

[Carlos Haring - DECA \(Video\)](#)

Marinna He

Vice Chair's recent recommendation that gender-fluid staff/students can use bathroom that matches their gender

This greatly concerns us. Please consider providing unisex bathrooms rather than allowing men and women to be in the same bathroom. Strongly oppose. Thank you!

Katherine Townsend

Race Relations in High School

Dear Ms. Moore Mr. Sutton Ms. McCaffey and Board Members

Please address my concern, Multi race dating exists and my Caucasian daughter has had a dating relationship with a popular boy athlete for over a year. My white daughter has been singled out and harassed by person of color female administrators, over this relationship.

We still have a stigma of mix dating in this society however it is not their place to meddle.

These teenagers should be free to date as such. Black women administrators are voicing opinions I would like the harassment to stop. It is confusing for the students.

Thank you

Katherine Townsend

Jin Wang

Strongly against to let male enter female locker in school or public area. That is stupid.

Chastity Lafayette

Title IX Representative at Local School Site

Dear BOE

Please advise does every school have a Title IX representative. Why is the Title IX representative not mentioned on my child's school website?

On the main WCPSS site the following phone # 919-854-4349 is a fast busy. It has not been working since July of 2020 when I first brought it to the board in public comment. This is unacceptable. It is now December 2020.

Your website states a designee may be reached. Does a DESIGNEE even exist?

This text is from your website.

The Title IX Coordinator is the assistant superintendent for student services or her/his designee and may be reached at (919) 854-4349.

Does Randy Trice handle all Title IX inquiries, and investigations for all the schools within in WCPSS?

Thank you

Chastity Lafayette

[Note from WCPSS: The principal is considered the Title IX representative for reporting and investigative purposes, if the principal is not the subject of the complaint or investigation. Any Title IX concerns can be shared with the school principal. Although, reports of bullying, intimidation, and harassment can be reported to any educator. We have removed the 919-854-4349 from the [website](#). In the meantime, we have left Dr. Trice's contact information.]

Christopher McLaughlin
Skewed COVID19 Cases in Schools

Dear Ms. Moore, Mr. Sutton, Ms. Cash and Board Members

Why are the COVID19 cases misleading and inaccurate being reported at the local schools? The data is skewed, and we are trying to figure the number logic. We choose Plan B for my family, but if the data is not current, and accurate we should be given an opportunity to opt out and go virtual. You must be honest and transparent.

Please address.

Thank you

Julia Casadonte
Please no remote kindergarten

As our weeks of remote learning wore on this fall, my bright, engaging, happy 5 year old daughter started to wake up each morning begging me not to have to "do computer school." She threw tantrums, started wetting the bed, and displayed other regressive and anxious behaviors. In short, she started to hate and dread school, which is not the attitude we want to cultivate in her as she is just starting out. Conversely, as soon as she was in the classroom, she began to thrive. Online, she wasn't recognizing numbers and letters, and her learning seemed to slide backwards. She has quickly jumped over this gap in person. She is excited about school and learning, and genuinely looks forward to attending every day. We got our amazing, bright and excited daughter back. The news that she will no longer be in a class with her beloved teacher and classmates, and instead will be spending 4+ hours in front of a screen each day, will crush her spirit . As a new parent in the WCPSS, our family made a choice to support our local public schools and place our trust in their ability to educate our kid. We chose this path over private options. If we go back to all remote learning, I fear we will have no choice but to switch her to a school that is remaining open for in person learning so as not to lose all her progress. Please, please, please consider the incredibly detrimental effects months of remote learning are having on your youngest kids, and please consider keeping them in class.

Yan Yan
Males are allowed in the female bathroom

Males should not be allowed in the female bathroom. Schools should consider female students' feelings because many female students are not comfortable with male in their bathroom.

Harmony VanGundy
Keeping schools open

My son is a kindergartner at Durant Road Elementary. Since going back to in person learning we have seen him excel in his classes. He is excited to go to school each day and comes home even more excited to share his day with me. He is extremely smart and is able to get more advanced work in person while that wasn't really an option with remote. Remote learning was more than challenging for him and I. He does not work well at home for me. The days ended with a crying, angry child who repeatedly said he hated school. He did not excel at his home assignments like he does in person. He does not learn by watching video after video and he rarely participated in class discussions. When called on during remote learning he would put his head down or just refuse to talk. In class he is raising his hand, participating, and thriving. I am begging you to please leave kindergartners in school. I also have a senior in high school and have a totally different perspective on the remote vs in person for her. She does ok with online school. My little Alistair does not. Sending him home again would be a major set back to his learning. He needs his teacher, his peers, and the opportunities only in person learning can offer.

Thank you,
Harmony VanGundy

Anastasia Heonis
Moving in person instruction to online only

Please, I beg of you, to consider the amount of working parents unable to give the time, energy or money to their elementary age children to accommodate remote learning. I'm a caretaker for my elderly father with emphysema and cancer, with whom we live with. I'm well aware of the risks and we follow the rules. COVID-19 is out there and quite a few survive. My father is in the highest risk group and even he feels his granddaughter needs the socialization and benefits of in person learning. Imagine for a moment to learn your father's cancer has returned (his 3rd round), you've put off your own hopes and dreams of pursuing your career to take care of your family, you're struggling under the weight of settling your uncle's estate that has sat in probate court for two years, and your 6 year old daughter who spent her birthday (5-4-20) in tears because the Corona virus took away all normal experiences... and this child who you feel has weathered the storm better than yourself confesses she wants to kill herself because "there's no Corona virus in heaven." Imagine the pain, the defeat, the crushing blow of failing your family and you still will not know the pain I'm carrying. Her returning to school has been the most incredible thing for her. She proudly wears her face mask, washes her hands. My word, the child chose to dress as Mary Mallon aka Typhoid Mary for Halloween because she wanted to remind people how important hygiene was! To hear schools may close down again is a blow I don't know we can survive. We just moved her the summer of 2018, but since my husband didn't join us (from Ohio) till 2019, we don't even qualify for the measly \$334 check NC families were to receive to help balance the cost of keeping our kids home when the pandemic hit!

Karen Nelson
PLEASE Don't Stop In-Person Learning

Our children need to be in school. Online learning does not work for all children. Leave the decision to the parent/family. Since starting back in person, my 5 year old grandson has started to actually learn. In addition, he has been waiting for speech testing & services since Feb 2020. Supposedly they have a backlog of children waiting for services which is a Major Disservice to the Children not to mention a violation of Federal Law. PLEASE keep our schools open.

Kristie Bradley

Virtual and in person classes

I am writing to you to please ask that you consider students with learning disabilities and IEPs when thinking about how the school year will continue. Out of my 3 children, 2 have learning issues and IEPs. This year has been so hard emotionally and mentally. One is a senior and we are worried about graduating at this point. My youngest went back and done so much better. He also struggles with anxiety and depression so being with others has done wonders.

I ask that if you consider going back to all virtual, then consider only sending those with learning issues or IEPs to school in person.

