

Adrienne Brewer  
Transition B timing

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

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Frances Caudle  
School Reopening

I'm confused about your decision to reopen middle schools, grades 6-8, before elementary schools, grades K-5. Governor Cooper stated kids in elementary school, grades K-5, and some in special populations would be able to return to full person to person instruction in November. That was it! Before the end of your meeting on 9/29/20 some of you decided, middle school, grades 6-8, would reopen first. Some members of the board decided to reopen school while ignoring the survey results you solicited from school Administrators. 61% of elementary school principals and 86% of middle school principals are against reopening. They know virtual learning is manageable and needs to stay in place for now. Apparently the front line workers in schools, Teachers, were not surveyed to learn what they thought about reopening. Why the hypocrisy? Why are some of you attempting to use students in middle school as guinea pigs? Why are you in direct defiance of what the Governor stated to do? Your decision to reopen schools shows how some members of the board are out of touch with the people they represent. This is not acceptable!

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Jessica Kohli  
Keep schools closed

I am a parent and employee of WCPSS. Regarding schools opening, you, the board, are in a thankless position. Whether you keep schools closed, or open them, your decision will help AND hurt people in our community. I believe we should continue to keep schools closed. My 7th grader and 3rd grader have adjusted well to virtual learning. I have witnessed substantial learning and connecting happening through virtual meetings. As a teacher, I've been happy to see my 3rd grade students approach "computer school" with a cheerful, resilient attitude. None of this is normal, or even close to ideal, but it is what we need to do to keep our teachers, students and community healthy. Thank you.

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Cyndi Tomblin  
Superintendent - Reopen Updates

My first item of concern is regarding the Leadership Academies return to school, which I hope will be included in Tuesday's Superintendent's update. You really need to start Plan B students for these schools on October 25 along with the elementary school students so that all three cohorts will have two weeks of in person instruction prior to exams. These schools started two weeks earlier than the traditional calendar school, so this makes sense. If you start these schools on November 9 with the other middle schools you will create the situation where Cohort 3 rotates in twice before exam week (week of December 14), but the other two cohorts only rotate through once creating an inequitable situation.

In addition, these schools contain grades 6 through 12 so I'd like to make an argument for bringing the entire school back on Plan B on October 25. First, there are combined 8th and 9th grade classes in these schools. My 8th grade son has two classes with 9th graders. Just like it does not make sense to bring back only one grade at a time in high school due to having classes with multiple grades in the same room, it doesn't make sense for these schools. Secondly, 11th and 12th graders at Saint Augustine University are already attending their college classes in person. You are creating a situation where you have 6th - 8th and 11th-12th non-VA students attending in person, but in between 9th & 10th grades in the a/b/c plan stay virtual. To give you some context, there are 32 ninth graders and 37 tenth graders at WYMLA, which is greater than 50% Virtual Academy. This means approximately 16 ninth graders and 18 tenth graders would be rotating through the 3 cohorts, meaning about 6 students per grade. This means there would be about 12 additional students in the school each week. That is 3 to 4 students per classroom. Social distancing will not be an obstacle for high school students at these schools.

Secondly, I would like to address my concern that you do not plan to return High School students across the district to school under Plan B this semester. What I heard last week is that this isn't feasible because you didn't properly schedule the students so that the courts were balanced across their schedules. So first period classes might be 50% but others might be 25% or 75%. Let's be clear about this. It is because of a failure to properly schedule the students according to your Plan B, not that social distancing is not possible in our high schools. You have three months to correct the schedule so high schoolers can attend under Plan B for the second semester, which begins on January 4 for some students. There is plenty of time to adjust schedules and it cannot be an excuse three months from now.

WCPSS was asked to submit three plans to the state back in June for returning students under Plan A, Plan B, or Plan C. Here we are at the beginning of October and you still do not have a feasible Plan B to return our high school students to the classroom. You have not only failed to do your jobs, but you have also failed our children. Please get this fixed and soon. You have guidance from the State, examples in other districts across the state, and it's past time to get this done.

