this in mind.. please do two things. 1). Allow high school sports and clubs to begin immediately and 2) in the virtual high school world, only thing left for them is a prized gpa. If virtual is t working for kids, especially certain classes, we have to let them drop classes to preserve their gpa.. it's all this group has.

It is very sad wcpss is being held hostage to staying virtual by teachers and staff. Let's let them stay home and the kids go back to school to socialize and go to their classes.

Julea harless

Jim Martin blocking emails why?

Hi. I have sent a few emails this summer and noticed recently when I sent an email to Jim Martin I am blocked.. I talked to some others as well and they are blocked to.. how and why Can someone who holds a public office and a wcpss email block someone? The emails I have sent are not political, abusive, threatening, or anything else, simply he doesn't like my point of view. That is wrong and shouldn't be accepted.

Nicolas Celle

School Reopening and how virtual learning is not working

I am a wake county parent requesting that schools reopen with plan A or B right away. Other counties, states and countries are doing it as well as private schools, and it is extremely detrimental to our children and working parents to keep kids at home. Between technology issues and the fact that we have to work, it is simply impossible to keep children at home focused on school, and we are doing a disservice to our children and the future of our country by not sending them back. We need a date and an action plan. Covid is here to stay, we have to deal with it and waiting any longer is not an option. It never should have been, and I'm now hoping we can reverse this as soon as possible to limit any lasting impact on children, and families of people affected by this stay at home tragedy.

Valerie Gallagher

Re-opening schools in person

Please, please re-open the schools in person for Plan B students! Learning remotely is doing more harm than good for the students. They are depressed and need the social interaction and face to face learning!

Thursall Celle

Reopen school

Let those who selected in person go to in person school.

Children are missing out on:

- Real interactions with teachers and other adults in school
- Real interactions with other students, their peers
- Direct feedback on their work
- Review of written assignments
- Social learning
- Emotional growth

In many families, the children are left at home alone or have a parent who cannot help them with their work because they cannot lose their jobs. You are asking them to make impossible decisions.

Some children

- receive no adult supervision during the day,
- miss school meals,
- don't have anyone to help them with their work
- missing a laptop to do the work (sometimes not able to or using a phone)
- and do not have access to exercise/recess.

Their experience at home looks like an adult work day:

- 3 to 5 Live meetings where they "learn"
- practice time
- The teacher cannot always tell if they are paying attention. Teachers don't seem to even require the webcams to be on.
- The teacher ends up communicating feedback to the children through the parents. This has to be frustrating for the teachers.
- If the parents work out of the home, children are being left alone.
- If the parents work in the home, 10 – 30 minutes is the maximum the children can be left on their own without needing schedule or school help.

Stress and anxiety are skyrocketing in the adult population and the hardship of not sending kids to school just compounds that. Financial hardships, childcare situations, and learning how to be a 'facilitator' for the child's online learning, all add to stress and anxiety.

The solution should have been simple. Parents were given the option to attend Virtual Academy. The families that CHOSE to show up in person should have been allowed to do so. These parents did not make that decision lightly. They weighed their own situations and the news and risks of Coronavirus and made their decision. It was the best decision for the family and that decision has been taken away from them.

If truly 40% or more of families chose to stay virtual this year, we should have been able to find a way to send the remaining children back to school in person.

We owe it to our children to go back to school in person, the impacts listed in this letter are real, the damage will be real.

The ramifications on our economy and adult population are also long term and damaging.

Virtual learning is coming at way too high a cost for many. It is our sincere hope that the school board is doing all it can to get our students back in school.

Yamilka Cranford

In person school

What is the metric WCPSS is using to determine when in person learning can resume? Are we waiting for a cure? A vaccine? Can someone please explain what metric or number we are measuring on? Many schools have already opened, child care centers are open, what is the hold up for WCPSS? The psychological damage we are inflicting on our kids with remote "learning" is far greater than the risk of COVID. Please open the schools now!

Mandy Stone

Plan B - Return to school

- When will it be deemed safe for children to return to in person learning? I realize you may not be able to give a definitive date at this moment, but what will trigger their return? Is it meeting a certain metric on incidence of cases? Are you waiting to see if incidence rates increase in the fall/winter? Is there a date by which you are certain we will continue to be virtual (i.e. through the end of the year)?
- Is Plan B actually feasible? Are there enough teachers to support the virtual option and a hybrid approach to returning to schools? Is there enough money to support the additional safety measures that need to be in place in order for everyone to return to school safely?
- Are you benchmarking against other counties throughout the state, nation and even internationally to learn how people are successfully returning to school? What are some of the plausible solutions you feel Wake County can use to get our children back to school? Would you consider moving people from their assigned school to other schools to help spread out the students enough to properly social distance (i.e. move folks from a

school at 80% capacity to a 20% capacity to have adequate space)? How are we thinking outside of the box to come up with a solution to this problem?

Victoria Jager

Opening schools

Please open schools. My children are suffering at home with the lack of socializing. Their mental health is suffering and are having a difficult time learning. They spend hours on line and then I still have to explain the curriculum to them after class time. Luckily I am able to do so; I'm sure there's many who can't/won't. Our low income families are suffering. I have heard one argument against opening is the teachers don't want to open. Since when do teachers have a say when schools open? I'm pretty sure they didn't check with the cashiers at the grocery store when they made the decision to stay open during the entire pandemic (and there's been no news stories of large number of employees falling ill). If teachers don't want to work, they quit. Many, many professions have returned/continue to work every day. We need our schools opened. There are many people going to vote in new board members if schools don't open soon. Listen to parents who want schools open. VA is still an option for parents who aren't comfortable but parents who want their kids to learn in person have no options. Open schools with A and B days so that teachers can do their job.

Ann Whitaker

Reopen school

Six months is too long to not have a plan and to leave our youth at risk. They're home alone, sent away from their family, committing suicide, crime, depressed, stressed. Our children should come first not last. Private schools are full. My husband and I have never missed a day of work, working overtime in healthcare, and taking pay cuts. We fulfill our obligations to our community. Zero children have died of Covid. They are suffering because of your fear and ineptitude. Do the right thing or step down and hire someone who knows how to get the job done.

Amy Smith

Opening Schools

On August 31, a close friend of mine had her son overdose due to depression from no school. Straight A student, star of the soccer team. What we need is a definitive plan on reopening...give these kids something to look forward to. I won't bore you with stats - we have all seen them that support opening schools. And look at Gwinnett County in GA - the 13th largest school system in the country is open. Stop making excuses of no transportation, not enough teachers. Poll the parents again, I guarantee you will find enough parents willing to drive their kids to school if it meant they get to go back.

Emily Selfe

Schools reopening

Parents needs to be given an actual timeframe for schools returning to in person learning. This guessing game is not an acceptable solution to this problem for parents trying to plan childcare,

therapies, work schedules, appts, etc. If other school districts, daycares and childcare facilities can open safely then so can WCPSS. Otherwise you are proving your incompetence by not being able to create an effective plan.

Holly Johnson

Re-open schools

Please don't let something as important as our schools be the last thing to re-open in Wake County. It is time to return to the classroom. I'm asking that the board urgently provide a detailed plan for a return to in-person learning this semester. Please provide parents with specific steps and dates and as much information as possible on this process.

Karen Brown

Return to in person learning

We opted for the transition B plan with the hope that we would return to in person learning sooner rather than later. I am a working mom but have had a few days off to see how things are going with remote learning. Children are not developmentally ready or capable to effectively learn and stay engaged in this setting, at least not at the elementary and middle school level. There are too many distractions at home and it is too sedentary To keep them sharp and engaged on screen. I work in healthcare and I believe that teachers are as essential as healthcare workers as they are helping to shape the futures of these children. I think they are doing the best they can with the current situation, but it is just simply not going to be as effective as in person learning. I fear there are so many kids who are already falling behind. Other schools, private schools here and public schools in other states, that have successfully gone back to in person learning without any significant ill effects. It's fantastic that we have a choice of virtual academy or in person learning, but please let us actually have that choice, and allow the students and the teachers to do what they do the best. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nuyasha Forbes

Virtual School

Virtual School Is really stressful and I beyond my learning ability and i just feel like since everyone is out of school and some parents are out of work, they have to worry about bills, keeping a roof over their head and putting food on the table.

Kasey Wright

Please open schools for our children to resume in person learning

I wanted to take a moment to write you on behalf of my family and our district (1). I know you have been faced with difficult decisions on the school year but we as families of Wake County Schools are facing immense hardships daily as a result of these choices. We were given a choice to send our children or not and those who didn't want to opted for virtual. Those of us who chose Plan B had that option stripped from us shortly after. I am a full time +working

parent who is also trying to keep two small businesses alive all while trying to make sure that my 3 children a Sophomore, a 7th grader and a kindergartner complete their school work. I was forced to send my youngest back to her daycare for their virtual assistance program at \$250/week because that was the least restrictive environment for her to learn in. I should not be in this position, period. I went that route under the guise that it would only be a few weeks til she could attend in the classroom and now we are facing unknown number of months with no end in sight or a plan in place. If the daycare can run successfully without a single issue since March and those teachers and children can co exist without problems than so can our schools. Even with their assistance, I have a 5 year old who was beyond excited to go to school and learn who is now in tears near daily, not wanting to log back on to her school. She is expected to log in and out of meetings 4-5 times a day, use now 4 different softwares on a computer to do and submit her work. This is ridiculous and heart breaking. They are 5!!!! Her teacher has been amazing and this is not to say they aren't doing their best. I know these teachers are working harder than ever but so our our children. They need to be back in school daily. Last week alone my K student missed half of her days because of technology errors from the county for their links, how is this learning?

Schools around the country have resumed in class learning and are doing great!, the Private schools here in wake county are back and doing great, other districts in our state are back or are headed back this month. The numbers are better and the ENTIRE purpose of the quarantine was to not overwhelm our hospitals and they never were and as of this week reported their lowest # of cases in the hospitals. We need to make changes and now. The anxiety, depression and isolation that my children and all the other children are going through is very real and very much a higher risk to their health and life than the virus.

Please advocate for our children and follow the advice of the local pediatricians who all say it is safe to return to school. It has been 8 months, 8 months since they have attended in person learning.

Our children and families are suffering and they should not have to bear the burden of the lack of plan to return to the classroom.

Ashlie Holt

Return to School

The Board needs to provide a SPECIFIC, Comprehensive plan for students to return to school. All of the science supports children going back to school. Additionally, sports need to be allowed. Responses from the school board to my emails have been canned and generic - You are elected officials whose responsibility it is to have a solid plan in place to get kids back in school. So far, there does not seem to be any progress. Please provide what metrics you are looking at, dates for return, and staffing situation with teachers.

Jo Stephen

Safe Reopening of Our Schools

Please advise on your plans for reopening WCPSS schools. Our positive cases % is below 5% on a 7 day rolling average (and has been for few days now). Our cases are going down. Many counties within NC are publishing dates to open in plan B. The virtual education we are receiving is substandard with younger kids spending hours of time in front of laptop screens and trying to figure out how to type up a response on a keyboard (is typing even something you considered when designing this educational plan for K-5?). This is subpar to in-person at school learning proper for each age group- with pencil in hand and with proper social interactions for youngsters. Many parents, including myself, are considering private education system which will only defund further WCPSS. We need firm and transparent plans and clear communication of thereof on how our kids will go back to schools. I ask that you address this in your board meeting and publicly share your plans and firm dates.

Daniel Perini

Back to School

How much longer are we going to continue to deprave our children of a real education? I have a kindergartner, second and fourth grader. The online schooling is not suitable for these ages and it breaks my heart to see all of the students struggling and not receiving a true education. These kids need to be in school developing the social and interactive skills that the lower grade levels provide.

Most Charter and Private Schools are back in full swing with no shutdowns. Give parents a choice, stop forcing your decisions down our throats and let us make our own. You are destroying these kids futures and their happiness. Everyone talks about social equality. By keeping public schools closed you are only making that gap bigger. Those that have the money or that are fortunate to get into the Charters via the lottery are going to be the ones with the biggest advantage. Again, I will ask - Why are you making the decision for us? Do you honestly believe that keeping students out of school is going to ""slow"" the spread? Every one of us is out grocery shopping, playing sports, going to parks, banks, car shopping, weddings, vacations, restaurants - the list goes on. With all of that happening how can you look in the mirror and claim that school is not 100% essential? Give parents the choice and let's get our children back in school.

Sylvia Hamm

Reopen Schools

The original purpose of closing the schools down was to help flatten the curve and to keep our hospitals from being over run, well, this has been achieved for quite sometime now. Children that do not have the privilege of having a tutor are falling behind. I don't expect WCPSS to be babysitters, but at the same time, I didn't budget I need to hire a tutor, when my hard earned tax dollars are going to the county for just this. Mentally, kids are wore out, and they don't have the patience to stare at a screen for hours. As a parent, I can't keep up with the different platforms that I need to login daily to ensure my child is completing everything; google classroom, seesaw, lexia, dreambox, epic books etc. Many schools have gone back, WCPSS should be reaching out to those schools for ideas. I would like a plan implemented that gets them back in

the classroom by the end of October. The size of WCPSS seems to be too large for the current administration to handle, maybe discussion should be made to break up Wake County into districts.