I also ask you to consider adjusting grading scales to account for the fact that virtual learning is not working for some learners and that this year has special circumstances.

Out of my 3 children, one has a gpa of 4.2 and the other a 2.2. Both of these students are seniors and then my fifth grader, I am not even sure how he is doing because teachers can not accurately assess what he knows.

I work in child care, where children can not always social distance or wear masks. We also have larger groups than most in person classes I'm public schools. We are making it work for the children and for their families. Yes we have had cases, but we follow guidelines and do our best to provide what the children and families need. Children count on us for all aspects of their development, including social and emotional growth.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jack Ling
Allowing Trans People into Opposite Sex Bathrooms

I have heard that Wake County Schools is contemplating allow mentally ill, body diaspora, people into opposite sex bathrooms, particularly in schools. I strongly protest this with all of my heart and being. This action is pure nonsense and willing normalization of the mentally ill. Not only that, it provides a easy way for perverted sexual predators to commit assault and battery on unsuspecting INNOCENT KIDS doing their business. It is abhorrent such ill conceiving policies are even being discussed, let along put into law. You are putting the majority law abiding, normal citizens at risk. People escaped progressive idiotic ideologies to come to NC, only to be faced by the garbage spewed by those "progressive" states. Act with your mind, conscience, and do not cave to "popular" but completely crazy beliefs that "trans" people are normal. Use common sense and science to guide your decisions. Do the right thing and discard this law into the garbage bin where it came from.

Amber Whiteley
We need schools open

WCPSS needs to follow the science, not the emotions. Schools need to be open for in person learning for our children. The science shows that schools are not super spreaders. Our children are falling behind academically, as the mental health toll increases. More anxiety, more depression, more suicide. Virtual learning does not work for many.

My 4th grader has loved school and excelled from the beginning. Starting in the spring with virtual learning, she has developed anxiety, with 1-2 anxiety attacks a week. This is because she is not able to understand learning virtually. She just had her week in school, and came home smiling every day. "Mom, everything made more sense today. Math, social studies, even ELA made more sense. I wish I could go every week."

As a nurse, I have been in the hospital setting this entire time. Wearing masks and washing hands limits the spread of this virus. If that were not true, every hospital employee would have had this virus by now. Your healthcare workers beg you to open schools full time. There is only so much we can emotionally and physically take on. We are exhausted and burnt out, with trying to care for the world right now, while helping our kids learn virtually. Our children are the ones suffering, as there is only so much time in the day, and trying to teach our children after working 12-14 hour days is impossible.

Miriam Caldwell

Returning to Plan C--It should happen

It is important that you take the courageous step to keep students home from school until the community spread has greatly decreased and we see a positivity rate of less than 3%.

We live in an unprecedented time, in a situation that many never imagined would actually happen to them. Our community is at risk and people are dying. Our hospitals are nearing capacity and are about to be overwhelmed. It is the responsibility of the community, and you as a community leader to take the steps to keep those in our community safe.

When you made the decision to return back to school even though numbers were rising, you, as a board, mentioned that you were looking at the positivity metric in the county as being below 5%. We are well past that average and are currently climbing above 10% positivity on some days with an average of 7.7%. It is only going to get worse with the holidays and people choosing to travel to see family.

I am doing all I can to keep my family safe. Each week there are fewer Plan B students that are actually showing up to school. Parents don't feel safe sending their kids to school. You have listened to a vocal minority and sent us back to school too soon. It is time now to look at the data, look at the community spread, and think about how it will affect students when there are no teachers in the schools to teach because they have to quarantine, and how it will affect students when teachers, and friends and family members fall ill and possibly die.

One of the most dangerous activities is lunch time, which you have decided to put into the classrooms (enclosed spaces with poor ventilation) and significantly increase the risk. People can catch Covid -19 with just five minutes of exposure. Please see this article in the LA Times, that clearly shows the risk. You are having students in elementary school not be socially distanced eat in rooms where the risk of spread is much higher.

Please make the choice to keep our students and teachers safe. Students are still learning. This is not a lost year. But even one life lost is too many.

Carey Moore

Please keep schools open

My son is a junior at Millbrook High School and the Virtual Academy has been a complete disaster for his learning style. The teachers and school have done the best they can given the situation and I applaud them for their efforts; however, remote learning is doing more harm than good. My son has ADD and eye issues and being forced to learn solely on a computer is the worst possible combination for him. If science is real then the governor and board must support the science showing that schools are not spreading the virus. The science shows that the small percentage of staff or children that have contracted have contracted it, contracted it from other places than school. Our children are our future and we need to make sure they get the proper education and tools to lead us forward. Under remote learning our children will not be equipped academically or socially and we will continue to fall even further behind other countries. We owe it to our children to reopen schools for all grade levels.

Angie Taylor
ECATS and Medical Information

Dear Ms. Moore, Mr. Sutton, and Board Members
Hello All, as you know ECATS is a program that stores private confidential information on a student. As you know Medical information is also added to ECATS. As a parent I was told that any teacher can search a student's file in ECATS. Is this accurate? Why is it that all teachers have access to ALL students in the schools ECAT file? Why do all teachers have access to all the students in that school? Why would teachers from other schools have viewing rights on all students within WCPSS.
Please advise as this is alarming.

Thank you
Angie Taylor

Regina Burch
Please keep Wake County schools open

Children need to be provided in person learning particularly young children. Please keep schools open.

Robert Fife
Closing Schools/Going back to all online learning

Dear Board Members - I strongly believe that during this time of a rising crisis due to Covid19, that it would be prudent to return all learning to online for the safety and well being of all students, staff and families of Wake County. The latest mantra everyone is hearing is "the vaccines are just around the corner" and while that statement does contain some truth, the facts are that the general public will not be receiving that first wave of vaccinations - possible not even the second. These first vaccines are already slated for medical workers, essentials of all variety and the elderly/staff in nursing homes. My entire family implores you to adopt the attitude of "better safe than sorry" and keep these children home and online for their safety as well as the teachers. Thank you.

Michelle Armistead
Shutting down schools

Please keep elementary schools open. The academic losses to our low income, ESL, and special needs populations especially would be devastating. They have already lost so much ground from the time schools have already been online only. Also, staff like cafeteria workers, bus drivers, and substitute teachers need income. Please do NOT close our schools again.