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Markus Peterson  
HS teachers in classrooms

I strongly support allowing high school teachers to work at home if they want to do so until at least some students return to the classroom. Requiring all high school teachers to work inside school buildings long before students return has many down sides including: new time costs of commuting (likely to come out of teaching prep time), technology glitches from switching setups, slightly higher COVID risk from putting them all in the school building, and damage to morale by implying you don't trust them to work from home. The benefits are unclear. They seem like 'optics' more than anything.

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Amy Smith  
Returning High School Students

Please provide an explanation and an update as to why all grades can return in person but not high school.

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Beth Braswelk  
SRO

Do not defund the SROs. We the parents of students attending Wake County Schools do not support reducing the SROs, defunding the SROs or replacing them with another option. I have NO faith in this wake county school board to do the right thing in this situation. No faith at all.

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Anil Daswani  
Practical solution to reopening schools

Dear members of the Wake County school Board,  
Good evening.

Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone including all school teachers, staff, administration, Wake county staff & administration, NC state staff & administration, all families and the entire community for all their efforts, sacrifice and commitment to help light our way forward through these difficult times. I hope we can pause to reflect and appreciate how far we have come together since March in service of all our children.

Last week's board meeting solved one half of the school reopening puzzle by setting the floor i.e. providing the minimum plan to re-open for elementary and middle school children. However, that minimum plan is somewhat of a one-size-fits-all solution which isn't optimal.

We could consider solving the remaining half of the re-opening puzzle by setting the ceiling i.e. providing the maximum plan to re-open as well, by allowing individual schools to go a step further in deciding for themselves if they want to re-open with a less restrictive option. In short, allow for the supply to meet the demand – the supply being the teachers and the demand being the students. e.g. If a school has enough teachers willing to reopen with plan A, then allow them to choose to do so. If a school has enough teachers willing to reopen with plan B with 1 or 2 week rotations, then allow them to choose to do so. Let the supply match the demand, no matter if it is K-5, 6-8, or 9-12 grades. This would help complete the remaining half of the puzzle as the most practical solution.

Thank you.

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Gina Lawrence  
Returning High School Students to School

Good Evening! I am the mother of 3 WCPSS students. 1 Elementary age and 2 High School Freshmen. I know you have heard these stories a million times but it is crucial that we get the High School Students back into the buildings. High School is a growth opportunity that these kids are not getting. This is your final chapter in your life before you go off to college and leave your parents to find yourself. It is where you build your life long friends and you cannot do any of these things looking at a computer screen with 35 boxes. But more than the social aspect of High School we struggle with the work. We are not motivated to do it. In person learning offers so much more. It offers our children a platform to build communication skills through group work and classroom discussions - you do not get the same feeling of

belonging to something by typing in your comment in a chat stream with 50 other students. Our students lack the motivation in online learning. In person learning offers students the opportunity to be motivated by peers - no one wants to be the kid not understanding the assignment or falling behind. With online learning kids no longer talk about what they got on a test or assignment. High School is a short 4 years and in that 4 years it is educators and parents responsibility to get our children ready for the world outside and we cannot give them these simple life skills behind a computer screen. High School is an emotional rollercoaster already without remote learning. Our children need to be in the building so that they can get the education they deserve to set them up for a future where they can thrive. Instead our children feel like an afterthought. We need a plan to put High School Students back into the building for in person learning.

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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. The SRO parent survey did not mention implicit bias based on administrators within the school. It did not include a question with future comments or concerns. It did not give parents the opportunity to expand on their answers. SRO's keep the schools safe. It is the principals and assistant principals that abuse their power, and make the law enforcement look bad.

Thank you,  
Mariah Williams

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Greg Smela  
PC19 - NCAA Eligibility

Dear WCPSS Board of Education

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. Why does your public form not allow attachments?

Lastly, Cathy Moore is on the board of the NCHSAA she needs to address this to the community. Revisit PC19 the risks of taking this as a high school student.