What are the metrics that must be met for children to go back to school?

Since FLU seasons can bring positivity rates above 20%, what is the metric the school shuts down for the seasonal flu?

Last Comment- teachers are doing a amazing job with their current situation.

Christina Pasternak

Return to School

As our state remains in the Red in regards to COVID, it does not feel safe to make a decision that forces staff and students to return to school buildings. There has been no consistent improvement, and news of outbreaks at daycares and universities daily. It is my opinion that it will also take a lot more time to ensure a safe return. Infrastructure for this does not even seem to be remotely in place yet. Waiting until January feels like the smartest and safest decision.

Cheryl Johnson

Reopening Schools

I urge the board to address bringing students back into classrooms. We live in a world full of viruses, bacteria, & germs. We can NOT live in a bubble forever. We can NOT continue to live in fear. Our kids DESERVE better than what they are getting with remote learning. REOPEN SCHOOLS!

Shannon May

Move to Plan B/Schools reopening

As a parent of two students, one in kindergarten and one in third grade at Olive Chapel elementary, I strongly urge for the reopening of schools under Plan B effective October 1, 2020. The mental and physical health of the students and our families as a whole will be in peril should the schools not open very soon. Although I applaud the efforts of the teachers and staff within WCPSS in regard to the virtual learning, it is clear that it is not effective and is even promoting regression and immense frustration on a daily basis. It seems there is an attempt to "over teach" students due to the condensed schedule. This is proving to be very harmful to their learning. I have communicated this to my elected school board member as well. I hope you consider this for the well-being of our children. Thank you.

Michelle McWilliams

Kids must go back to school

We have been having a very difficult time with virtual learning and I can tell that this format is going to be a disaster for my young children. The teachers are engaged and doing a great job so far. However, children NEED the structure of learning in a classroom. In school, my Kindergartner last year excelled. She loved school and quickly picked up the basics of how to read. 10 minutes into a google classroom meeting, now she is already completely disengaged. I'm spending my entire day having to keep my kids on track and oversee every little thing they do. This is NOT sustainable. These young, formative years are setting the tone for rest of their school career. If a kid learns that school is boring and is disengaged, it is going to be more challenging for them as they complete middle and high school. We NEED our kids to love school and be engaged. We NEED them to have in-person learning.

50% of parents roughly chose VA because they desired that their children stay at home. They were given that choice. They were not forced to have their children come to school. Those of us that chose Plan B did so because we wanted our children IN school. And then the School Board took away our choice. This is unacceptable, especially to do so while giving us NO plan of when we can return. We pay tax dollars for the system to educate our children in a building. We do not wish to educate our children at home or largely by ourselves. In taking the Governor's executive action to implement Plan B and putting further constraints on it, you have placed an ENORMOUS burden on us parents. Frankly, you have placed an ENORMOUS burden on children also who do not learn well in this format.

I have also seen through my own personal conversations as well as many social media platforms that many teachers WANT to go back. They were given the option to teach in the VA and many that did not feel comfortable chose that option. The in-person teachers want to teach in person. As the voices of those that want to go back get louder, it is clear that the Board cannot continue to use teachers as the excuse of why we can't return to school.

I'm sure that many parents are already emailing you about how our Covid metrics in Wake County have been trending down for quite some time. The fact that college students decided to congregate for frat parties and cases went up is NOT an excuse to keep my elementary school children at home. My children will not be attending frat parties. They will be following the safe guidelines put into practice by our schools.

The School Board was elected by parents to serve parents. You have listened to 50% of parents and given them exactly what they want. But, you are ignoring the other 50% that reasonably expect our children to go to school. We want our children in school. It's the best for us and it's the best for our children. If there are any among you that feel that our children need to be in school NOW (but ABSOLUTELY no later than Oct 22), please speak up. Please be the louder voice and stand up for the parents that you serve. We DESERVE answers and a concrete plan.

Laurinda Dooley
Reopen WCPSS buildings for K-12 in person education

As a parent of a middle school child, we need the school buildings open now for face to face learning. My child has not been in the school building for 7 months and it is putting him behind in his education. The data does not support keeping the schools shuttered any longer. Plan B parents want our kids back in the school building now.

Jennifer Turner

Opening schools back up

I am a very concerned parent of a 5th and 6th grade. My children have always done well in school and my son is in the AIG math program. This year they are both failing all of their core classes. My husband and I work full time and I do the best I can working with them in the evenings. They continue to miss assignments because the teachers post in different sights. They are flipping back and forth between screens, all while watching their classmates twirl around in their chairs. This system is not working and we are failing our kids. Most nights they up screaming and crying. I am a firm believer that this also a very important part of their social and emotional health that is lacking from not seeing their peers. I have several friends that work in the private school sector and they were terrified of going back to school, but now they say how well it is working. My other concern is that parents that can afford private school are pulling their kids out of public school which is going to leave the public school system with fewer resources. And I simply do not understand how it is safe for parents to send their kids to camp on school property and pay for the camp, but they are not allowed to be at school. The Public school system is failing our children and I beg to reopen schools for the sake of our children and the entire family unit.

Rachel Macko

Mental Health Impact of Plan A

I am a parent of a 2nd grader and 5th grader at Vance Elementary School. My husband and I both work full-time and, like many WCPSS parents, have struggled to adjust to Remote Learning. Absorbing the additional childcare costs (that equal our mortgage payment!) is just one of the challenges we have faced.

I am a Clinical Social Worker with a private psychotherapy practice in Fuquay Varina. I am proud to advocate for phasing back to in-person learning as soon as possible. I am writing to plead with each and every one of you to please consider the mental health needs of our community when you are making your decision. I serve local adults with mood, anxiety and trauma disorders. I am on the front line of our community's mental health and wanted to provide my recent observations:

My clients are WCPSS parents, grandparents, teachers and administrators. My #1 observation across the board is the rapid spread of learned helplessness. The Oxford Languages Dictionary defines learned helplessness as ""a condition in which a person suffers from a sense of powerlessness, arising from a traumatic event or persistent failure to succeed. It is thought to be one of the underlying causes of depression.""

Our community is NOT Ok. I have teachers crying throughout their entire session, as they ventilate about feeling ineffective as a teacher and are overwhelmed by the demands of Remote Learning. My clients that are administrators can no longer find the time to engage in therapy to address their escalating anxiety disorders, as they work hard to try to support their teachers and staff. Parents and grandparents are constantly sharing their anxiety that their children/grandchildren are falling behind (or that they eventually WILL fall behind). Parents feel that they are failing their children because they do not have enough hours in the day to work and also provide Remote Learning support. Constant questions arise about whether they made the right decision to do Virtual Academy, Plan B, switch to a private, charter or home school. Parents are watching their children overeat to cope with the stress of online learning, feel self-conscious on screen and shut down, become more socially isolated, etc. I see a sense of powerless and overwhelming sadness from so many angles.

It should be no surprise that depression is significantly associated with more disengaged, negative and hostile parenting. Also, depression in parents is associated with higher rates of depression in their children. Again, our community's mental health will continue to suffer if our schools do not open.

Please consult with local mental health professionals as you make critical decisions about phasing back to in-person learning. I am happy to connect you with local pediatric and adolescent psychotherapists if that is a barrier to gathering necessary information.

Tonya Brady

Kids going back to the classroom under Plan B
Here is a letter that I recently sent to Dr. Martin.

Dr Martin-

I hope you are well. You have been so kind and responsive in the past and I truly appreciate it.

I just want to know when the board meetings will be open again for parent feedback. Even if not in person, I feel there needs to be a time where parents can voice their concerns regarding all remote learning directly to board members.

My girls are seniors at MCHS and I know that over fifty percent of the student body has opted for the virtual academy option. With only half of our normal student body actually attending school, it would seem reasonable that the rest of the students should be able to come back for on campus learning. I know that it is not feasible for everyone to be there at once right now but it seems that we could send our kids in smaller rotating groups. Even the governor approved this option

What parameters are in place to determine when it will be safe to do so? I know other states with modified schedules have extremely specific metrics.

The AAP has clearly stated how bad keeping kids at home is for their emotional health. Many children depend on schools for a safe environment as well as nutritious meals. From what the news is reporting, there are many children that still do not have the technology they need to complete school so these kids are falling behind.

My girls can do work on their own but are missing their senior year of high school. I have many friends with young children who are struggling to work and help their children with school. Many children are attending these learning centers that are popping up everywhere. How is that more safe than the kids attending school? We also have opened dance studios, fitness facilities and bowling allies but yet don't have our kids in schools.

I know that we are all hopeful that a vaccine is coming. What happens if the vaccine is not as effective as we anticipate? At some point we all have to adopt to a new normal of wearing masks, taking temps, social distancing and washing hands. If all of these parameters are put in place our kids should be able to safely attend school. If there is no vaccine are we never going back to school?

I hope that the board will listen to and address parent concerns for the emotional well being of our children who want to return to school.

Thank you.

Tonya Brady

Sent from my iPhone

Ashley Self

Reopening wake county schools

My son, Robert Ethan Self, is a 3rd grader at Wakefield Elementary. He has always been a star student, eager to learn & always a joy in class. Since COVID has prevented him to be in the classroom he has regressed tremendously, not only academically, but socially as well. His confidence is taking a big hit because he is having such a hard time with the testing and retaining the lessons. He has headaches from the constant screen time and misses his friends and WES staff. We have been SO impressed with Mrs. Mercado, she is doing her best to keep the kids engaged and supporting them!! But this is not working for my son. If we can not get back face to face I am left with no other options than to pull him from WCPSS and find another option for his education. I hope the school board will do their very best to get these children back to face to face instruction!

David Knecht

Ventilation and reopening schools.

My question is about school HVAC systems and their filtering capabilities. Since most school windows do not open it seems students and staff are dependent on the efficiency of the school filtration system. Is there any plan to improve them to the minimum recommended by the CDC, MERV 13? Note that "Meets or Exceeds Industry Standards" is not the same as "Meets minimum standards established by the CDC". Also, I eyeballed the filters in my school a couple of weeks ago and they are only MERV 10.

Jennifer Turner

Opening schools back up

I am a very concerned parent of a 5th and 6th grade. My children have always done well in school and my son is in the AIG math program. This year they are both failing all of their core classes. My husband and I work full time and I do the best I can working with them in the evenings. They continue to miss assignments because the teachers post in different sights. They are flipping back and forth between screens, all while watching their classmates twirl around in their chairs. This system is not working and we are failing our kids. Most nights they up screaming and crying. I am a firm believer that this also a very important part of their social and emotional health that is lacking from not seeing their peers. I have several friends that work in the private school sector and they were terrified of going back to school, but now they say how well it is working. My other concern is that parents that can afford private school are pulling their kids out of public school which is going to leave the public school system with fewer resources. And I simply do not understand how it is safe for parents to send their kids to camp on school property and pay for the camp, but they are not allowed to be at school. The Public school system is failing our children and I beg to reopen schools for the sake of our children and the entire family unit.

Julie Kruse-John

Plea to reopen schools

Ms Moore-

Thank you for your hard work in what I am confident is likely the most challenging times of your career. There is no need to set a background here as we all know what we are dealing with. I will share that I had little anxiety about virtual schooling as I received my post graduate degree in that manner. I'm aware of the flexibility and uniqueness it can bring. However, this is not my family's experience and from what I gather in the growing rumble of our community, it is not the experience of many.

I implore you to advocate for our families due to the following:

- The virtual schedule is rigid. My home has 5 children on 4 different schedules. Two do not have a lunch break and no two schedules align for my children to have lunch together. I own two businesses that I am attempting to run in a hybrid manner so I can be with my children. Jumping through these schedules is impossible. Children need guidance through their day, not

a mother who is overworked, can't afford help for them, and can't be available during the few minutes they are incongruently given.

-The virtual schedule is long. My high schoolers seem to fair ok with these hours but my 9 year old does not. Asking children this young to sit in front of a laptop for 6+ hours a day is irresponsible and unhealthy. They are slouching, hunched over, backs bent, eyes squinting, and overall physically miserable.

-Kids need kids- Three of my children are social beings who thrive off interacting with their peers. They are now experiencing symptoms of depression, lack of energy and motivation, increased screen time (in addition to the laptops) and overall lethargy. We are involved in private sports which has been their only saving grace.

-School lunch is at school- my children are not. The only way for my children to access the lunch we financially qualify to receive is for me to leave my job and my kids alone to go drive to the school to get it. We are fortunate that I can do that. There is zero chance that all families can.

-Multiple platforms. Technology is amazing. But, between the 5 kids I have to follow google classroom for 4, canvas for 1, parent talk for 2, email for 5, PikMyKid for 1, bloomz for 1 and I'm sure I've forgotten something just as my adolescent students often forget which platform to sign in on, check in on, watch this one but read that one, create slideshows over here but flipgrids over there. It's. Too. Much.