Daniel Maynard

Continuing In Person Instruction for Elementary School Students

It has come to my attention that the school board will be meeting soon to discuss a return to virtual learning. Virtual learning may be adequate for high school students, at least as an emergency measure, however for our elementary school students in-person instruction is vital to their growth and development. My son Benjamin is a kindergarten student at Herbert Akins Road Elementary. During virtual learning in the first part of the semester my son merely tolerated school, but once he was in the classroom he flourished. Benjamin absolutely loves kindergarten. I must give his teacher Mrs. Wegner kudos for the incredible job that she is doing both virtually and in the classroom. Without teachers like her, my son would have most likely struggled to transition from preschool into kindergarten. My wife and I are both working parents and therefore we must send Benjamin to a daycare during virtual learning. While the daycare did their best under the circumstances, they are not teachers, and they did not have the ability to provide the one-on-one guidance that is necessary for a kindergarten student to learn successfully in a virtual environment. Fortunately for us daycare is not a financial concern, but for many parents it is a choice between working and their child's education. Removing my son, and most kindergarten students from the classroom at this point will have a detrimental effect on their educational progress, as well as place an overwhelming financial burden on families. Elementary school students need an in-person, hands on educational experience. I implore the board to continue in-person instruction for at least our elementary school students. Thank you for your time. Daniel Maynard

Rachel Greene

Keeping Schools Open

As a parent of a K and 3rd grader, we started school remotely. It had its challenges like most things but our teachers kept our kiddos engaged. And they did well, not stellar...however, once we entered in person learning, the leaps my children have taken. I would hate to see this taken away from them and the other children that thrive in this environment. If us 'adults' would do our part possible school closures would not be a topic of conversation.

Sarah Summey

Prioritizing Students and Families via In-Person Instruction

I am writing to you as a parent concerned about the possibility of schools halting in-person instruction again. A multitude of issues arise for our children when these choices are made. I'd appreciate the opportunity to voice some of those here including the mental health of students, consistency in learning, and prioritization of not only education, but also working families in your district. I will attempt to make this brief, but I would appreciate you reading the entirety of this message.

My son is a first grader in Wake County, and returned to school in November. Since March, I witnessed first-hand the social detriment that remote learning has had on my son. The isolation and lack of structure (social and educational) resulted in depression and anxiety for our son. When he returned in November, I can't even express his joy and excitement. He's been so happy to be back with other kids in the classroom,

and I've seen such an improvement in his behavior and attitude. Kids need to be engaged with each other. Their development requires it.

Secondly, bouncing kids back and forth from in person to remote learning does not benefit them. And while this pandemic has proved that kids are extremely adaptable and resilient, we also have to adhere to what will be best for their education. I believe, especially for younger students, this is in-person instruction. You cannot guarantee the same quality of education across a screen. This approach is not effective for kids learning to read and write, and the screen time alone is detrimental to their brain chemistry, so I'm asking you to consider what is best for young students in your district.

This brings me to prioritizing the education of these students-which is in fact the purpose and function of the school board. Many kids, like mine, have parents who are unable to work from home. We have managed to scrape through this school year in a nearly impossible situation, attempting to give our son the best possible outcome for his education while still providing for our family. I ask you to take us into consideration tomorrow at the board meeting.

It's notable that most Covid cases in the school system are from teachers and staff, not students. I don't believe it is fair to our students to dismantle their learning environment yet again, rather than find creative solutions to provide educators.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dana Cooke

In Person vs. Virtual School

PLEASE consider staying on track to allow elementary and middle school students to remain in school, with 4th and 5th graders to return full time in January. I am a 5th grade teacher - At our school, 30% of our 5th graders are either not showing up for live meets and/or not completing their daily assignments. I'm sure that statistic is similar to many schools in Wake County. They need to be in school in order for us to hold them accountable. If you vote to have us go back to all virtual, then we are failing our students by not allowing them to remain in live classrooms. Yes, there is a health risk looming over us, but we owe it to our kids to continue to be vigilant in social distancing and sanitizing within the schools, to guarantee their success for the future. You have given parents the choice to switch to Virtual Academy. Give the other students that want and/or need to be in school the chance to thrive in person with their educators. Thank you.

Ryan Kerian

In-person learning

I am writing to urge you in the strongest possible terms to continue giving parents the option to elect in-person schooling. Requiring remote learning forces families where each parent works to face significant financial consequences during a time in which the government is not providing any meaningful financial assistance. Moreover, young children are falling behind on their educations and suffering developmental and emotional consequences due to the inherent inadequacies of remote learning. Science supports in school education during COVID-19. Please continue to give parents a choice and we will all succeed together. If nothing else, then please keep elementary schools open. The science is clear that young children do not contract or spread the virus as older populations do.

Dusty Reagin

In-Person Schools

While the COVID infection numbers are rising drastically, there is no scientific evidence that in-person learning has been a contributing factor. Younger children especially are not being seen as vectors of infection spread and they are the most vulnerable to the negative effects of schools not being in person. Additionally, by elementary children being forced to learn from home, this places a massive burden on their parents being unable to be in the work force or face a giant financial burden. PLEASE strongly consider allowing elementary schools to continue in-person learning, as there is no strong evidence to indicate it's been problematic in any way.

Tracy Zimmermann
Please keep schools OPEN

Please keep elementary schools open! My kindergarten student has made tremendous strides since in person learning has begun. He is thriving. He is safe. I am very happy with the safety precautions put in place. I am happy families that do not feel comfortable sending their children to school have the option of virtual academy. For my kindergartener, that just doesn't work. He needs in person instruction. I also have a high school student doing just fine virtually. I know some would prefer in person for their students as well, but at least the majority of high school students are able to utilize their computer on their own and do not need constant supervision. The elementary students need to stay in person. Every day. Thank you.

Tavia Wilson
Plan B schools and students

In August, you gave us a choice on how to school our children based on our risk level and comfort level with Covid 19. However, for much of this school year, the parents who selected Plan B have been denied their choice and forced into remote learning. Now, as you consider to revert the schools back to Plan C after very few issues with Covid since they reopened in October, I implore you to honor the choice of Plan B parents and not do more disservice to our students who need to be in school. Let the schools remain open. Or, let each school determine if it can remain open or if it needs to close for a period of time due to cases. Wake County is so big that a blanket policy is unfair to unaffected areas. The negative impact of remote learning will far outweigh any physical impact for our children. Please, honor Plan B, and keep our students in school. Thank you.

Jimmy Wilson
Wake County School Attendance Plan

This isn't Russia. Let kids who want to go to school go to school. It's simple. Just let the kids go to school. You are educators not public health scientists (or public relations managers). Focus on teaching kids and stop wasting our time pontificating and virtue shaming. People that don't want their kids in school have every opportunity to do so. Do not take away the opportunity for kids who want to go to school. Enough is enough.

Rachel Garris
Please don't fail our children again

Anymore I am not sure this has any impact because I feel I must be in the minority feeling this way, but my kids mental health increased significantly once they were allowed to go back to school. That had no issues wearing masks, they did this happily just to be in a classroom again. Not to just socialize bc they

get this elsewhere, but because they actually felt like they got a normal workload when it came to school work. They felt as if they were finally actually learning something. It's not just me, the studies have proven that more kids are failing and this ain't just the kids that normally struggled. Sadly it's even worse for them. There have been slim to not cases abs children if they get it are impacted in the meats. If you don't want to go there are options. So why is it the ones that need to go are penalized because others don't want to go. We aren't forcing them to go to school, so why are they forcing our out! That's just not right.