Thank you for your time

Mr. Greg Smela

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Laurial Kincaid  
WCPSS Staff EDU Twitter Accounts

Dear WCPSS BOE

Twitter can get information out quickly. It is parents and students understanding accounts are to be managed by a coach, teacher, or an employee of WCPSS. Twitter has become the platform in high school, especially WCPSS.

The last board meeting my comment was omitted. Teachers, principals also have their own individual twitter account pages. These twitter accounts state EDU in their bio. Students are encouraged to follow their school staff.

Please be aware your staff members are using this platform to promote political candidates, tik tok dances with inappropriate lyrics, Black Lives Matter, Black Businesses, and other propaganda with a mix in of retweeting school news.

In (AUGUST) your staff member referred to a student as her school child.

We want teachers and staff to develop positive working relationships with students, however that does not take a place of mothers and fathers.

We understand that WCPSS is now marketing the school system as one big family. Rebranding is important but let us not overstep. Please stay in your lane. Teachers and staff are public servants. They should be inspirational leaders.

They are not extended family as in having extra mothers and fathers. This is offensive to parents.

If a male principal/teacher posted that a female student was his school child, a male principal/teacher would be reprimanded and possibly suspended with no pay. If a male principal/teacher posted that a

former female student was his school child, a male principal/teacher would be reprimanded and possibly suspended with no pay.

This post was from one of your female high school assistant principal. This is a pure example of no boundaries, favoritism, implicit bias, and abuse of power.

Please consider revising this public comment form to include attachments. In person board meetings handouts can be submitted. The public needs to see attachments/screenshots. Please remind your staff to behave in a professional manner.

Thank you

Laurial Kincaid

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Lisa-Marie Hobb

Virtual Learning for High School Students

Dear WCPSS BOE

Students are suffering with learning virtual. More high school kids are texting o each other that they don't want to be in school much longer. Why is that? Teachers are bombarding them with work. The rigor is intense. We opted out of honors courses because my teenagers cannot handle this pressure. What do you suggest parents do?

As a board you may feel this is not a big deal because it is not affecting your family. As a board who has children within WCPSS public school or grand kids attending WCPSS your children are being taken care of.

WCPSS Board Members and current staff children will receive all that they need to succeed while the rest of our children lag further behind.

Lisa-Marie Hobb

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Nina Benson

COGAT TESTING AND IOWA IQ TESTING

Dear WCPSS BOE

Will COGAT testing and IQ testing be administered this year?

*From WCPSS: Advanced Learning Services and the Testing Office have been collaborating to determine how to facilitate CogAT and Iowa testing for the 2020-2021 school year. At this time, CogAt and Iowa testing for grades 3-8 has been postponed until the second semester. We will share more information with you as it becomes available.*

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Shirley Tang

#1: Parents' concerns addressed in BOE election candidate Questionnaire. #2: Defective and misleading questions in SRO Survey.

Dear Board Members and Superintendent Moore,

Herein, I share with you and our community the results of the Questionnaire I posted to all Wake County Board of Education election candidates. I kindly request the waive of the 500-word limit. Still, to minimize word count, I display only their votes and main points of their comments. Before forming any opinion on the responding candidates, viewers are encouraged to see their FULL comments and the entire Questionnaire here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17X9ErOr0LzQKf5AQ03m91-gy-o0pj0-s/view?usp=sharing>

Five candidates graciously responded, as seen under each question below. The rest of the candidates are:

District 1 – Deborah Prickett. No response.

District 2 – Monika Johnson-Hostler. No response.

District 2 – Dorian Hamilton. No response.

District 3 – Roxie Cash. No response.

District 4 – Keith Sutton. No response.

District 5 – Jim Martin. No response.

District 7 – Rachel Mills. No response.

District 8 – Lindsay Mahaffey. No response.

District 8 – Steven Bergstrom. No response.

District 9 – Bill Fletcher. No response.

District 9 – Dan Madding. No response.