-Our family dynamic is suffering. This, Ms Moore, this is where I'm begging for help. I love my children to my core as most mothers do. I love being the person they tell their day to, their struggles to, their highs and lows to at dinner. I am their safe space. I am home.....not anymore.....this school year I am their schedule driver, their algebra teacher, their crash course on paper writing tutor. I am their chore reminder, their all day authority, their email receiving time to nag at them task enforcer. I am their exhausted, scared for them, overworked, over stressed, threadbare mother who is done with this. Most importantly, I am the only advocate for these 5 amazing humans and I am demanding this county immediately stop damaging my children and family.

Please share my words next Tuesday. Please reopen our schools. Please do right by these children.

Julie Kruse-John

(Son 15yo Heritage HS, daughter 14yo Heritage HS, daughter 11yo Rolesville MS, daughter 9yo Sanford Creek ES, daughter 3yo)

919.349.7580

Jessica Malinauskas

Reopening/Plan B

Good evening! First of all, I'd like to thank you for taking the time to read my email. I'm sure you're being inundated with them at this time. As a former WCPSS teacher myself, I cannot imagine the amount of time, tears, and sleepless nights those working for the county have endured during all of this. So, thank you.

I am writing in an effort to voice my concerns over the reopening plans for our county. My son is in kindergarten at Sanford Creek this year. His first experience with public school, and although his teacher (Margaret "Christie" Heynen) has been PHENOMENAL (yes, ALL caps!) he is not enjoying one bit of "school." My happy, energetic, optimistic 5 year old is crying daily, complaining of headaches, and is begging me to not make him "sit at the computer." My mama heart is breaking a little more each day watching his demeanor deteriorate. This is not what anyone wanted for their children, and we are stuck between a rock and a hard place, but I feel we are now at a point where we need to weigh the real risks. We chose Plan B at the beginning of the school year, and when we were told it would be Plan C for everyone, we took it in stride. We told ourselves it would be temporary, we would "make do," and we would stay the course with public school because we believe in the public school system. After a month in Plan C it is more than obvious that it is not the best plan for our son (as well as many others). I think it is time to consider moving into Plan B with hopes of eventually returning to Plan A. Our children need it. As for those who are more at risk and/or who feel that Plan C is the better option for their family, I fully support them. But those of us that have children suffering under Plan C, we would like an option too.

Thank you for all of your efforts,
Jessica Malinauskas
Charlie's Mom

Laura Hejl
Reopen Schools

We need more information about the plan for bringing students back into the classroom and we need this to be a plan that is being implemented soon. The current format of online learning is meant to be a temporary workaround and is not satisfying the needs of the students and families who attend schools in this district.

The CDC says we should get kids back in the classroom.

The AAP says we should get kids back in the classroom.

Parents all over the county want their kids back in the classroom.

No one is asking you to force the entire community to go back. The individuals who are at high risk can and should remain in their homes, via the Virtual Academy. This should apply to both teachers and students.

Schools are essential, and they should be open for business just like other essential providers like financial institutions, grocery stores, and hospitals.

The data supports a return to school. Science supports a return to school. The short and long term effects of not going to school are well documented, and it's unacceptable that you, WCPSS, are standing by and allowing our community of students to fall victim to these effects when it could be entirely avoided. We should be actively attending as we are able to in the plan B schedule so that when the state moves to Phase 3 we are able to immediately step into plan A and attend school full time.

I have heard my children's teachers allude to the difficulty of teaching in an online setting, their inability to fully engage with all of the children because many of the students are not able to be on camera, many times due to the variety of technology issues that are being experienced across the district. This is not okay.

Parents are being forced to scramble for alternative care settings for their children, trying to find suppliers who can support the remote learning. Not every household can be home all day to monitor remote education. Thankfully there are options. YMCA, Wake County Parks and Recreation, Daycare centers. These places are open. These places are fully functioning with their protocols in place to prevent spread of COVID. How can our schools not do the same?

I've heard it might be a bussing issue. I've heard it's not a bussing issue. What is the real problem? I'm beginning to think the real problem is that WCPSS simply doesn't want to open the schools and provide the education that our children need and deserve.

Please, work to find a solution. You have a community of families who want what is best for their children, which is to get back in the classroom.

Emily Shelton

The Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance should be recited each school day.

Monica Wilkerson

Virtual Learning

As a teacher and teacher leader, I must share the frustrations and appreciation of the teachers at my school, specifically my department.

1. We are frustrated by the possibility of going back in the building at the beginning of flu season. As teachers and parents, we are not fond of virtual learning, but we understand the dangers of COVID-19 to ourselves, our families, and our students and desire everyone to be safe first and foremost. Coming into the building to satisfy the cries of anxious parents does not mean the crisis has magically improved. Have the air filtration systems in school buildings been upgraded? Have zero tolerance enforcement policies been put in place for staff and students who violate safety procedures? Is there training designed for all concerned to make safety protocols clear and hopefully effective? At least six teachers in the US have died from COVID-19; I don't want anyone from our district added to the list.

2. Teachers appreciate the 40 minute minimum for classes and other flexible aspects of the schedule. However, between class time and actual work, we, students and teachers, need an asynchronous day to stay abreast of their responsibilities and manage our screen time. We are drowning, and that is not an exaggeration.

Thank you for listening to our concerns. We will be even more grateful if you adjust our daily and future schedules accordingly. We need these assurances and changes to make a stressful situation better for all.

Randa Bordelon
Pledge of Allegiance

Dear Current Wake BOE Members & Superintendent Moore,

Many parents are not happy that WCPSS has not been following NC law which requires the daily Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag while the American flag is displayed. This is not difficult to do in the online environment. Since covid began, WCPSS leadership and many teachers have used it as an opportunity to push their own personal political agendas, which includes disrespecting America, and omitting the daily pledge of allegiance to our country. Some teachers have even started displaying their own made-up versions of the flag that are not at all accurate. These same teachers have taken it upon themselves to revise the official American Pledge of Allegiance removing the words, "Under God: and promoting a new version of the pledge to children. Perhaps WCPSS leadership is telling teachers to omit "Under God?" I'm sorry, but WCPSS does not get to revise the official words to the American Pledge of Allegiance, though it is crystal clear you would like to do so. Other teachers are just providing a link to a recording and telling students the link is there if they want to click on it. Live synchronous time must be reserved for the daily pledge at the beginning of the school day.

The fact that you have not required the pledge now since covid, is unacceptable. Please advise the community publicly that you will follow North Carolina law and require your teachers to recite the proper pledge of Allegiance to the official American flag of the United States, each morning in class. WCPSS is not exempt from state laws, though it is abundantly clear you believe that you are. It is obvious to many parents that the current WCPSS leadership places zero importance on bringing kids together as Americans. It is clear that you wish to divide children by race, with your anti-"whiteness" teacher training agendas and curriculum, facilitated by your \$1.6 million Office of Equity Affairs budget and \$6 million on OEA over the past six years. I pray those of you who are up for re-election get voted out, and that Wake county residents elect a new academics-focused BOE who wants to unite, rather than divide.

Ginger E Cannon
Return Athletic Workouts to Wake County Public High Schools
IMPORTANT: As a Mother and supporter of general public health, I wrote the petition that has been signed by nearly 1500 people. We all look forward to hearing of a Wake County Return of Athletic workouts decision in the near future.

Please allow the return of Wake County on-campus athletic activity for high school student-athletes. While we understand that games will not happen this fall, we encourage the Wake County School board to consider a return to athletic workouts under NCHSAA guidance. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools have announced a phased return to athletic workouts for student-athletes at CMS high school facilities beginning as early as Sept. 14, 2020. We would like to request the same approach and schedule for Wake County.

This decision should be made with the input and influence of the parents and students who will be directly affected. We ask that the parents be a part of this process as taxpayers, voters, citizens and the people whom our school officials should be accountable to.

Below are the reasons we are requesting a return to high school athletics:

PSYCHOLOGICAL

- o Reduce Financial Inequalities - Lack of school provided activities have families directly paying for athletics. Not all families can afford these additional expenses, causing inequalities in sports competition or additional financial hardships.
- o Prevent Scholarship Loss - The lack of games for skill demonstration puts essential scholarships at risk for some families.
- o Provide Domestic Support - When students are quarantined away from others, domestic issues may go unnoticed. Once athletes return to a group environment, a system of coach interest and team support may help discern & prevent issues.
- o Protect Mental Health - Quarantine isolations have caused increased anxiety & depression across society. Athletics would provide an opportunity for high school students to reduce these concerns.

PHYSICAL:

- o Reduce Virus Spread - Since many athletes must now train with outside groups, athletes are exposed to multiple contagion factors (various teams, venues, coaches etc.) which are actually increasing risks to the community. School led practices will ensure all mandates are followed. Any outbreaks would be contained to the same group of students.
- o Reduce "Detraining" Injuries - Continued lack of regular training and exercise may lead to increased injuries once athletics do resume. There must be enough training time before any competition begins to prevent these injuries. The irony is that the precautions taken to keep everyone "safe" are actually leading some kids to become unhealthy.
- o Risk Balance - The risk of a high school student dying from Covid-19 is <1%. This is much less than other risks encountered by teens. If all of life's Risk factors were required to be eliminated from high school activities, could athletics ever be brought back?
- o Precedence Demonstrated - Many other states and counties have already allowed high school sports to resume. There have been no major outbreaks thus far. An additional issue is that Wake County is now losing key athletes to these states.

Jeff Cannon

Return Athletic Workouts to Wake County Public High Schools

Dear WCPSS School Board and Athletic Director,

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- o Reduce Financial Inequalities - Lack of school provided activities have families directly paying for athletics. Not all families can afford these additional expenses, causing inequalities in sports competition or additional financial hardships.
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Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our community's well being - both psychological and physical. We look forward to hearing of a Wake County Return of Athletic workouts decision in the near future.

John McCon
Starting School Sports

This is a plea to the school board and the state to start back with school sports. The mental and physical health of the student athlete declines exponentially every day you wait. Sports are not mandatory, no one who is compromised or afraid has to come back. There is an overwhelming majority of parents, students and coaches are ready to return. This is only group of people to whom you have given no choice. Respectfully, let them play.

Chase Crafton
Adding a Weekly Asynchronous School Day

We are in a time period of our lives that is unknown. We are supposed to be providing grace to our students and staff. We need to have at least one asynchronous day a week for staff to be able to plan with their teams to provide our students with the best possible education during these hard times. Parents, students, and staff are tired from staring at a computer screen for 7 and a half hours each day. The amount of screen time has caused migraines, bad eye sight, and other potential health issues. Schools need an asynchronous day a week to be able to breathe and catch up. Students are behind on work and have so much of it because we have shortened class periods. Teachers are being forced to work on weekends and past our contract hours because our planning periods are full of meetings and being utilized for other things. There is no time for anything. We need an asynchronous day to be able to prepare for all this within our contracted time; not during our time when we've been told to practice self care. We can't.

- A tired teacher.

Stephanie Armstrong
open the schools under plan b

I have a kindergartener and a second grader. They need and want to be in school and miss it very much. My 2nd grader is doing well but focuses much better in a classroom. My heart

breaks seeing my kindergartener in this virtual environment as his introduction to elementary school. He is having a very difficult time focusing and this is most certainly not the kindergarten year we had hoped for him. Thank goodness my Mom helps me because their two schedules are so different and I wouldn't be able to properly help and give them the attention they deserve if it weren't for my Mom. We remain in Wake County schools only because we can't afford private schools where we would have a choice to go in person or not. I'm very disappointed in Wake County schools that we aren't given a choice to go to school like we requested (plan b) and are instead having to do virtual learning full time at home with no end in sight. Get it together and get these kids back in school where they belong. Their mental health continues to deteriorate the longer you keep them out of school. Our kids deserve better!!

Amy Green-Welsh

Return of fall sports

The kids need their coaches and teams!! The prolonged social distancing and virtual learning platform is detrimental to their academic development and physical well-being. Isolation is hurting them not helping them. They need their coaches and team mates!! They should not be short-changed because they are in a public school! Structured conditioning in a supervised, team environment is vital for their physical and emotional health.

Carrie Seck

Return Athletic Workouts to Wake County Public High Schools

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Carey Moore

Allow HS Fall Workouts to resume immediately

Our children have lost and suffered enough during this pandemic. There is so much anger and division within our country that it is a toxic environment. Sports is a healthy outlet mentally and physically that unites people and brings them together. Our children need sports back in their lives.

Julie Tuttle

Return to sports in WCPSS

For the psychological & physical well being of our children, please allow them to return to sports ASAP, regardless of whether they are back in the classroom. These children need something to look forward to, they need socialization and they need structure. Please allow these children to participate in sports. It is safe and it is time.

Sherry Barker

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Erin Blaesing

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Sarah Segard

Return to workouts

Please consider a return to workouts for our students. These kids are struggling at home with NO interaction from other students. Please take into account their mental health as well. My daughter is a well rounded junior who is involved in many clubs, plays volleyball, track and manages other sports. She is ranked #1 academically and works hard all year! She always been stable emotionally but I have noticed a major change in her demeanor during this shut down. We are looking into counseling to help her during these stressful changes. These kids need a sense of normal and workouts could help. They really need to be IN school but that's another issue. The numbers have dropped for covid so stop holding these hostage in their homes. Many other schools are already back and we should too. Thank you.