Jennifer nelson
NOT closing schools

My twin kindergartners are currently in school and are thriving as in person students. Virtual Academy was not as helpful because they had to learn a whole new technical logical way to learn. My fourth grade son has been a part of virtual Academy and he lacks focus during the meats and during free time to complete assignments. The staff at our elementary school are taking every precaution needed to keep schools open. Please consider continuing to allow students to go to the classroom.

Jaime Pedraza
Please keep the schools open!

As a father of 3 kids in the WCPSS and a physician actively involved in the care of COVID patients, I implore you to keep the schools open. Look at the data: no outbreaks in schools! If any COVID cases are reported in schools, please make sure you know if such cases are of kids in virtual academy or plan B. As far as I can tell, such distinction is not being made when reporting cases, but yet, extremely important to know.

Particularly younger kids will be forever robbed from the irreplaceable time that NEEDS to be spent in the classroom not only for academic achievements but also for their social development! You already are providing an option for completely remote learning, I think that's already a huge compromise on both ends and should be maintained as such.

Heather Dorion
Please keep schools open!

In person learning is critical for my 6 year old, 1st grade son. We have finally started to see some gains, but virtual learning significantly affected not only his educational experience, but his self confidence. We were fortunate to be able to hire a tutor twice a week, a kindergarten teacher from Scott's Ridge Elementary, to supplement his learning experience, but it is not sustainable long term and I fear another regression if he's forced back into remote learning. I have been monitoring the WCPSS COVID metrics closely and I understand there may be potential staffing concerns, but schools are NOT the source of the spread. Please, for the sake of other children who absolutely cannot learn virtually, please allow them to stay in school and to learn and grow in the environment that is undoubtedly best for ALL children. Thank you for your consideration.

Julie Pedraza
Please keep schools open

As a mother of 3 young elementary school boys - Please, please keep our schools open! There is absolutely no data to suggest that schools have been the source of spread thus far. Students, especially

the younger elementary students, need to be in school for proper social, emotional, and academic development. Furthermore, you have already given the option to families to choose virtual for those that are most concerned about COVID. I beg you to prioritize our children and their education during these times, and to let data and facts, rather than fear and an over abundance of caution, guide your decisions.

Jessica Bustos
Keep schools open

If we say we should follow the science, then science states it's safe to keep schools open. Children need to grow and learn around their peers, not in front of a computer. Children have been the most compliant with keeping their masks on.

Sarah Zelasky
Protect teachers - halt in-person teaching mandates until February

My mother is in her last years of teaching before retirement and cannot yet leave Wake Schools with her full pension. She has requested an exemption from in-person teaching because she is over 50, has a husband with pre-existing conditions, and regularly takes care of her aunt and mother-in-law who is 86 years old. Her requests have been ignored and so she now teaches in-person at her elementary school and has neglected her care duties for her family. Every morning she wakes up with severe anxiety about getting sick and harming her family. She has stomach pains, chest tightness, and other anxiety symptoms daily. At school, she filled out the county survey form on mask compliance and noted that there was noncompliance in her school such as students taking indoor mask breaks in their classrooms while other students were present nearby. The form stated that she would be contacted by an administrator to discuss the observed noncompliance. No one from the county ever reached out to have her concerns addressed. The county originally stated that schools would only open when the positive test rate was below 4%. That rate is now above 8%. The county has not followed their own standards of ensuring teacher safety, and as cases climb, there is no excuse for blatantly disregarding proper protocol for when to open/close schools and when to mandate in-person teaching. Cases are surging. At the very minimum, Wake Schools must allow teachers over 50 and caretakers the option to teach remotely or take extended paid leave. Their lives and their families lives are at stake.

Laura Ivey
School closures

The risks of COVID-19 to children are minimal as compared to the known risks of keeping schools closed.

It is worth mentioning that the advice of public health experts is not to shut down schools where there is low to moderate transmission. Even when transmission rates are higher, safety measures can mitigate the higher risk. Schools initially shut down in the spring following guidelines based on influenza transmission patterns, in which children are major spreaders. This is not the case with COVID-19; children are rarely affected by COVID-19. Recent studies show that opening schools and daycares has no effect on community transmission rates. Even Dr. Fauci said schools should be open in areas with low and moderate transmission, which goes along with what the Center for Disease Control and the American Academy for Pediatrics have been saying all along.

What are these risks?

Child abuse increases in times of disaster and chronic stress, especially for those living in poverty. The United States already sees around 1,700 child abuse deaths a year, 27 of those took place in North Carolina in 2016 (latest data). This number is expected to drastically increase during the pandemic, especially without teachers and counselors reporting abuse. In North Carolina last spring there was a 34% reduction in child abuse reporting in months the schools were closed.

One reason abuse increases after disaster is because the mechanism for reporting and accountability is disrupted: namely, school. Teachers look out for and report signs of abuse. The system is not perfect, but it is there. Children are able to get away from their perpetrators, which likely explains the recent spike in child exploitation and pornography.

Teenagers are biologically wired to connect socially, to begin finding their identity and purpose. Those raging hormones are responsible for increased risk-taking. Isolating teenagers, at best, will lead to rebellion and "socially distanced parties" (yeah, right), which does spread COVID-19. At worst, it will lead to depression, anxiety, and even suicide. Experts say the number of teen suicides (about 2,000 a year in the USA) will drastically increase. Many teenagers who would have been playing football or practicing for a school play, are getting-up-to-no-good and participating in the explosion of homicides that have occurred in major cities.

Children who are chronically absent (miss more than 10 days of school a year) are more likely to drop out of school. A study in Chicago showed that for every additional week a freshman misses, there was a 20% increase in dropping out. When kids drop out they face limited job prospects and increased likelihood for incarceration.

Understandably, teachers want to protect themselves. However, now we know schools are unlikely to be where COVID-19 is transmitted, if safety measures are followed, and more likely reflect community transmission trends.

Teachers must also want to protect their students. Schools provide meals to children who need them, they provide medical attention, and resources to families in need. No school is perfect, but I do not know a teacher out there who has not given a hungry child a snack, purchased a pair of shoes for a child in need, or looked at a child who failed a test and said, 'I believe in you.' Teachers do not go into this profession if they do not care about children.

Perhaps teachers have felt and, let's face it, have been so undervalued and unappreciated for so long that their jobs no longer seem essential. If COVID-19 teaches us anything, it is that teachers are not only important, they are essential in protecting their students.

Jennifer Anderson
School Closure

Why are we considering closing all Wake County Schools and not evaluating at the school level? Certainly understand the temporary closure of a school if an outbreak surfaces but to close an entire large county doesn't seem logical. I've seen the published data in Wake County schools, and there is absolutely no evidence that schools have been a source of spread. Please consider keeping the schools open. Our children need to be in the schools.