*Question #1: Would you, as a Board member, vote to adopt an Advocate for Parents Policy that would give parents and students their voice through advocate support?*

District 1 – Heather Scott: No

Comment: To clarify: I do support the use of an advocate to assist with parents and their communication and many parents already choose to bring an attorney/advocate to Due Process Hearings and appeals. I would worry about a policy either limiting the scope and role of advocates, or expanding it too much... [more].

District 2 – Gregory Hahn: Yes

Comment: Parents voices have been ignored by the school board, and I sense frustration from parents. By all means we need to listen to students, but I am concerned with some of the behavior and tweets that I have seen from students in Wake County. For example, hateful and disrespectful tweets toward our SROs... [more].

District 6 – Christine Kushner: Yes

Comment: Additional information: Policies already allow for limited roles for parent advocates. I support exploring other ways advocates can support families, in order to improve collaboration and get better outcomes for students, families, and educators.

District 7 – Chris Heagarty: Yes

Comment: I would want to see the language of a specific policy before committing to it, but I support the idea.

District 9 – Karen Carter: Yes

Comment: I fully support families being advocates for their children. Currently, there are parent advocates allowed to attend special education meetings; however, all families deserve the option to have their concerns expressed through an advocate... [more].

*Question #2: At School Board meetings, parents have often expressed concerns and request answers to different aspects of their children's education or treatment in WCPSS. As a Board member, should you respond to the parents, especially your constituents, personally afterward?*

District 1 – Heather Scott: Yes

Comment: I have contacted parents and community members who speak during Public Comment after Board Meetings - both immediately after the meeting or via email/phone call in the days following the meeting... [more].

District 2 – Gregory Hahn: Yes

Comment: This is so important, and I believe this interaction and communication is missing. Parents feel ignored and thus have become frustrated.

District 6 – Christine Kushner: Yes

Comment: If speakers follow up with contact information, I will follow up with them. I work to respond to public concerns.

District 7 – Chris Heagarty: Yes

Comment: Yes, but who responds and how depends upon the nature of the concern. Sometimes follow up from staff is appropriate... [more]. I do feel more should be done to address issues brought up in public comments.

District 9 – Karen Carter: Yes

Comment: As a mother of a student in the WCPSS and someone who has spoken at multiple board meetings, I understand what it is like to feel as though no one is listening. I fully support open, respectful dialogue... [more].

*Question #3: As a School Board member, should you address parents' concerns on their children's disciplinary/academic/equity issues when school administrators fail to resolve them?*

District 1 – Heather Scott: No

Comment: Disciplinary and academic issues already have Due Process procedures and appeal protocols in place. Elected Board Members are not typically the people who to address these issues in the initial stages, but do have a role should the matter reach an appeal hearing... Equity issues are certainly important conversations... [more].

District 2 – Gregory Hahn: Yes

Comment: The school board is suppose to be a voice for parents, a resource for teachers, and an advocate for students.

District 6 – Christine Kushner: Yes

Comment: As a Board member, I frequently work with parents and families and help them make contact with administrators who can help them address concerns.

District 7 – Chris Heagarty: Yes

Comment: Administrators should resolve these issues, and of course board members attempt to help if they are left unresolved, but there is a difference between "failed to resolve" and "failed to resolve them the way the parent wanted"... [more].

District 9 – Karen Carter: Yes

Comment: As a Board Member, I should report concerns to the Area Superintendent and/or Superintendent... [more]. All too often, students suffer silently due to fear of retribution or previous inaction by WCPSS staff. We must keep every child safe.

*Question #4: Should Board members enforce formal and periodic training for all WCPSS employees on policies related to discrimination, harassment, and bullying, including the right of parents/students to file complaints against such?*

District 1 – Heather Scott: Yes

Comment: All WCPSS employees must acknowledge that they have read the employee handbook - which does list these issues - when signing their contract. I do believe this type of training should be required in a more formalized way.

District 2 – Gregory Hahn: Yes

Comment: Most companies require their employees to attend yearly (at least) training on ethics, code of conduct and harassment.

District 6 – Christine Kushner: Yes

Comment: Board members are charged with upholding policies and procedures of the district.