Jen O'Loughlin

Return Athletic Workouts to Wake County Public High Schools

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Carlin O'Brien

Resuming sports work outs

Hello, I am a parent of a high school senior, sophomore and middle schooler. All 3 kids have been greatly effected by this pandemic socially and mentally. While they have tried to have a good attitude, I can see each day their mental health draining from being stuck in the house everyday, only being allowed to be with the people they live with. We had made the most out of time together as a family, however its time. My senior even said "we live the same day, everyday. Get up, do school, homework, sleep." Allowing them to work out with their friends and coaches would do so much good. We walk around my neighborhood and see soccer, baseball, basketball, lacrosse travel teams and rec kids playing. They are playing on school grounds. High school sports are the only ones being penalized right now and its unfair. I applaud the effort to keep our kids safe, but they need a sense of normalcy, especially the seniors. Please, for their sakes, allow them to at least practice. Some of these kids are so dedicated they are making home made equipment just to stay in shape. We are blessed to have access to equipment but not all kids do. It is a proven fact that exercise is essential for strong mental health. These senior's have had so much taken away, its been almost 7 months, its time to give them something.

Stephen A MISENCIK

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Wendy Wright
Athletics
Please bring back athletics for our children!!

Michelle Mueller
Return to sports
Please return workouts and sports

Aubrey DiOrio

Reopening schools

I'm a first grade teacher in the virtual academy. I'm teleworking because it isn't safe to work in the school building yet. It isn't safe to open schools. Our positive testing rates are still showing rapid community spread. We have more cases now than we did when schools were shut down in March. It's not time to set a date. It is time to discuss a metric, such as less than 3% positive testing for 2 weeks. If we can put the responsibility of reopening schools on the community to do their part to slow the spread, we will be in a much better place for a safe reopening. We also need clearly communicated plans for when there are cases at a school and when community testing increases. We can't just wait and see, we need a plan to protect students and staff.

In short, set a metric not a date. Have a plan for when it is no longer safe for people to be in school buildings.

Renee H Taylor

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Jenny McClendon

Safety and mental/physical well being of students

These students are suffering. I'm seeing it right before my eyes. Some of these kids are getting into trouble - ones that were in school supervised all day and then again supervised for two more hours at practice after school. I don't know about you, but I am tired of sitting back and getting frustrated when I'm seeing other counties with sports practicing plans happening. Basing my opinion on true statistics, I highly believe quality of life and the mental and physical health of our high school students overrides the very very low risk of becoming sick with this virus.

Gray Carlin

Wake County Athletics

Kids need a healthy outlet and to be active. The activities and lifestyles of inactivity are detrimental mentally and physically. Families who want to participate should be able. It is each family's choice.

Julie Coveleski

Unequitable education

My name is Julie Coveleski and I am a 4th grade teacher at Wakefield Elementary School. As you probably already know, Wakefield Elementary has one of the highest Free and Reduced Lunch populations in Wake County.

We just finished week 4 of remote learning and I believe the most vocal teachers you are hearing from are the ones that are wanting to remain virtual for various reasons. As I am entering my 14th year as an educator, I feel an obligation to speak up for the critical reasons we need to return back to the classroom face to face. The children I teach are logging onto class with so much noise in the background, it's almost impossible for them to hear instruction. Many are trying desperately to participate in an environment that is not conducive to learning. Their voices are drowned out by babies screaming, additional siblings, and general chaos in the home. Several of my students are reduced to laying in bed or under tables to get quiet spaces. I am unable to reach children on a level to see if they are understanding the material, to make personal connections that they desperately need, and to scaffold instruction. Many times, students will log on for 20- 30 minutes a day, never to return for later classes. I am unable to serve my ESL and special education children properly. They are rapidly falling through the cracks.

The schools that are operating fully are the privately funded ones, affluent and white. I believe this divide is a strong connection to segregation and the longer it continues, the larger gap we will see between rich, Caucasian families, and those of diversity that we serve in public schools. We have worked tirelessly to narrow that gap over the years and not allowing public schools to attend in person will be detrimental.

This past summer, I worked at the YMCA in an outreach program where I taught 75 children in person a day. At Wakefield Middle School, we were safely able to provide a space adhering to CDC guidelines so that these children would not suffer summer learning loss.

Teachers are essential workers and want to be back in person with our students. The way we teach online is not effective and is allowing students with less financial privileges to fall behind. If gyms, restaurants, museums, bowling alleys and entertainment venues are open, why are schools not? Please allow the students and teachers that choose to go back in person gain back their opportunity to do so. I am advocating for students that cannot afford to attend private schools and for those teachers that find face to face instruction critical.

Thank you for taking my voice into consideration,
Julie Coveleski
4th Grade Teacher
Wakefield Elementary School
jcoveleski@wcpss.net
(919)247-8056

Amy Sharp

At least start making return to sports procedures!

It is important to at least start making a plan to return to sports during the new NCHSSA calendars. Use NCFC classic soccer as a model. They have a set of rules, medical questions, and conditions we must accept to play. Also, if a player comes down with Covid they have contact tracing procedures. They have been holding practice successfully for 3.5 months with NO transmission on any team and they are largest club soccer team in the country. They are becoming models for other clubs around the country who want to return to play.

Helen Williams

Return athletic workouts to Wake County Public High Schools

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Angela Smelcer
Re-opening schools
Email submitted to Ms. Lindsay Mahaffey:

Hi,
I am a Wake County parent who is requesting that the school board begin to phase in Plan B students October 1. This is an action that should not require a vote because it is simply planning for the safe return of our children and faculty to school. Looking at metrics is NOT progress! We need action and plans. Tangible Dates!

Sincerely,
Angela Smelcer
angelasmelcer@yahoo.com

Leslie Mannion
the Wake County School board to consider a return to athletic workouts under NCHSAA guidance.
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- o Risk Balance - The risk of a high school "Dear WCPSS School Board and Athletic Director, Please allow the return of Wake County on-campus athletic activity for high school student-athletes. While we understand that games will not happen this fall, we encourage the Wake County School board to consider a return to athletic workouts under NCHSAA guidance. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools have announced a phased return to athletic workouts for student-athletes at CMS high school facilities beginning as early as Sept. 14, 2020. We would like to request the same approach and schedule for Wake County.

This decision should be made with the input and influence of the parents and students who will be directly affected. We ask that the parents be a part of this process as taxpayers, voters, citizens and the people whom our school officials should be accountable to.

Below are the reasons we are requesting a return to high school athletics:

PSYCHOLOGICAL

- o Reduce Financial Inequalities - Lack of school provided activities have families directly paying for athletics. Not all families can afford these additional expenses, causing inequalities in sports competition or additional financial hardships.
- o Prevent Scholarship Loss - The lack of games for skill demonstration puts essential scholarships at risk for some families.
- o Provide Domestic Support - When students are quarantined away from others, domestic issues may go unnoticed. Once athletes return to a group environment, a system of coach interest and team support may help discern & prevent issues.
- o Protect Mental Health - Quarantine isolations have caused increased anxiety & depression across society. Athletics would provide an opportunity for high school students to reduce these concerns.

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- o Precedence Demonstrated - Many other states and counties have already allowed high school sports to resume. There have been no major outbreaks thus far. An additional issue is that Wake County is now losing key athletes to these states.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our community's well being - both psychological and physical. We look forward to hearing of a Wake County Return of Athletic workouts decision in the near future.

Milne Burgess

High School athletics

David and Milne Burgess, parents of HS athlete, and athlete, Charles Burgess, are in support of allowing HS athletes to return to athletic workouts on school property, led by willing coaches and attended by other athletes whose families are also willing to accept the risks associated with Covid-19 and other viruses.

John Vander Vennet

Return Athletic Workouts to Wake County Public High Schools

Dear WCPSS School Board and Athletic Director,

Please allow the return of Wake County on-campus athletic activity for high school student-athletes. While we understand that games will not happen this fall, we encourage the Wake County School board to consider a return to athletic workouts under NCHSAA guidance.

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Milne Burgess

Return to High School athletics workouts in Wake County

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Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our community's well being - both psychological and physical. We look forward to hearing of a Wake County Return of Athletic workouts decision in the near future.

Kristen Rittenmeyer

Return Athletic Workouts to Wake County Public Schools

Please allow students to return to athletic workouts this Fall. Children need activity and structure, we all need activity and structure for our overall well being and health. The longterm effects of keeping children out of school will be detrimental. Please consider while saving lives from COVID 19, we are silently killing the younger generation in ways that are not being measured. Athletics (or any club of interest, Arts, etc) give people goals, motivation, self confidence, a community and much more. Please allow families and students to go at their own risk if they would like to get back to athletics for their health and well being. Allow coaches to coach students that want to be there. We have learned through this virus how to be cautious and to stay home if necessary. Trust that we will be ok (actually healthier) living in the world again. Thank you!

Carey Rivers

Plan B Advocate

There needs to be an immediate plan. Progress needs to happen. This is your job is elected officials and sometimes leader ship calls for tough choices. I watched my bright and smart fifth grade student yesterday more frustrated because her math test she was trying to take kept submitting blank answers. She couldn't even concentrate on the content she was submitting because she was more focused on the submission process. Her teacher is amazing. We love her school. We gave our children the Choice to stay in public school right now or try private. That was a very hard decision to make as a former public school teacher and a parent who is extremely involved with all of her children school that span from elementary to high school but you guys are giving us and no other choice. This is not working for anyone. You asked who wanted to go back to school. Plan B parents said send our kids back. I am implore you to come up with an immediate plan to get ALL plan B kids back in to school immediately. Their physical and mental health is dwindling quickly. I have a 5th grader, 8th grader, and a 10th grader. One has an IEP. They are all super bright kids. It's time. Don't let them down.

Poppie McNierney

In-Person Schooling

Other districts and states are doing it safely, and it's (past) time for WCPSS to do the same. We can not continue to put the mental, emotional and educational well-being of our students at risk. Virtual learning does NOT WORK for ALL students.

Our students and teachers CAN get back in the building safely, and it needs to happen now. Those at risk or uncomfortable have been given a choice with Virtual Academy. It's time to listen to the others that CHOSE for our students to be back in school with their teachers.

Janie DeVeau

Plan B

Please define what specific scientific metric is being used to decide when Plan B will be implemented.

Please explain what disciplines are represented on the Covid Scientific Advisory Board that WCPSS is using for reopening guidance.

Thank you

Stacy Cashin

Virtual learning is not a strategy and it is very harmful. Get our kids back in school please! My daughter is experiencing depression, anxiety and fatigue due to lack of school in person learning. The instruction given is often inadequate because she is an experiential learner and subjects like science and geometry need face to face coaching. Assignments are given randomly throughout the day and evening, forcing students who already spend way too much time at a computer screen to be online for more hours at night. Her penmanship has suffered greatly as they never write anything anymore.... She has cried, thrown pencils, punched pillows weekly due to not being able to get online or understand a subject (thereby requiring me to not only be a mother but a teacher and IT specialist). She gets massive headaches due to screen time, and, she is JUST LONELY. All of this long term damage we are causing our young students will far outweigh the virus. WE HAVE TO GET THESE KIDS BACK TO SCHOOL!!!

Bonnie Fagley

Reopen schools under plan B

We are in need of representation, by you, for the kids and parents of our district. The lack of plan or intention to put a concrete plan in place is unacceptable. Plan B was a well thought out and safe plan. It would end up having the schools at 20% capacity. No other open public place is even held to that low of a capacity. The amount of learning, social interaction and growth that children would experience with the one week in, two weeks virtual is something that cannot be denied any longer. There is no justification for this. Their mental health is at stake. I am a pediatric nurse at UNC and despite the media's view on things, there has been no surge in actual sick severity. These ""positive clusters"" have been nearly all recovering AT HOME and are not an indication of worsening safety. We do understand the need to evaluate, but using metrics as a shield for good sense is not acceptable.

Every parent was given the option for full virtual teaching. We are the parents who chose to go to school in person and that is being denied and completely disregarded. I have four children and both my husband and I work. We are strained trying to keep up with all that is going on. The world of academics, specifically elementary school and special needs, is insufficient through virtual tactics. The Wake County decisions to stay fully virtual are not putting the child's needs first. Their developmental needs are very real.

Walmart workers are at more risk daily than any of these teachers would be. There are studies showing that transmission from child to adults remain nearly non-existent. Please represent the children and truth, not fear.

Thank you for serving. This is a very hard time. Please understand we are proud to go to Wake County Schools. These recent decisions are hurting our children. Please make a way for

change, quickly and specifically. If this requires additional, emergency meetings, then that is warranted. Please act on our behalf.

Thank you

William Speri

Return Athletic Workouts to Wake County Public High Schools

Dear WCPSS School Board and Athletic Director,

Please allow the return of Wake County on-campus athletic activity for high school student-athletes. While we understand that games will not happen this fall, we encourage the Wake County School board to consider a return to athletic workouts under NCHSAA guidance.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools have announced a phased return to athletic workouts for student-athletes at CMS high school facilities beginning as early as Sept. 14, 2020. We would like to request the same approach and schedule for Wake County.