Sue Schmidt

Remote learning/substitutes

As the grandmother of a third grader that is FINALLY in face to face school, I was very disheartened to hear that remote learning is coming back. My first thought is that the ADULTS in the schools are not taking the virus seriously. Are they doing the 3 Ws? Keeping within the people they live with? Come on adults, take the lead here, our kids seem to be doing their part. Where are all the substitutes that were unemployed for months? ALL adults owe it to these kids, they deserve better than we are giving them.

Niccole Rosin

Options to keep schools open

It's my hope the school board chooses to take the position of displaying the importance of kids being in school, ultimately being the decision maker, while listening to and working with the school administration and staff.

It's already been established that schools need to be open. You decided that in October and have been rolling out school openings.

This could be a school by school decision to close for a period of time vs closing the entire school district!

If a school does not have X% of staff / administration it closes for 14 days.

A school closes for 14 days NOT we're reverting to virtual learning

Remember the protocols you put into place, THEY WORK!

They are working in WCPSS and they are working in private & charter schools.

Pete Holthausen

Please Continue In Person Learning

The harms of virtual learning are more difficult to measure than Covid statistics, but no less real and far more harmful. The mental health toll on children has been documented in many studies in the US and in Europe. Remote learning works, if at all, only for the affluent who have the luxury of stay-at-home jobs, excellent broadband connections and the ability to pay for tutors or childcare. I urge the School Board to be leaders and resist following local school districts that only measure and weigh Covid statistics in making their decisions.

I have read that the issue is with staff, but there are other options to solve a staffing issue. We, as the adults and leaders of the community, owe it to our children to figure out how to do what is in their best interest. I read on WRAL this morning that since school has returned in person there has not been a single documented case of a Covid cluster in Wake County schools. Our responsibility is to govern based on what we know and what we have measured, not what we fear might happen. And if it is to be on fear, why do we not fear more strongly the short and long-term harms to our children of closing in person learning?

I urge the Board to consider alternative action that continues to allow for in-school instruction. The current mindset appears to be that there is a vaccine coming, so we should hunker down one last time. But what if the vaccine is not effective or the virus mutates, or we have a similar sickness in the near future? This is the time for leadership to create a blueprint for how to assess and make decisions that weigh what is in the total benefit of the child.

If I told this Board in November of 2019 that they would be closing schools for a sickness that has proven to be far, far less harmful than the flu to school aged children, I expect I would have been respectfully told to consult my local doctor and make sure all was well. In March when schools closed down, we did not know what we do now. We owe it to our children to use knowledge gained since then to make a better decision, for if we do not use and apply our knowledge, then what is the point of learning?

Thank you for your time and consideration today.

Margaret Fyfe
Return to virtual school.

I am writing to encourage the board NOT to return Wake County children to virtual school. Despite heroic work by our educators, remote school continues to fall short for most school students. Our county should control the Corona virus by providing subsidies to business to close, especially bars and restaurants, in order to keep children in school. Our state has a 4 billion budget surplus and the legislature should provide staffing subsidies for counties so that they can increase staff during this difficult time. Please do not close schools again.

Megan Brazeau
Keeping schools open

As a teacher and a parent of students in WCPSS, I first would like to say thank you for being so thoughtful and deliberate in your decision making for the safety and well being of students and staff in the district. It is no small task and it is obvious you have taken this task very seriously.

I have a high school freshman who is learning remotely and I am teaching in person at an elementary school. The perspective of having a high school student at home, struggling to stay motivated and still waiting to get in the building has been tough, as it has been for so many families. Offset that, with the excitement of watching these elementary learners transition to the buildings, and you want it for all students.

As an intervention teacher, I am watching these minds get moving and these children are making quick progress having face to face instruction. In first grade out of 6 students, only 2 showed up regularly online, and now I have 5 of 6 in front of me daily. They are excited to be here and have adapted remarkably well to their new normal of mask wearing and social distancing. Every day I see the lightbulbs are going on and they are excited about their progress. A third grade student working on fluency is ready every day with a smile, checking her improvements at the end of every session. ELL students who, for whatever reason never log on to remote learning, are here every day and we can reach them. Kids who need meals and encouragement are receiving both.

I write this as I know you are watching cases in our state rise dramatically. What I would hope is taken into consideration as you meet today are two things. Are students/staff contracting Covid at school and are they spreading it at school? If the answer is no, then I believe we need to stay the course and keep

these kids coming into the building, including moving forward with the plans to get high school in the building. Safety protocols were well thought out and are in place to keep the numbers down. Without a doubt the safety of students and staff are the most important priority. If the safety protocols appear to be working, I would encourage you to stay the course for now. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my opinion.

Best Regards,

Megan Brazeau

Robert Caldwell
in-person school during COVID

I do not believe it is currently safe for our students, teachers, or communities to allow schools to meet in-person when the COVID-19 positive test percentages are above 5%. WHO recommends in-person events not be held unless positive rates are below 5% for more than 2 weeks. I believe we should follow this guidance. Last week, there were more than 80 positive cases in WCPSS. That number will likely grow after the holidays. That's far too many. There is no need to risk the lives of our teachers, parents, grandparents, so students can sit in a room together. With appropriate planning and PD, remote learning can be effective. I know it's no one's wish to be remote. But these are unique times and I believe history will show taking more precautions, not less, is the wiser decision. We are nearing the end of this pandemic. It's important that leaders step up and make hard decisions now more than ever, so that we don't see more deaths. We also do not know the long-term affects the illness can have on some of our children. I believe many parents are concerned sending their students to school in-person. The very vocal minority has won out in my opinion.

Julie Linville
Calendar for Spring 2021

I see that the school board is considering shortening the track-out duration in April 2021 to allow more time between grade promotion in the summer. I would like to ask you to reconsider as many families, including mine, made advance vacation plans for that time that would be affected by the change. After such a rough 2020, my daughters are greatly looking forward to our vacation, so much so that we've had a countdown calendar on our refrigerator that started at day 187! I would hate to have to cancel the trip and hope you will leave the track-out calendar as is, or consider having the children return to school earlier in January. Thank you!

Libba Lomenick
Special Ed & Early Learners

Our kids need to be in school. I have one son in special ed and one who just started kindergarten. Virtual school does not work for them. They both regressed so much during the first few months of the school year. They are thriving through in person learning. If you need more substitutes, consider changing their requirements to a high school diploma. We have to find a way to do what's best for our kids.

Todd Lomenick
Virtual school for early learning and special ED

Early learners and special ED do NOT learn through Virtual school. They need to continue to go to school in person! I have both and this is from personal experience. Keep in person school the way it is for them!!

Ann Hughes
Board Advisory Committee Meeting

Dear WCPSS Board of Education

I am a community member, tax paying citizen, who has grandchildren attending WCPSS schools. Where would the community find information about the board advisory council meeting? My daughter in law follows the WCPSS Facebook page, the WCPSS twitter page. She receives updates from her children's principal weekly. We have yet to find information on the BAC.

We knew a meeting was on the calendar. Last week we searched our Board Rep on twitter. We did find Monika Johnson promoting residents in the state of Georgia to register to vote for the election in January 2021. However, no mention of the BAC meeting link, minutes etc....