District 7 – Chris Heagarty: Yes

District 9 – Karen Carter: Yes

Comment: We should be provided a report of % of staff completion of training. Additionally we should encourage Principals, Area Superintendents... [more] to follow up appropriately with staff until the training is completed.

*Question #5: Should Board members hold WCPSS employees, including administrators, accountable when they violate district policies or state/federal laws?*

District 1 – Heather Scott: No

Comment: The WCPSS Human Resources Department must also follow the grievance policy. The School Board is ultimately responsible for holding the Superintendent accountable... [more]... appeal hearings can come before the Board and Board Members must be impartial during those hearings.

District 2 – Gregory Hahn: Yes

Comment: Wake County School Board Policy promises students, families, and all staff a safe and orderly working environment.

District 6 – Christine Kushner: Yes

Comment: Board members and staff are all responsible and expected to follow policies of the district.

District 7 – Chris Heagarty: Yes

District 9 – Karen Carter: Yes

Comment: As a Board Member... [more]. If any policies are violated, swift and appropriate action must be taken. As trusted elected officials, we must all be held accountable for our actions.

*Question #6: Should the Superintendent and the Board, at the current racial climate, make equity the #1 priority and collaborate with students, parents, and advocates on their recommendations expeditiously?*

District 1 – Heather Scott: No

Comment: I want to be clear that by answering “no,” I still acknowledge this is indeed an extremely important matter and should always be prioritized, but we are currently addressing many other important issues... [more].

District 2 – Gregory Hahn: Yes

Comment: However, we need to look deeper into the processes and not just focus on the end results... [more]. I'm concerned about school performance. In District 2 alone, nearly half the schools have a D or F! I also support SROs in our schools.

District 6 – Christine Kushner: No

Comment: Equity is very important to me, to this Board, and to WCPSS--however, the number 1 priority in Fall 2020 is responding to the pandemic and the disruption in learning... [more].

District 7 – Chris Heagarty: No

Comment: While I believe Equity is very important, I believe that the #1 current priority is management of the COVID-19 epidemic in our community.

District 9 – Karen Carter: No

Comment: My focus as a WCPSS School Board representative will always be on education, academic success, and what's in the best interest of our students. Today, as we maneuver the pandemic together... [more].

#### Defective and Misleading Questions in SRO Survey

On October 1, I informed you about 3 defective and misleading questions I found in the SRO Survey. If the Survey is not recalled and then revised, the questions would, for example, block students, parents, and staff from access to a vital question: “Who should be the primary responder to each of these situations?” I have not heard from any of you on whether the Survey will be recalled and revised. My full email to you is here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pljeEh5ynWLSrzkfv\\_kICxf7-oR0kMra/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pljeEh5ynWLSrzkfv_kICxf7-oR0kMra/view?usp=sharing)

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Barry Joubert  
Nominations of Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year

Dear Ms. Moore, Mr. Sutton and Mrs. Cash and all WCPSS BOE  
Nominations of principal and assistant principal of the year for 2019-2020 have been released. What measuring criteria is used for this nomination? We can not find the information on the WCPSS website. We have searched the website with no luck on an answer. Is this appointed by the Superintendent? Is it based on peers? Please discuss in your meeting.

*From WCPSS: The selection process for both the Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year awards is the same. Semi-finalists are selected by their peers. Semi-finalists are then invited to submit a short biography. Principals and Assistant Principals across the district then vote to select five finalists in each category.*

*Finalists will submit an e-portfolio and participate in an e-portfolio review and virtual interview. The finalists with the highest scores on these measures will be selected as the Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year.*

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Charlotte Humphries  
Principal Survey Results - Student Focus Group

Dear BOE  
The principal survey results in secondary schooling, stated cohorts would not work and that all students should stay remote until January. Why would WCPSS state Plan B could and possibly would happen once CDC guidelines gave the okay. It seems that it was not a valid option and parents and students were given a bait and switch option. High school students are struggling to keep up with the slammed work assignments. Perhaps adjusting the curriculum requirements is the key. We need to keep students and teachers sanity a priority.

Thank you

Charlotte Humphries