Please attain consistency with the rest of the State and allow for supervised workouts under the state guidelines to resume.

Thank You

McAlister Huynh

PPE

Thank you for your time and dedication to staff, families, and students. As you continue discussions of returning students to buildings, I implore the board to discuss how staff will be protected when working with students who are neither able to social distance nor wear a mask (such as most of the students in regional and prek programs). In trying to get this information from district personnel, I have been told 1) there isn't a plan in place or 2) face shields with neck closures were purchased for this purpose. However, I have not been able to find any CDC guidelines that state this type of face shield effectively protects those working with unmasked individuals in close contact. If the board intends for students to return under the condition that all will be wearing masks, there should be a plan for protecting staff who are working with unmasked students in close contact.

Emily Wilmoth

Our children are changing.

I have two children. One who has special needs and is a student at Moore Square. My seventh grader is actually excelling in virtual school. This is a such a positive change for him. He is changing for the good. He is on a modified day and virtual school has been great for him, he has been able to go from 2 classes to 5 classes.

However, my other child is different. My second child is a second grader is at Combs Elementary. He used to smile everyday. He would wake up happy and ready to do school. I

have noticed that by every passing day, he is becoming overwhelmed. He is crying every day. My second grader is changing into a totally different child. This is not right! I want my child back. He is lonely. He is becoming depressed and he is getting headaches everyday. I am scared to see how this will go for the rest of virtual school for him. Yesterday , I experienced for the first time the frustration of the teacher with technology. She started to cry online. We are all changing in this. Some good and some bad. Please give us the choice to go back or to stay home.

Sasha White

Athletic practices resuming

Please allow the return of on campus Athletic Activity for our students because prevention is doing more harm to our kids. They need to be practicing with their team.

Brian Groesser

Moving to Plan B

As a father of three students in three different schools who has signed up for Plan B, I need to know the answer to the following questions:

1. What metrics are being utilized to determine a move to Plan B?
2. What thresholds of those metrics need to be met before moving to Plan B?
3. What are the bases (scientific or otherwise) for those thresholds?
4. How many kids are currently signed up for Plan B and can that number be utilized for a week on/week off basis with proper social distancing?

As parents, we need a plan not platitudes. We need these kids back in school. The Board should have these answers by now. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your responses.

Lisa Cotterill

A message from my child who you all represent.

Online School Sucks. I can barely hear my teachers. Assignments are confusing. My brothers are always yelling and my parents are getting annoying. I'm not allowed to socialize online with my friends because I've already been online 6-7 hours a day. School should go back to the building. I barely know my classmates and my teachers because we never get to talk to each other. I wish online school would stop. I know some people are scared to death from COVID-19 but really we need to know something like this will always happen. We just need to get over it.
-A mad AMS student.

Kathryn Solano

Safe Return to School

Teachers, students, and families are facing challenges this school year that compound the issues that impacted them in years past. The transition to remote learning has been overwhelming for all of us. That being said, it is not safe for our students to return to school and for teachers to work with children in person each week. Younger children are going to find it especially difficult to wear masks correctly, maintain social distancing, and stop the spread of germs. The research is still being conducted, however we already know that there are long term side effects for Covid-19. If we rush the return to school we are committing to a generation that must struggle with the negative health impacts of Corona virus on top of every other barrier and obstacle to healthy and successful lives that our students and families face.

Nicole Bauer

OPEN SCHOOLS!

I have twin daughters in public elementary school (a 4th grader with special needs and a 5th grader). Both of my twins are in general ed with IEPs and receive special education services in the form of CCR and therapies. Virtual Academy is NOT WORKING!!! My 4th grader is currently attending 8 live meetings a day! 8!!! How can she learn or do any of her work when she is sitting in front of her laptop all that time? She is shutting down and not able to complete her afternoon meetings without crying. She never had this problem with live learning. She was thriving, reaching IEP goals and mastering skills we never thought were possible. My 5th graders attends 7 live sessions a day. She is given 20 minutes to complete her assignments from her general ed teacher while her classmates receive 50 mins to complete the same work. She has less time b/c she must log into her CCR classes during her Ind work time. She cries many times during the week b/c she is falling behind in her work, she tells me she's bored sitting in front of her screen all day alone. I hear her telling herself how much she "sucks in math" How is this helpful? I know my girls are not in the minority here! And how can WCPSS keep these kids out of school when our private schools are open and teaching students in live in person settings? Those students will continue to grow, learn and get ahead while their public school peers are left behind. How are you OK with this? You claim to care so much about the poor, disadvantaged, special needs community yet these actions SHOW the exact opposite! The virus is not as deadly as once thought, the data we are being given is constantly inaccurate (look at WRAL today). ENOUGH!!!! Our kids deserve a better education...one that we pay for with our tax dollars!!!!

Ed Cirnitski

Return to school

I am the parent of a child with a severe disability. Virtual learning will not work for him and I have expressed this to his teacher multiple times. He needs to be in class surrounded by the people qualified to provide him the service his IEP states he is by law should be receiving. There is no justified reason for our kids to be ignored when I can walk into walmart and shop. You are failing our children. Come up with a plan to get the ones who need to be in school.

Kerry Sykes

Covid

Please do not let people who “feel safe to reopen” bully you into jeopardizing the health and welfare of teachers, staff and students and their families! You know that you can not ensure their safety and it would be reckless to put all of these people in danger because “a child’s social life is suffering.” We are lucky to have the ability to do as much online learning as we are and while it is hard, none of this would have been possible even 20 years ago. If people had stayed home originally instead of defying science and common sense and demanding things reopen, things would be better now. Just because the reopen supporters are loud does not make them correct. I offer my thanks and support for all of the teachers, staff and administrators trying to make the best of a difficult situation.

Chris Atkinson

NC High School athletics

Our NC students being denied safe athletic training is creating undue toll on their well being. Emotional and physical health are served when students can safely come together to train and compete. Thousands of games (HS, College, professional) have taken place over the last month with zero outbreaks of virus. Please consider allowing our student athletes to return to safe outdoor training together as a team.

Shon Welsh

Return to Athletic Workouts

I support our kids returning to athletics and related workout/practice activities for sports, cheer, and dance for both the mental and physical benefits.

Judith Welsh

Return to Athletic Workouts

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Lauren Mitcheltree

Plan for in-person return

When will a detailed plan and dates be provided for children’s return to school in person? Kids and parents are struggling and there is no reason why we can’t let those that want to return go back. Why is it taking so long for a solid plan to be put in place? Just this morning my son was in tears when his chromebook provided by WCPSS wouldn’t turn on. I called “tech support” and was hung up on twice then told to just go get another one. I work full time and don’t have time to stand in line for 3 hours. Teachers are rushing through live instruction leaving kids lost and frustrated. No learning is taking place. You must do better. What is the plan? .

Erin Wallace

Returning to School

Good evening ladies and gentlemen of the board. Thank you for your service.

I am writing as a parent of two Wake County public school students. I have a 6th grader and a 1st grader. I have to say that we are having two very different experiences with the Plan B online schooling. My 6th grader does great! Does she love it, no. But she has no problems. My first grader...who has had "half a year" of Kindergarten and cannot read however, NEEDS in person instruction. She has a good attitude and does the best she can but her learning is suffering. I ask you to please find a way to get these kids back in the classroom quickly. These little kids are suffering and will be left behind as they progress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Erin Wallace

Wake Forest, NC

Robyn Dezern

Open In Person Instruction

As a new high school parent I feel it's ridiculous for the School Board now to deny me the CHOICE it provided for my son to attend 9th grade in person. 5 days of virtual instruction for him with a former elementary IEP for diagnosed anxiety is a disgrace to all his progress made mentally, socially and emotionally. Teens will not thrive in peer isolation especially mine as an only child so I ask your vote to demand opening Wake County doors immediately as I opted!!

Susan Krause

Please allow Sports/Arts to resume.

I wish this format allowed me to share a photo of my joy filled running group. If "vulnerable aged" folks are successfully running together in densely populated Raleigh, why can we not let our XC kids find that same joy? This running keeps us mentally balanced and physically strong.

Mark Fagley

Opening schools

The schools need to be open. The burden is completely on the parents to micromanage education. There is no successful way to help them become independent under this virtual learning. Our children are engaged and are good students and they are struggling. Other N.C. schools are opening and have a specific plan. These children need their teachers. They need 3-D interaction. Wake County must come up with a specific plan or they leave us no choice but to homeschool. At least then we would have control over their schedules and assignments. Come observe inside a house with multiple children, multiple grades for two full school days and you will see for yourself. There is no reason plan B cannot be initiated immediately. Please act accordingly.

Holly Edge

Return Athletic Workouts to Wake County Public High Schools

Please allow the kids to practice and return to athletics. We have beautiful fall weather and they can be (mostly) outside for conditioning and most skill development. Ask the parents to sign a waiver. Sports are optional, give our children and their families the option. Please give this back to us. This year has taken so much from all of us. We adults will get through, but what about our children? Online school is not great, and you will hear today from many about that. Please give our kids something to look forward to each week. They are suffering beyond what any of us adults could have predicted.

Gov Cooper and NCHSAA have given NC schools the green light to begin athletics. You are the gatekeepers of this, rendering the parents, children and coaches helpless. Do the coaches have a say? The kids? pediatricians? Child psychologists and therapists? The parents? Let us sign a waiver. Give us the opportunity to try. Have you spoken with schools in other states/counties who are getting this right? Please give these kids something. Thank you.

Melissa Westbrook

HS Sports

The benefits of playing HS sports far outweigh the risk of COVID-19 in teenage kids. We are creating a lifetime of health issues that will go far beyond this pandemic because kids are not moving or being active in school sports. There are safe ways to restart sports. The lifelong problems will include obesity, diabetes and heart disease. We are changing the trajectory of our kids lives by taking away athletics. Not just for their physical well-being but for their mental health as well, please let our kids get back to sports.

Leslie Mannion

the Wake County School board to consider a return to athletic workouts under NCHSAA guidance.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools have announced a phased return to athletic workouts for student-athletes at CMS high school facilities beginning as early as Sept. 14, 2020. We would like to request the same approach and schedule for Wake County. This decision should be made with the input and influence of the parents and students who will be directly affected. We ask that the parents be a part of this process as taxpayers, voters, citizens and the people whom our school officials should be accountable to. Below are the reasons we are requesting a return to high school athletics:

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Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our community's well being - both psychological and physical. We look forward to hearing of a Wake County Return of Athletic workouts decision in the near future.

Mariah Williams
SRO's and Administrators – Principals Judgement Call
Dear WCPSS BOE

Thank you for the work session on SRO's and referral data. How are you preparing our WCPSS students each year on expectations and unlawful acts? Assault and battery, drugs and weapons do not belong in school. Crimes in school are not new.

What are kids getting suspended for? Does WCPSS have that much crime in schools that we are worried about having SRO's removed.

Are all the discipline referrals weapons based, violence and drug based? Are there other crimes happening? What are the crime statistics of our youth?

The community needs to know. Families want to know... The board has asked for a breakdown in the past. One cannot fix a problem if we do not know what we are fixing. We can't fix or address the amount of suspensions if we don't know what crimes are being committed.

Parents also want to know the policy on referrals. Where in the WCPSS handbook does it mention the referral process. What does the referral process look like? Are parents required to be present? Do administrators question students before parent present?

What are our student's rights? Too much ambiguity and not enough structure.

Most students do not know the difference between assault and battery. Most students do not understand the difference between sexual harassment and joking around.

Teaching and training students to hold them accountable. You need to have clear and concise teaching techniques and mastery of subjects, otherwise the easiest thing to do is not deal with it and have law enforcement handle it. It's the administrators taking the easiest way out not the SRO's.

Thank you

Mariah Williams

Deborah Godfrey
Timeline on Grading Assignments
Dear All Board Members

I have four children including stepchildren at WCPSS in the secondary level. High school teachers are slamming the teens with assignments. Most kids are stating how they are receiving more work now than in past years.

Will ALL students be assessed to address regression and areas of concern? Since it is noted that ALL students will have academic slide. ALL students need a slow gradual progression into virtual learning. The WCPSS board shares one vision and it is not being practiced at the school level.

No time for bonding or relationships, no discussing social emotional needs. We are not connecting. I understand the teachers are eager to get back to work but our students need more than a slew of spammed assignments.

Our teenagers are extremely stressed out and you are creating more mental anguish. You are permitting students to disengage. You are permitting a societal shift of hating school and it needs to stop. My children are not A/P students who may be holding up very well in these times. ALL Students should matter.

Regards,

Deborah Godfrey

Kathryn Bradshaw

Return to school

SUMMARY: Please return our children to in-person learning ASAP. Please give some autonomy to schools in how to implement given that some have much higher VA enrollment than others.

Now that we're in our fourth week of virtual learning, I've had many opportunities to observe my Kindergartener and third grader in class. I'd like to provide you with some of my observations in your consideration of returning to in-person learning. I feel we are at a critical juncture and need to get children back in class as immediately as possible.