We called WCPSS general customer service line. We got no one to answer the phone. By the way the voice mail box is full.

The Wake County Board of Education Policy 2231 provides for Board Advisory Councils (BAC). Each of the 9 school districts must have an advisory council made up of Principals, Parent Representatives, and at-large members. They meet at least 4 times a year with the district board member as outlined in the policy. Meetings are open to the public. Council members may serve for up to 3 years.

Where are the minutes to these meetings? Why is it not promoted? What is happening to our school district?

Regards,
Ms. A Hughes

Mary Owen Calloway
Supporting Wake County families by keeping schools open

WCPSS Board: I respectfully implore you to anchor your discussion at the special session this afternoon in data and facts, not emotion and fear. We are now in possession of significant facts about the benefits of keeping schools open for in-person instruction for all students, and the risks of keeping them closed. Three facts in particular I encourage you to consider:

- (1) Schools are not generating virus clusters nor serving as places of active secondary transmission. This is true all over Europe, in private schools nationwide that have been open since August, and in WCPSS schools open for the past month.
- (2) The CDC urges schools to open "as safely and quickly as possible", and
- (3) Children's mental health is suffering from remote learning, with 1/3 of high schoolers reporting feelings of depression (NPR, 11/28/20).

My family chose Wake County for our public schools. It is unfathomable to us that we now live in a county where people can attend gyms, bars, restaurants, and shops, but our children cannot get a reasonable public education.

Thank you for considering the needs of children and families, and not just the special interests of a few political groups, in your discussion tonight.

The Calloway family

Kathy Fife

Return to online learning Dec.2020

As a grandmother of 2 different Wake County schools, I would like to call on the board to return to all online schooling - at least for the immediate future for the safety of students, staff and the families to which they all return home. Vaccines for the general public will not be forthcoming in the next weeks/months, the virus is still uncontrolled and rising and the board members should consider their stewardship over all concerned. I had a board member directly tell me that "the option of Virtual Academy was open to you" and while true in some cases, it is not true in all. Some families, like ours, have divorced/separated parents and when they do not agree on "In Class vs VA" it would mean nothing short of going back and letting the court decide. Not an efficient method which leaves, in our case, VA not being an option. Personal matters aside, this is a time to err on the side of caution with all the children, their teachers, staff and families. Health, safety and lives are on the line and in your hands. Thank you.

Michael Kane

Safety for our Educators during Covid 19

With the current increase of Covid19 cases I ask that you fully consider the health and safety of our educators who risk far greater exposure than most realize in attempting in-person school instruction. School board members should investigate the workload and stress these past weeks has put on our educators as they try to teach online, in-person and cover other classes as needed while staffing is stretched thin. These concerns are especially for the elective class teachers who often have class time/exposure with ALL students within a building and are often asked to cover a multitude of additional tasks during the school day.

Warren Young

Keep our schools open.

Our Wake County schools are not a hotspot for Covid. Please do not penalize students who want to attend in person due to the spread that is happening outside the school system. Adequate precautions can and have been taken to keep the teachers as well as students safe. Let those students who want to participate virtually do so, but also let those that want to be attending in person be able to do that.

Ian Brown

Increased risk of COVID-19 with school closure

I have two children who are students at Olive Chapel Elementary in Apex. If school becomes virtual again risk is increased not decreased. Since my wife and I both work full time jobs we are not able to provide full time school for our children in our home. Our children go to a virtual learning center when school is not open for children to attend. This increases exposure and risk of COVID-19 infection. Serving our children best is teaching them in our schools.

Virtual academy forces educators to teach other teacher's lesson plans with evaluation by teachers who don't know or have direct contact with the children they are evaluating.

Virtual learning for elementary school children is ineffective and detrimental to development. Excessive screen time for our children is still bad for children in a pandemic.

School is important enough to do well even when it's hard.

Toni Harrell
Virtual Learning

I would like to add that the board should approve the children completing school virtual due to the increase of numbers. Since the school has open in the Heritage area our numbers have been high which is concerning. If the school is unable to approve all children returning to virtual, the option choice for virtual learning should be reopen up to allow the parents the options the choice for their children to do virtual.

Michelle Eckhart
Keeping schools open

I believe our children K-5 are thriving in the school. Cases have been limited and the risk is minor. Children at this age cannot rely on computers to be their only source of education and socialization. I strongly vote for schools to remain open in Plan A for K-5.

Ally Edwards
Student Achievement Meeting Nov 23, 2020 SPED SERVICES

Dear WCPSS BOE

Ms. Karen Hamilton discussed the many staff it takes to run a special education department of 18,000 SPED students. She included job titles of the many staff that work closely with students. Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists, Teachers, she included Nurses Psychologists. Are all of these staff members affecting her budget? Do they all work for her? Or does she work Karen Hamilton Work for Karen Creech (Wake county Health director) to provide services.

The public would like to know how large central office special education is. This should not be difficult to answer. She neglected to speak of the number of central office staff in her department. These folks would be your directors, assistants, coordinators, secretaries, clerks, administrators, senior administrators, senior directors, executive assistants, etc. What is the total number of central office staff that are in the Special Education Department?

WCPSS Board has been presented a misrepresented presentation. The district office is sent to IEP meetings to intimidate parents not to resolve. A team of parents have listened to this presentation six times to get an understanding of how this department is ran. It was poorly written, too fast, and difficult to follow.

The many SPED parents are upset, that the following board members had zero comments or clarifications on special education. Mr. Sutton, Ms. Mcaffey, Mr. Martin, Ms. Moore, and Ms. Hostler Johnson, Are the 3 buckets Ms. Hamilton referring to on slide 1 appearing on slide 6. Her slides are not synced up, presentation difficult to follow. On Slide 7 what does she mean by heavy lift, does that mean lifting up or down.

On Slide 7 Project Search makes Ms. Hamilton happy, what dollar amount of the budget is allocated to this project search program, and what percent of students is this compared to general content standard students? I am concerned because it sounds like they are being favored and no one seems to be math certified and they would not give us math services and let my child fail if I didn't provide a tutor. Under programming we are lost and what was being said. This is not happening at the local level. As a Board you need to stand up and question. Why is she only having contact with department chairs at the elementary level? This is on Slide 7. These are her words. I thought all SPED students were getting contacted by department chairs.

Many HS parents with SPED services have experienced a lack of care, they don't want to give them services, they just want to push them out. Is there more funding at the elementary level so that is where your focus is only? These were her words. What they get in elementary they need all through 12th grade. What is ECATS? She said everyone knows what ECATS are. It's my understanding its relatively new program and she never mentions it. She never mentions it on Slide 7.

Why are people at the local school site level not trained on how to develop an IEP, who are these people? Is it a case manager, she never said? If you are a case manager, you should know how to write an IEP. This is not child focused, what are sticky situations. What is the staff that attends? What is the purpose. What staff are showing up in sticky situations? Is this directors, senior administrators, is there a special ed SWAT team?