-Teachers are trying. And while they're doing the best they can with what they've got, they know that students are learning a small fraction of what they would if they were in the classroom.

We're in an A school (Mills Park Elementary) where the teachers and administration are amazing, but even they struggle to keep the students engaged.

-In an elementary student's mind, when the online session ends, school is done. Even with parent or child care facility oversight, independent work is not effective as the child sees it as simply encroaching on their free time. This off and on of the device is completely ineffective and disruptive.

-Statements heard from my KINDERGARTENER since school began:

I don't want to do school. It's so boring. All you do is stare at the computer and color.

Can I go back to my old (pre)school?

When do I get to go to my real school?

This is a child who adores school - was so excited to join his big sister at Mills Park - but is having his primary education future soiled by a remote start. This will set an unfortunate tone for the future of his education in elementary school and beyond.

In third grade, my child now loathes going to school. She has little to no interaction with her classmates and is more withdrawn and has trouble focusing both in school and out. She has consistently performed at or above grade level in all subjects. When she asks why she has to do school on a computer, I can't give her a good answer. She knows about Covid and knows that it can be bad for some, but for most it's like a common cold or sinus infection. She also knows that many peers in other states and even other areas of our state are in school in person.

In my personal experience, this model of virtual learning is not effective. I'm baffled as to why nearly every other state has its students back in the classroom, yet the country's 15th largest school district still seems to have no plan. The larger districts in New York even have students back in class - a state that has had more than 10x the number of COVID deaths than NC.

I'm paying \$300 per week for my children to attend a private daycare 3x per week to facilitate their learning, offer social interaction and allow my husband and I to get some work done. The majority of daycares in Wake County have remained open throughout this ""pandemic"" and have seen no cases of Covid, and little to no spread when one does arise. There is no social distancing and prior to Executive Order 163, there were no masks. I see absolutely no difference in this and putting students in a school building. I'd much rather give that money to the school to invest in PPE or filtration systems and get my children in the school.

As of today, per the NC DHHS Covid dashboard, Wake County has incurred 16,393 reported cases of Covid since tracking began in March. The county has had 213 deaths. The population of Wake County is just over 1.1M people...so we have an infection rate of 1.4%. Per Wake County's own dashboard, the average age for someone with the virus is 37. Of the 16k cases, just over 1,700 have been in individuals under the age of 18 (i.e., the majority of the Wake County school population). So while we know that children can contract the virus, it's a very small likelihood and typically shows symptoms no more than the common cold.

The school board should give some autonomy and flexibility to each school. More than 70% of my school opted for virtual academy. This means that under the Governor's return to school order and your own Plan B, every Plan B student in our school could attend daily. In my own zip code of ~67k people, we've had 447 cases with 4 deaths. So for 447 total cases we're

keeping tens of thousands of students out of class in this zip code (which is home to 3 high schools, 3 middle schools, and 10 elementary schools).

It seems that area pediatricians are not being consulted by the Board for their advice for children returning to school. We have some of the best medical doctors and facilities in the world within 30 minutes of all of Wake County. Utilize these resources. See what the APA and CDC are saying about children returning to school. Both organizations, one of which is charged specifically with the health of children, fully supports returning to in school learning.

Finally, I implore you to LISTEN to the parents of your students. There are a number of Facebook groups that have been created to support one another and you can see minute by minute people posting that virtual learning is not working. This is at all levels - my experience is only at the elementary level, but I can see the toll this is taking on the higher education levels as well.

Mrs. Hill and Mr. Humphrey Davis
Assignments, Late Work, Teachers Grace
Dear BOE

Parents and Grandparents continue to learn the requirements of online learning. Power school app had a slight upgrade. Where does a parent new to PowerSchool find upcoming assignments before they become past due? Why is it taking so long for grades to be posted?

Why would WCPSS not honor late work for its high school students?
Many high school students are also struggling with this virtual learning it is not just the lower level grades. The teachers are flying through the material at rapid pace. It is very hard for a teacher to see a hand up in the chat. They get frustrated if one asks a question.

Why is my child receiving assignments coded collected but the grade is not counting towards quarterly average? What is happening here? Why are we giving out assignments that serve no grading purpose?

Very frustrated grandparents

Mrs. Hill and Mr. Humphrey Davis

Mrs. Ivey Todd
Reconsidering PC19 Selection
Dear Ms. Moore Mr. Sutton Ms. Cash and all Board Members
Letters were mailed home from our Dean of Students at Heritage High. We were given one week to turn around to select a different choice. It was sent to students that took PC19 in 1 or more classes.

It states "We encourage students to make their grade choice decision based on individual post high school plans after seeking and obtaining information from resources according to their respective plans. (what does this mean) Will students be ineligible for scholarships because we took this as an option? What resources is she referring to? It does not state what that is? This letter was very vague and is raising concerns.

The letter also states "We recognize students want to understand their grade choice decisions from Spring 2020 might impact future opportunities. (what does this mean) Will scholarships not be offered because students selected this choice as an alternative. Is PC19 going to put students at risk or ineligible for scholarship opportunities?

The letter also state "Ask the question "how important is it to be transparent about my academic performance? (what does this mean?) WCPSS shut down schools. And teachers were not grading like they should have.

Plain and simple, will WCPSS high school students that took the PC19 be limited to opportunities.

Please add this to your agenda for discussion. Or perhaps a news reporter should cover this.

We are talking about many student's futures. My niece needs to make sure she is selecting the proper selection with out doing harm.

Thank you for researching this matter.

Kim Stanich

In person teaching/learning

As I begin writing this I hear my 8 year old crying as he is saying, "mommy I can't log on, the computer(borrowed from school) won't let me get onto the live meet..." I am begging that our kids go back to school! I do NOT need others to TRY and protect me and my family, I know the situation first hand and would like the right to choose. I have a 12th and 2nd grader who DESPERATELY want to GO to school this year! We are now looking into the LOCAL private schools that are having in person classes(last resort as we really can't afford this). I am already supplementing school work for my 8yo, as his online work is, at times, pointless and not progressing. I understand in person class may not be for everyone, however I am begging to be given the choice. There were even summer camps FILLED with children at my sons school, no outbreak or issues noted. My son attended the Y camp this summer and not one outbreak, and trust me the classes/building was FULL. Please note my 8 year old is still in the other room having computer issues-shedding real tears, while my senior is saying "this is a complete waste of my time..." They need to be IN school for learning school work and socialization. Please, I am BEGGING to be given the choice to send my kids to school. My husband and I are at the end of our ropes on how to proceed, as the current school situation is not working. Our 8 year old is on a local baseball team and it is heartbreaking to see how much the kids do not want practice to end, they just can't get enough of each other! I honestly love spending time with my kids, so this isn't about needing time away from them or anything other than they desperately need to go to school in person! Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Mr. Greg Smela

PC19 and NCAA Eligibility

Dear Wake County Board Members

The letter mailed home stated that my child's GPA would be higher, and we used the formula given to us and his GPA did not change. I am beginning to think this may have to do with sports.

Is there a problem with taking PC19 and NCAA Eligibility? Why are students and parents not being informed on how to make a decision. The PC19 letter we received stated it cannot be changed later. We are in a pandemic and need to be told by our school principals to help guide families to make these decisions.

It would be unfortunate to find out in 1-2 years from now a decision needed to be made today would cause a student to miss an opportunity with acceptance and scholarship opportunity.

Thank you for your time

Akeirra Wilson

Return Athletic Workouts to Wake County Public High Schools

Dear WCPSS School Board and Athletic Director,

Please allow the return of Wake County on-campus athletic activity for high school student-athletes. While we understand that games will not happen this fall, we encourage the Wake County School board to consider a return to athletic workouts under NCHSAA guidance.

akeirra wilson

Return Athletic Workouts to Wake County Public High Schools

Dear WCPSS School Board and Athletic Director,

Please allow the return of Wake County on-campus athletic activity for high school student-athletes. While we understand that games will not happen this fall, we encourage the Wake County School board to consider a return to athletic workouts under NCHSAA guidance. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools have announced a phased return to athletic workouts for student-athletes at CMS high school facilities beginning as early as Sept. 14, 2020. We would like to request the same approach and schedule for Wake County.

This decision should be made with the input and influence of the parents and students who will be directly affected. We ask that the parents be a part of this process as taxpayers, voters, citizens and the people whom our school officials should be accountable to.

Below are the reasons we are requesting a return to high school athletics:

PSYCHOLOGICAL

- o Reduce Financial Inequalities - Lack of school provided activities have families directly paying for athletics. Not all families can afford these additional expenses, causing inequalities in sports competition or additional financial hardships.
- o Prevent Scholarship Loss - The lack of games for skill demonstration puts essential scholarships at risk for some families.
- o Provide Domestic Support - When students are quarantined away from others, domestic issues may go unnoticed. Once athletes return to a group environment, a system of coach interest and team support may help discern & prevent issues.

o Protect Mental Health - Quarantine isolations have caused increased anxiety & depression across society. Athletics would provide an opportunity for high school students to reduce these concerns.

PHYSICAL:

o Reduce Virus Spread - Since many athletes must now train with outside groups, athletes are exposed to multiple contagion factors (various teams, venues, coaches etc.) which are actually increasing risks to the community. School led practices will ensure all mandates are followed. Any outbreaks would be contained to the same group of students.

o Reduce ""Detraining"" Injuries - Continued lack of regular training and exercise may lead to increased injuries once athletics do resume. There must be enough training time before any competition begins to prevent these injuries. The irony is that the precautions taken to keep everyone ""safe"" are actually leading some kids to become unhealthy.

o Risk Balance - The risk of a high school student dying from Covid-19 is <1%. This is much less than other risks encountered by teens. If all of life's Risk factors were required to be eliminated from high school activities, could athletics ever be brought back?

o Precedence Demonstrated - Many other states and counties have already allowed high school sports to resume. There have been no major outbreaks thus far. An additional issue is that Wake County is now losing key athletes to these states.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our community's well being - both psychological and physical. We look forward to hearing of a Wake County Return of Athletic workouts decision in the near future.

Kaye Bryan

Athletes returning to practice

Please allow high school athletes to return to on campus practice. Many campuses across the nation are already doing this and the incidence of this age group getting extremely sick is low. It is having a negative impact on these athletes mentally.

Lesley Jones

Please Re-Open WCPSS

Dear School Superintendent and Board Members - My name is Lesley Jones and I am a mother of two children, a son, age 7 and a daughter, age 4. First, I want to let you know that my son has had the pleasure of attending such a wonderful school, Lacy Elementary for the last 2 years. We love our teachers and faculty and have been very pleased with the education, love, and support my son has received.

However, I am writing – no, pleading with you, as a very concerned parent that our children need to be back in school (for those who chose Plan B). While I know these are unprecedented times, our children are our future and we are doing a complete disservice to them.

We need to do this because of so many reasons:

- 20% of all Domestic Violence cases nationwide are reported by a student to a school official (for example ... in D.C., DV reports are down 72%, indicating less DV cases are being reported).
- CDC and AAP say education retention decreases 50% via online learning for young students. The retention is even less for students from economically disadvantaged situations.
- Child obesity has increased +60% according to CDC since schools shut down
- Depression and anxiety is sky rocketing in the US with children

While our teachers are working so incredibly hard; it is easy to see that virtual learning is not working. My son sits in front of the computer for almost 6 hours a day, which is not developmentally appropriate. Additionally, he has lost his love for learning without the in-person teacher and children interaction. I chose Plan B because I asked his previous teachers and pediatricians and they all unanimously agreed that kids need to be in school. How can you take this choice away now when we have so much more knowledge and proof of how to make this all work?

The facts are also clear as to WHY we can do this:

- CDC says Covid-19 death rate is under 1% for everyone but people over 70
- CDC also says that 0.003% of children 18 and younger who are infected with coronavirus die, that is nearly 0%
- 50% of WCPSS are in Virtual Academy
- NA Infection rates are at 4.7% and continue to trend down

Schools all around us are open and thriving with the right protocols. In fact, I am sending my daughter to preschool every day and there has not been a single incident. Stores are open. Restaurants are open. The fact that WCPSS remains closed is absolutely inconceivable and will cause irrevocable damage for years to come.

To quote someone else, "Children belong in school. Together. Everyday." I, along with many others, will continue to plead for this school board to create an immediate plan to return students back to school safely. It absolutely can be done.

Thank you for listening.

Clara Whinfrey

PC19 for High School Students

Please help parents with the PC19 selection. The End of Spring 2020 school year families in grades 9-11 decided on whether to take the PC19 as a grade option. We received a letter to reconsider this selection and that his GPA would be higher. We recalculated the GPA and it did not move.

The letter is vague, and we are concerned that he may not be eligible to apply for scholarships by taking this selection. Please address what is going on with PC19 and our high school students. We missed the deadline to submit the form.

I wish your public form would allow attachments. You need to read what was sent to us. I called the local school and the Dean was out the entire week. A sense of worry has now started for students and families that thought this was the better option.

Jennifer Bennington

Virtual Learning-IEP Issues

Dear School Board Members

I am a parent of a kindergarten, who is currently struggling with virtual learning. In your position as school board members, you are tasked with making difficult decisions that impact many students, teachers, staff, and others; and COVID has made those decisions more difficult. I recognize that there is no PERFECT answer in this situation, but I believe there are things that could be done and should be done that aren't being done.

I have a five year old boy with an IEP. We have been told many times that early intervention was essential to his success. We started seeing some progress early last year while he attended a pre-K program, and we were told that spring is when a lot of kids make substantial growth; then COVID happened and the rug was pulled from under my son and many students. Like many students, the services mandated by his IEP went out the window. His class did Zoom meetings a couple times a week, but getting him to participate was a struggle as technology could not take the place of normal school. Instead of seeing progress in the spring, we saw regression. My son's IEP goals are in large part about behavior and interacting with peers, so an EBS-K class was thought to be the best fit for him to address those goals this year, with anticipation of having him placed in a regular Ed class next year. A number of my son's goals cannot be addressed over the computer, and he is not the only child in this situation.

Since virtual learning started last spring, we have seen an increase in certain negative behaviors, and with the increased screen time this fall, due to a more "rigorous" online schedule we are seeing even more issues, including sleep issues as well as emotional/behavioral regulation issues. Many of these issues had become almost nonexistent or substantially improved when he was going to school in person. Screen time has NEVER been thought to be good for kids, especially young children, and our pediatrician has told us on numerous occasions to limit our son's screen time. Thankfully we were able to find an in person Social Skills Camp this summer that met 4 hours, five days a week, and he made significant progress with peers during that time. We were hopeful when it was announced that the priority for Wake County was to get Special education services back in the class room in September, and then that failed to happen.

I know that many argue that virtual learning is necessary and essential because people are dying daily from this awful virus. I am not making light of anyone who has lost their life, lost someone they loved, battled through and beat this thing, or are on the front line as a hospital or nursing home staff who have seen people battle this, often with no family by their side. I understand there are a number of risks associated with bringing kids back to school, but risks are a part of life. We take them every day by getting up in the morning, driving, shopping,

eating, and just living. I am an attorney and as part of my practice I am involved in child abuse, neglect, and dependency cases, and since April we have been back in Court in person for these cases. Social Workers are using technology in some situations to connect with families, but in many cases, actual in person/in home visits must still be made. I think a balance is also needed in the school system. Many students and parents are choosing virtual learning for their children this year, as it is the best option for their family. Some students are even thriving with some of the new ways of teaching and the flexibility of being able to complete assignments. I am happy for these families, but the best decision for my family isn't being provided as an option in Wake County. Many states and other counties are coming up with ways to get children (especially those with IEPs) back in school, even on modified schedules. I am asking that Wake County give my son the opportunity to participate in an in-person learning environment soon, because for me, I feel that every day my son is placed in front of a screen and kept from his peers, my child is being robbed of a successful future as the harm being caused may be irreversible.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Kristi Ward

Return to In-person Learning

With percent positive cases in Wake County and North Carolina currently at 4.3% and 5%, respectively, Plan A can be implemented. What date will Plan A begin for students? Where can parents find the action plan that the Wake County School Board has developed to implement Plan A in the next few weeks?

Clara Whinfrey

PC19 High School Students

Dear WCPSS BOE

I apologize if you are receiving this twice, the form was glitchy and I am not sure if it went through. Please help parents with the PC19 selection. The End of Spring 2020 school year families in grades 9-11 decided on whether to take the PC19 as a grade option. We received a letter to reconsider this selection and that his GPA would be higher. We recalculated the GPA and it did not move.

The letter is vague, and we are concerned that he may not be eligible to apply for scholarships by taking this selection. Please address what is going on with PC19 and our high school students. We missed the deadline to submit the form.

I wish your public form would allow attachments. You need to read what was sent to us. I called the local school and the Dean was out the entire week. A sense of worry has now started for students that thought this was the better option.

kelly mann

Reopen Schools Safely by Oct 1

Every day the school board waits is more damage done to all children but most especially those without resources. This is an urgent matter that should move beyond discussions about metrics and practicality. Dates need to be set and students need to be phased back into schools.

Shirley Tang

Accountability questions for BOE election; WCPSS's failure to post direct link for all district policies

Dear Board members,

As the Board of Education election is looming, it is instrumental for voters to have clarity on your stand on the inequitable issues that parents and students have endured in WCPSS. As such, I have listed the following preliminary questions for your prereview:

1. Would you, as a Board member, approve an Advocate for Parents Policy that would give parents and students the right to have advocate support? Yes or No.

Example: Having an advocate to communicate with school officials on behalf of the parent and student and to accompany them to meetings with the officials.

2. Should Board members respond personally to parents' concerns expressed publicly at a Board meeting if they request answers? Yes or No.

Example: Emailing the parents after the meeting to address their concerns.

3. Should Board members respond to parents' concerns when school administrators fail to resolve them? Yes or No.

Example: When the parents contact you about adult/peer bullying against their children that they cannot resolve with the administrators.

4. Should Board members enforce formal and periodic trainings for WCPSS employees on policies related to discrimination and bullying? Yes or No.

Example: Trainings on district policies 1710, 1720, and 1730 under this link:

https://boardpolicyonline.com/bl/?b=wake_new#&&hs=TOC%3a1

5. Should Board members hold WCPSS employees, including administrators, accountable when they violate district policies? Yes or No.

6. Should WCPSS make equity the priority #1 matter that the Superintendent's Leadership Team and the Board should work on expeditiously and urgently? Yes or No.

Urgent examples: The evaluation on and response to the feedback and recommendations from community advocates in 2020 on:

a) The draft Equity Policy 1150:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XzdtxjVZj1KAj1kifZ1TKvXVelcTlaWa/view?usp=sharing> and

b) The Memorandum of Understanding of the SRO Program:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IY8sFFwj1GBfX0NR0K8PXfFhTMRD0cxO/view?usp=sharing>

To view the documents or obtain a copy of them, Community members can copy the links or contact me at advocate4parents.students@gmail.com.

Next week, I will email the finalized questions to you and the seven candidates running for the next Board of Education election. Your answers will be published in my public comment for the October 6 Board meeting. You are welcome to elaborate beyond a ""Yes"" or ""No"" response. If, unfortunately, I do not receive your reply, I will put down ""No answer"" next to your name on the chart.

The seven candidates are: Ms. Deborah Prickett, Mr. Gregory Hahn, Ms. Dorian Hamilton, Ms. Rachel Mills, Mr. Steve Bergstrom, Ms. Karen Carter, and Mr. Daniel Madding. The public can view their candidacy on p. 9 - 10 on this link:

<http://msweb03.co.wake.nc.us/bordelec/downloads/6candidate/6candidatelist/2020general.pdf>

Sincerely,

Shirley Tang

Founder of uCANcomplain, Inc.

P.S. Recently, I have requested twice for the Board and the Superintendent to provide a direct link to all District Policies under the Parents and Students tabs on <https://www.wcpss.net/>. I have received no response and saw no action from WCPSS. Do you believe it is WCPSS's fundamental obligation to provide parents and students convenient access to all school policies? Yes or No. Please email me your response. I will post your reply or the lack of it in my Oct. 6 public comment.

Heather Wheeler

In-person school for students in regional programs

The original target date for the return to full-time, in-person school was September 8th. For those of us who have a child with special needs in an ECS class what is the plan to get them back to in-person school? Also for children who are mainstreamed but have an IEP or 504 plan virtual learning is a struggle. What will be done as a whole for all of these kids with special needs to make amends for regression due to lack of in-person school? Virtual learning is not working for many kids with special needs. Our children have a RIGHT to FAPE! Provide parents with the option to do what is best for their child & family! We need IN-PERSON SCHOOL ASAP! Our children's futures are at stake! Thank you

Kristi Ward

Plan A for students

COVID Scientific Advisory Board

- 1) Can the presentation with their advice in regards to the community prevalence (5% positivity for symptomatic patients) be posted on the wcpss site for the community to view?
 - 2) Does the Advisory Board discuss the mental health of the students being virtual versus in person? If not, why? Is this not important?
 - 3) Who serves on the Advisory Board?
 - 4) What was the reasoning forming the Advisory Board with surrounding counties when the community prevalence is different in each county and the makeup of each district is very different?
 - 5) Also, why was the Advisory Board just formed in August when we have been dealing with the virus since March?
-

Poppie McNierney

In-Person School

Our surrounding counties are making plans to go back now and WCPSS needs to get on board. If it's safe enough for the learning centers (including the YMCA that WCPSS partners with), it is safe enough for schools. If it's safe enough for day cares, camps, restaurants, sports leagues, gyms, playgrounds, stores, etc, it's safe enough for our students and staff. If other counties are finding a way to make it work, so can WCPSS. At this point there are NO EXCUSES as to why our students can't be in school, in person. Enough excuses, make a plan and GET OUR KIDS IN SCHOOL NOW.

Kristi Ward

Virtual Learning

Have any school board members experienced (sat in on a session) or seen first hand a virtual learning day for each each grade level?

Shamim Mimi Khan

WCPSS students returning to school

Children need to be back in class in school, especially the younger grades and special ed. Despite our teachers working their butts off, online learning is not working at these grade levels, nor is it developmentally appropriate. If daycares can open (that deal with bodily fluids even!), preschools can open, and the YMCA can run defacto schools with adult supervisors, we should have at least Plan B children back in the classroom. Most Wake parents will find a way to get the kids to school if you open schools. With all other NC counties opening, why isn't Wake?

Amy Douglas

Regional Special Ed

I have been a resident of Wake Co since the 90s and I have 4 kids in WCPSS system. I work for a company headquartered in Wake Co. WCPSS is not providing FAPE to my regional program special ed kinder or my special ed prek kids. I have had to hire an ABA therapist to help my

child hand over hand with his Regional special classes. This is an expensive, trained resource. I have to take time off work to help my special ed kinder do his courses. My 12 year old 6th grader non special ed AIG is also struggling very much. We spend nights and weekends helping him understand the basics like turning in his work and sending emails. This is incredibly hard and challenging time for your taxpayers parents with kids in wcpss. Please find funds to help the special ed teachers back in person and allow our regional special ed kids be properly educated.

Kristi Ward

Virtual Learning Issues

How can we continue virtual learning when there are so many issues, #1 being that 100% of technology has still not been delivered to all families that are in need? This is unacceptable to students. You cannot to work in virtual learning without technology.

Amy Marshall

Opening Schools & Political Indoctrination by WCPSS

Please open schools for all kids. Why do you only WCPSS employee children to attend school? Hundreds of WCPSS employee children attend school each day in various buildings with "FAST." You reallocated teaching staff away from distributing laptops to WCPSS free employee childcare duty. My FOIA request asking for # reallocated has not been filled. ALL kids need to be back in school. Being out is taking an emotional toll on kids. Sports' cancellation has taken its toll. Private sports are expensive. Kids are sitting in dark rooms at computers all day. Lucky kids have an at-home parent who ensures outside time. Kids home alone are left to their own devices. How many have yet to be provided with a WCPSS laptop? Some kids are socially connected and meet friends after school but many don't. You've got to stop the hysteria and get the kids back into school. Private schools have been in since day 1 and are fine. Other NC districts, states, and countries are in school. Enough is enough. Allow choice. Parents who don't want their kids in school can keep kids home online. All teachers should be required to come into the school buildings to be on payroll.

Separate matter: Many teachers are using online classes to promote personal political beliefs, including promotion of communist-led, racist, anti-Jewish terror groups calling Israel's destruction and defunding U.S. police nationwide. Teachers are promoting anarchy and teaching children that police are bad. Teachers teach racist Office of Equity Affairs (OEA) lessons using racist term "white privilege." You allow WCPSS OEA to holds racist teacher trainings called "Seeing White." OEA staff regularly tweet racist anti-white statements to students. You approved OEA's teacher trainings and materials which are racist, hateful, and divisive. You approved communist Howard Zinn inaccurate politically biased history teachings for WCPSS in Canvas now. Teachers may NOT use online learning platforms to promote political groups, or their personal politics to children. This is against the Model Code of Ethics for Educators. Law requires teachers to remain politically neutral in performing teaching duties. If you allow teachers to wear BLM masks, then you must also allow teachers to wear all political group masks. You are fully aware of everything OEA is telling teachers to promote. You approved OEA dictating high school English curriculum. You approved "WCPSS Anchor Text for High School English" document containing "The Marrow Thieves" with plot: White people kill

native people for their bone marrow. You understand the book is sick and promotes racial hatred. You all approved book on same list, "The Kite Runner," containing graphic sex scenes where a young boy is raped by an older male. You approved Bechdel's "Fun Home" containing pornography/pedophilia. You are allowing the promotion of sick and inappropriate sex material to children. You are aware teachers at Alston Ridge middle assigned children video for children where pedophilia is normalized. The inappropriate curriculum examples over the past few years are countless. You approved of OEA Twitter post: "colonization is violent so decolonization has to be violent too" during the Raleigh riot days since you didn't denounce it. You approved of OEA staff tweet "the real revolution will not be diversity trainings." There is no denying that you on WCPSS board and leadership seek to indoctrinate our children with hateful leftist, inappropriate political ideologies that do not represent democracy, or common sense. You approved OEA WCPSS site: <https://fcloudshare.com/wcpssoea/racial-equity-resources/> You ignored 3,000+ Wake parents signed petition demanding that you remove the above web site. You suppressed it from public comment. You seek to divide. Racial discrimination should be condemned but you are preaching divisive hate. You have failed to require teachers to upload weekly lesson plans well in advance to the public that include links to all materials being presented to students. Federal law requires curriculum transparency. You allow teachers to assign whatever they want, whenever they want, with zero oversight. MANY wonderful teachers at WCPSS are teaching unbiased appropriate content. Too many are not. WCPSS needs new leadership. I pray November brings relief with all-new BOE who focus on student academics rather than focusing on political indoctrination and peddling inappropriate sexual content to minors.