District office is not part of a legal team. This is my understanding. What is the percentage of central office staff sent to the local IEP meeting for when parents have advocated by themselves without results and denial from wake county public schools or individualized unique to their child educational plan? What is the policy of sending a non-legal member to an IEP meeting, how does the school board know from policy sped office policy is doing and appears to be harassment, intimidation do they consider how the student feels when sped district office acts like the police sending to the students meeting?

What percent of students who are black and brown are district staff sent?

We want answers a lot of lawsuits in wake county.

Thank you,
Ally Edwards

Angela Rainey
In-Person Schooling

Hello - Please consider suspending In-Person school until later in the Spring when the community's COVID numbers aren't so alarming. We're so close to a vaccine; Can we please hang tight at home until we can ensure safety for our children, staff and parents? Thank you.

Barb Anderson
Student Achievement Meeting November 23, 2020 SPED SECTION

Dear WCPSS BOE

Ms. Hamilton stated no Federal Flexibility on IEP Timelines, or the delivery of FAPE, she stated her department has never been 100% compliant. She stated no one is 100% compliant. How would she know what other district compliance percentages are? WCPSS is the largest school system in the state of North Carolina, and as a board you do not discuss improving this percentage. Absolutely no talk of improvement on compliance.

Just because other districts are not complaint so its been documented by her, we can excuse our behavior to mimic the same. Is WCPSS go-getters, innovators? Who suffers here Children! Let's start putting children at the center of our purpose.

Special Education children matter. It is shocking as parents to see a silent, non-engaged board of education not have any questions on Ms. Hamilton's presentation. So, thank you to Kristine Kushner and Mr. Haggerty to show involvement by offering discussion points.

On Slide 8 Ms. Hamilton mentions 20 required indicators but did not go in detail all 20 indicators. Where can we find all 20 indicators? She did not go over all of them. Children in this district are not getting their annual IEP as scheduled. Families are having to request it. How are you measuring accountability within in Special Education department?

Slide 10 – Mentions of 90 Day Evaluation Timelines prior to the pandemic no family should have to halt and wait until the fall to see if their child is eligible for special education. This was not happening prior to the pandemic. I am sorry to share to you the board is being fed misinformation.

What are you doing with the \$39 million? She mentions schools need additional training. Which schools are they? Where is the list? Perhaps families would not want to go there if the school isn't staying complaint to a Federal law.

Slide 11 – Disputes. If a parent asks for their child's educational cumulative folder and all records this should not be a flag on the SPED Dept that something is up. This is discriminatory and is setting up situation for the beginning of retaliation. Retaliation within WCPSS needs to stop.

Local schools ask for guidance from SPED Central Office. I believe that Central Office denies the child what they need, resists, grooms' parents to believe they are providing the best, provides no data, why are parents having to seek out attorneys for Due Process.

Perhaps most of you know this exists so therefore you did not want to engage as a board.

Thank you

Barb Anderson

Kimberly Jones
Creative Solutions to Staffing

If staffing shortages are the driving force for returning to remote learning, can we please consider creative ideas to help? Can the City or State help provide emergency funds for added staff? Can we offer folks in teaching programs who are almost done reimbursement for some tuition if they start working in January while finishing school? What else can our brilliant board members and community and government come up with? I can't wait to see!

Tyler Jones
Staff Shortage, Leadership and Suffering of Students

My family and I love WCPSS and have benefited from it greatly. We stand beside the teachers, staff and school board in this difficult time. However, we disagree entirely with the potential decision the board is considering in regards to returning next semester to virtual classes only. The decision, whether intention or unintentional, ignores the immense difficulty thousands of students are experiencing. At best students are failing (maybe not with grades but certainly with learning) and many 1000s of students are

experiences intense hardships, we must do something. No other industry, business or organization could make the decision WCPSS is considering. Everyone is having to innovate, solve issues and continue to move forward in real time. We understand there is a staffing shortage but what creative solutions has the board considered. Closing schools will cause deep suffering, we cannot avoid this reality. We cannot close schools, the damage is too great. If this was not a pandemic and there was a staffing shortage, WCPSS would not close schools. So, in that case, what would the board do? Let's do that now! Thank you for your work, please innovate and find real-time solutions to the shortage issue.

D. A. Burke

No return to remote for those already in class

You say not enough staff? Why can't you combine classes under one teacher who teaches fully face to face - absolutely no remote combo. Classes are 6 children right now, or a tad more, so make one class of 12+ and still be able to distance! Then have another teacher do only the remote students...they can have far more than 8 in their remote class!

Why are we penalizing teachers and students and increasing negative mental health issues by pulling out of face to face?

Diana Denton

Double standard regarding Covid-19

It is the epitome of hypocrisy for you to be meeting virtually while allowing students in schools to sit as close as 3 feet apart in closed, poorly ventilated classrooms. This double standard shows a lack of respect for the risks of coronavirus that teachers are facing. Teachers are already going above and beyond the call of duty by performing in-person and online instruction while adapting to continuous changes in schedules and protocols. Treat teachers like the professionals they are by following CDC recommendations, hiring more ancillary staff (IAs) to assist with the extra non-academic work that operating a school during an infectious pandemic requires and stop holding yourselves to higher safety standards than you put in place for teachers.

Rachel Angelcyk

Remote school only

Until there is a widely available vaccine, schools should not be meeting on campus. You have the capability to teach virtually. You need to be brave enough to break antiquated ways of teaching and create something amazing. Teachers and school staff are not babysitters, they are educators. Schools are extremely underfunded and should not be the sole way many children are fed and cared for. Focus on education and force your cities and state to care and assist families that rely on schools for food, shelter and childcare. One year is not going to ruin their educational career. Adapt.

Traci Veenstra

Go Remote in January

Staff are the most needed asset in order to teach children and keep them safe. Following the three W's is an important part of safety. With staffing and sub levels so low that staff is stretched very thin, learning and safety will likely suffer. Please consider voting in favor of the proposal to remain remote for 2 weeks

after winter break or until a solid and safe plan for adequate staffing and following the three W's with fidelity can be implemented. Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Bacon

Effective social distancing; in-person class sizes during the pandemic; parent choices

I am writing for three reasons today:

- 1) To strongly support the School Board's decision to move schools to online learning after the winter holiday, when there is likely to be another surge in COVID cases.
- 2) To remind or inform the School Board that public health guidelines and research (including those of NC DHHS and NIH) call for social distancing and attention to in-person class size in COVID school policies.
- 3) Based on #2, to ask the School Board to reverse its decision to move 4th and 5th graders to full-time in-person instruction in the 2nd semester, and keep them in rotations to keep classes smaller.

I am glad that the School Board is considering taking schools remote for the first two weeks of January. I fully support this decision and (given that it took about three weeks for the post-Thanksgiving surge to occur in Wake County and our schools), hope that the school board will monitor the situation in early January and extend remote learning further if needed.