Amy Marshall, M.Ed., Wake Conservative Parents Alliance

Jessica Smith
Virtual Learning

I am the mother of 3 children, 2 that are currently WCPSS students. Both of my children have been enjoying virtual learning, they are thriving in a less restrictive environment, and learning the importance of time management skills and being a motivated, self starter. Teachers, school administrators, and staff were already stretched thin prior to the pandemic and they are now stretching themselves even further as the demands on them continue to grow and they all handle it with so much professionalism and grace.

Thank you to making the health and safety of ALL Wake County students and families your top priority.

Amy Marshall

Pledge of Allegiance to Flag of United States of America

Many parents are not happy that WCPSS has not been following NC law which requires the daily Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag while the American flag is displayed. This is not difficult to do in the online environment. Since covid began, WCPSS leadership and many teachers have used it as an opportunity to push their own personal political agendas, which includes disrespecting America, and omitting the daily pledge of allegiance to our country. Some

teachers have even started displaying their own made-up versions of the flag that are not at all accurate. These same teachers have taken it upon themselves to revise the official American Pledge of Allegiance removing the words, "Under God: and promoting a new version of the pledge to children. Perhaps WCPSS leadership is telling teachers to omit "Under God?" I'm sorry, but WCPSS does not get to revise the official words to the American Pledge of Allegiance, though it is crystal clear you would like to do so. Other teachers are just providing a link to a recording and telling students the link is there if they want to click on it. Live synchronous time must be reserved for the daily pledge at the beginning of the school day. The fact that you have not required the pledge now since covid, is unacceptable. Please advise the community publicly that you will follow North Carolina law and require your teachers to recite the proper pledge of Allegiance to the official American flag of the United States, each morning in class. WCPSS is not exempt from state laws, though it is abundantly clear you believe that you are. It is obvious to many parents that the current WCPSS leadership places zero importance on bringing kids together as Americans. It is clear that you wish to divide children by race, with your anti-"whiteness" teacher training agendas and curriculum, facilitated by your \$1.6 million Office of Equity Affairs budget and \$6 million on OEA over the past six years. I pray those of you who are up for re-election get voted out, and that Wake county residents elect a new academics-focused BOE who wants to unite, rather than divide.

Amy Marshall, M.Ed.

Wake Conservative Parents Alliance

Pete and Carrie Bley Secondary

Math Resources

WCPSS Board Meeting

9/15/2020

Pate and Carrie Bley Comments

Math Resources

We have been asking for help for a very long to get understandable, comprehensive math resources in WCPSS middle and High School math classes. We understand that the virtual learning environment has exacerbated this issue. We are still, waiting for such resources.

On September 28,2020- Wake County will have its 1st "Student Achievement Committee Meeting" since schools closed last year. We have been told that you will be discussing the future of these math curriculum's and other curriculum issues at this meeting. While Student Achievement Committee meetings were technically open to the public during "normal" meetings last year (held at the WCPSS central office)...we have not seen these types of subcommittee meetings with "live" links since the start of virtual WCPSS Board Meetings. We would like to request that the WCPSS subcommittee meetings be made "LIVE" for the public to watch and be recorded for record on the WCPSS youtube site. So the community can receive ALL of the information they need as quickly as possible.

We have heard our school system ask parents for “Grace” and understanding. This is our Grace...as we are patiently waiting once again, and hoping that there will be substantial resources, answers and solutions discussed in this upcoming Student Achievement Committee Meeting.

-Pete and Carrie Bley

Angela Cular

Return to School URGENT

Attached is an email I sent to Ms Moore. As an update.. today my daughters one class, her teachers internet was down, she spent 20 mins trying to upload while kids sat idle. Class was dismissed 30 mins early. Another class, teacher spent 20 mins figuring out a code to work an application. She is frustrated, angry and actually very bored.

Good Morning,

I have reached out to you a couple times since March 13 via social media regarding plans to return to school. This time, I am urging you Ms Scott, our school community, especially my children, need to return to school. In my previous email I did not go in detail about specifics on why they need to be in school as you are very well aware what this is doing to children. This time, I am going to tell you the past 4 weeks (going on 5) have been mentally and physically exhausting, confusing, underwhelming at the same time overwhelming. There has been anger and sadness. This is not what you or I want for our children's educational experience. This is not what I want my girls to remember.

We have two daughters, both in high school, one a 9th grader and the other a senior. Everyday, I do my morning routine and listen in on my youngest taking class, she is doing class in our dining room. I hear her over and over saying this is awful, this doesn't make sense. this is confusing, this website does not work, the application is not loading correctly, etc. This is a girl that never enjoyed school, it didn't fill her cup. A girl that would much rather spend her days and nights at the dance studio. She decided in April to turn her focus on her studies and try school sports. She was excited to enter high school, meet new friends and try new things. It would be hard, but she was up to the challenge. As the summer continued, all of that was taken away. Now here we are, Sept 14 with no plan to return to school.

My senior.. as long as I can remember she talked about her senior year. I remember July 14, when WCPSS announced Plan B would go into effect and she said, it's better than nothing. She was planning what would be her last first day of school, senior orientation, senior breakfast and all the things a senior looks forward to. Keep in mind she has already missed her Junior Prom, her third year at Varsity Soccer, SAT exams to name a few. A week later July 21, Plan B went to Plan B Transition, all those memories she would create were taken away from her. Begging isn't even the best way to describe how much she wants to be back in school, she is desperate.

This is just a few thoughts regarding my girls and how they are dealing with virtual learning. The past two weeks, I have documented and will continue to do so. I understand the majority of teachers are doing the best they can however, there have also been times I am dumbfounded and maybe not the teachers fault. I will start with this and to give you a little background.. my most recent job was for an airline, training and development, at the time it was a startup. I trained not only our employees but traveled, held class, trained third party vendors according to FAA and TSA regulations. With that being said, when I listen to a class and a teacher doesn't know how to upload a quiz or run an application or upload a link correctly I am infuriated. Heritage High School started with two weeks of orientation, the first the students didn't come in contact with their teachers. My curiosity runs wild to know what training was provided, did they role play, make sure quizzes and exams could upload. Did technology support provide them scenarios they could run, did they even log in using their google classroom login before the first day to ensure they worked?. These are just some of the questions I asked myself as problems have arisen. These are the types of situations I clearly see there was little to no support to begin or continue to do online learning. Again, Ms Scott, online learning IS NOT working and feel you need to be aware exactly what is happening.

Below are just a handful of incidents that have occurred in just two weeks.

9/2 A boy interrupts and hacks into class 3 times. Obnoxious, loud noises and spouts off to the teacher when asked who he is and how he got the link information. Teacher kicked him out a couple times only to repeatedly log in.

9/2 A teacher dismisses class 15 minutes early because her roofer arrived.

9/3 Teacher dismisses class 30 minutes early because her computer crashes.

9/3 Boy interrupts the same class again from 9/2. My daughter came and got me, she said he was back again, cursing and really interrupting the class. I decided to sit, observe and see if he dialed back in. Minutes later, he returned to call out a girl's name using profanity and continued cursing. The teacher immediately kicked him off. He returned, he began this time, using the teachers name and explicit names and then used a racial slur towards the teacher. The teacher immediately picked up the phone to call the front office for an administrator. I also called the school and spoke with an administrator. She hung up and called down to the classroom. I have since received an email that this incident was sent to the central office.

9/9 Teacher spent a lot of class time trying to upload a quiz because he didn't know how, eventually the teacher's assistant did it for him

9/10 Teacher had technical difficulties with her computer. (same teacher whose computer crashed on 9/3)

9/2 Teacher was repeatedly interrupted by her child at home.

9/9 Teacher cancelled first period due to yearbook duties

9/14 First period didn't start until 820

I've seen many one hour classes dismiss early or teachers trying to figure out how to even run the class. One teacher thought the google classroom code posted in the schools powerpoint

was the link for the google meet, it seemed she didn't even know what was what. Teachers wanting to use specific applications and not realizing they have been blocked on school devices (another instance where training is necessary). This past Friday, I observed a math test since it was the first online to see how it was administered. I've contacted the teacher because that format is not going to work and other testing arrangements will need to be made, hard copy perhaps. As I said to her, it was exhausting and confusing just watching my daughter scroll back and forth to try to complete it. Even as I type this is what is happening.. my daughter's math teacher is teaching too fast, the students have repeatedly asked her to slow down in the past couple weeks. My daughter is telling me right now, she is teaching too fast mom. The teacher just said you should have learned this unit last year. I asked my daughter, did you learn this? She said NO, I don't recall this at all, we left school in March. Virtual Learning IS NOT working. I challenge you, log in to random classes across your district and see how they are being handled. I will open my doors for you to sit with my girls, observe for a time and see what is actually happening to our high schools. Our children are being let down.

This is urgent, Wake County School Board needs to develop a plan to move forward and open our schools. It is time to think out of the box... goto 4 cohorts if needed, allow sophomores (vs just jr/sr) to drive to school to open bus seats, have the bigger core classes in gymnasiums and auditoriums. As of right now, the biggest class size either of my girls have are 30 students, the smallest is 8. Yes 8 students, with cohorts there is no excuse we can not safely return with students with these numbers. In addition, I was told there are classes even blended with Virtual Academy students to make even less students per class. As far as PPE, no different than any other year, parents have donated Clorox Wipes and sanitizer since the day our children were in preschool. Masks are mandated by law for every establishment, I personally don't know anyone that doesn't own one, do you?

I believe our communities can do this together. We can do hard things. We can not fail and let them down.

Thank you for your time and look forward to your response,

Angela Cular
703-554-7203

Kristin Beller
Superintendent Moore, Chair Sutton, and Board members:

It is true that public school employees are eager to be back instructing students face to face. Remote learning takes far longer to prepare for than instructing students in person; the resources available for student use at home are somewhat limited; and virtual instruction is accompanied by a new hidden curriculum that must be prepared for, taught, and mastered for students to adequately access new content. Despite these challenges, we are pouring

unsustainable amounts of time and energy into trying to accomplish a seemingly impossible task because it is also true that we want to have safe conditions in which students learn and employees work. We have no sign or assurance that face to face instruction can safely happen at this time.

We can prefer face to face instruction and recognize that the conditions are not yet safe for it at the same time. Both things can be true.

It is also true that we can identify what will provide safe conditions and improve the virtual learning experience at the same time. The last thing any of us needs is the pressure of unfavorable conditions in our students' and educators' homes to lead to a rushed reopening that compromises the progress we are starting to see in student learning as they become more acclimated to some of our new routines and practices. When we reopen, we need to be confident that the resources, equipment, materials, staffing, and practices are in place to keep us in safe conditions. Our students do not need a rushed reopening followed by outbreaks to be mitigated or even closures throwing them back into virtual learning. We also need to be certain that we have the staffing to provide instruction to cohorts of students in classrooms and at home, and we cannot expect that a teacher will provide instruction to both groups to do so.

There are things we can do now to improve the virtual learning experiences of both students and educators while we wait for the maintenance work to be done to improve air quality, attempt to acquire masks that fit our faces, cleaning supplies stocked to meet the necessary number of cleanings each classroom will endure each day, and the staffing plan for doubling the number of educators so that they aren't tasked with teaching two full days in one. We can adjust schedules to provide more asynchronous time. We can look at what methods and assignments would provide flexibility to families to allow for a more sustainable experience. We can survey educators, students, and families to identify what specific needs exist that make current conditions feel so hard that, when weighing the risk, they would rather have their child in an enclosed classroom for 7 hours a day with any number of other children, who may or may not live in a household with discipline around safety measures and without any guarantee that changes have been made to improve the air quality and reduction of aerosol spread, than keep them at home to safely learn until either we have protections in place in the school building or the spread is negligible. What is making the conditions so bad that they feel compelled to push the district to reopen instead of pressuring the General Assembly to fund PPE that fits, cleaning staff that can clean while students are in the building instead of only at night, and HVAC systems that not only are able to circulate air but also purify it?

The experiences non-educator parents are having to make them feel forced to compromise on safety need to be addressed. We can both improve current conditions and make buildings safer for re-entry. We cannot afford to choose between the two.

Respectfully,

Kristin Beller

Wake NCAE President