In case the School Board is not aware or does not recall, the NC DHHS Strong Schools toolkit (<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/Strong-Schools-NC-Public-Health-Toolkit.pdf>) as updated 12/4 allows but does not recommend the minimal distancing of Plan A. See pp. 3-4 – the recommendations are for 6' of distancing. I am disappointed that the presentation at the last board meeting glossed over the 3Ws, which were technically part of the recommendations of the ABC Collaborative but came before its 12 principles. The 3Ws were conveniently not defined or discussed.

A report written by NIH on the differential COVID rates among different-aged students (which has been widely cited) does support differential policies for primary vs. secondary schools, but also says this in the discussion: "All of this suggests that opening of primary schools should be accompanied by other measures including reducing crowding and otherwise mitigating transmission."
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7386533/> When I asked, my elementary school informed me that it could technically have up to 30 4th graders in my daughter's class under the spring semester policy. While unlikely, I still wonder what would the distancing would be like for 18-20 kids?

And it is magical thinking to believe that community spread won't happen in our schools. It is just starting to... and it's a matter of time before it becomes more widespread. As one recent study concluded, "...kids catch and spread coronavirus half as much as adults"
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2020/12/we-now-know-how-much-children-spread-coronavirus/>. Some might say "only half" but "only half" is nothing to sneeze at! And even before much community spread, more than 40% of cases at Wake County schools in recent weeks have been in students, and Johnston County Schools has many more cases of COVID in students than staff. As more cases come from the community, it will be inevitable for community spread in schools.

If I feel this strongly about protecting my children, why don't I just sign up for Virtual Academy and be done with it? It's not that easy – my kids both have ADHD and anxiety, and my 4th grader's one week in school showed me how much more schoolwork she can get done with the expert in-person support of

teachers. For my kids and their teachers and school staff, I need the Wake County School Board to stand up for the right balance of public health and education aims.

Thank you.

Kathryn Staley
Remote learning

I support remote learning for the first two weeks after Winter Break in order to give infected staff and students time to show symptoms and test positive.

Dawn M McCormick-Dahm
I support a return to remote learning

As a parent and a teacher, I support our superintendent's recommendation to return to remote learning for the remainder of the first semester. Please consider creating a plan that includes the availability of rapid tests for staff and students when we return to in-person learning.

While it is not the focus of standardized tests, I have witnessed in our students and experienced myself a substantial increase in the ability to communicate and learn on a virtual platform.

Sara Sherman
Proposed virtual pause in Janaury

Good evening Board members,

I am commenting as an elementary school parent – I have a 4th grader and 2 1st graders. I respect that y'all are working in an extremely challenging version of our world where there it frequently seems like there are no good answers.

If this proposed virtual pause in January is avoidable, please don't do it. It took this county a long time to gain any momentum towards returning to in-person learning and I hate to see it turn around. When I told my kids last night that you would be voting on this idea, one of them burst into tears and the other 2 were visibly upset. We did our best with virtual learning but it is not ideal for our family. As a household of 5, we don't have 5 tables or desks or 5 spaces where we can close a door and be free of distractions. One of my first graders regressed in her reading since last spring and was unmotivated to try and learn to read while she was at home with us. Now that she is back in-person with her teacher she is making great progress and seems on her way to having he reading "gel" as you would hope a 1st grader would do. All 3 of my kids are happier and their mental health has improved since they have been receiving in-person instruction.

If this proposed virtual pause is unavoidable, I would ask that the Board strongly and specifically commit to it only being a 2-week pause and do not leave the door open to this becoming an extended switch. Again, this county took a long time to commit to reopening and I don't feel the trust is there that this pause is truly temporary. Please make this intent clear and believable.

And lastly, my spouse is a WCPSS employee and my children were part of the FAST program. If there is any chance this pause will be longer than 2 weeks, please reinstate the FAST program because it will be

worth the effort. The staff that worked with my children were amazing. Transportation and Nutrition Services employees have the skillsets to maintain complicated and detailed schedules and they were excellent at keeping my kids on track with their virtual live sessions. On top of their talents, the attention and care they received through the program was a bright spot in their lives during a stressful time. This program is worth the effort, please consider it in your pause proposal.

Thank you for your efforts to keep our children and staff safe and trying to give all children the appropriate education they need.

Adriana Duncan
Safety for teachers.

I believe, we front line workers but we are not being treated like front line workers. I agree, students need an education but without teachers there won't be schools for students to go back to. We need a healthy safe environment, and right now I don't feel safe. We not only need better equipment to protect us, but also I see it impossible to go back to a school with most students being back in the classroom.

If rotations is our only option I think that is better option than having most students back at the same time by the end of January.

We are human beings, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, daughters, sons, we are somebody's loved one. Our lives matter not only to the school so that we can teach, but to our families and friends.

Please take the time to put yourself in my place in front of a classroom full of children not knowing if the next you will come down with the virus.

Thank you for your time.

Yoselin Gonzalez
VA class is safe for students and teachers

I would like the students stay home and be safe

Cameron Reese
Plan A teachers bonus

I am the spouse of a Kindergarten teacher who has been putting herself at risk everyday because she is a Plan A teacher. Her students are too young to understand the importance of wearing a mask all day so she is constantly having to tell them to put their masks on correctly. She has two students out with COVID symptoms but the parents don't have time to get their students tested so she won't even know if she was exposed to COVID because according to you, students can simply quarantine for 10 days instead of having to get tested. Since WCPSS and NC has not provided the proper cleaning or PPE as they promised, she is putting her health at risk being in the classroom. Meanwhile, her virtual coworkers only teach for a few hours a day and sit in their germ free classrooms. Not to mention that she has gone from virtual to Plan B with three groups, Plan A and now possibly back to virtual. Plan B/A teachers have undergone way more stress and work then all the virtual teachers this way and have put their health at risk. I believe that these teachers deserve to get an extra bonus to show the respect for the work that they are doing. Thank you!

Aimee Pattison
remote in January

I agree with the proposal from last night's board meeting. We are seeing record breaking numbers continually in the community. Schools are a reflection of the larger community. Without getting everyone tested, we do not have data on the true amounts of contagion within the classroom environment. We can make an educated assumption that what is happening outside the walls of school with COVID is happening within as well. Having people gather in buildings in numbers that defy the Governor's recommendations seems careless. The community, at this time, is refusing to lock down during Holidays and we are seeing surges due to this behavior. Two of the largest Holidays are coming up quickly and the school needs to do what is best and safest for teachers, staff, and students by removing the opportunity for increased viral spread after these Holidays. It is imperative that teachers, staff, and students be allowed to have the right to follow the 3 W's. Allowing a 2 week "pause" would allow time to reconsider what viral spread in the community looks like mid-January. It would give time for schools to reassess how to group students differently to adhere to the 3 W's at all times. It would allow time for the community to take this seriously. It would also allow for the board to make new proposals for second semester, if needed. Thank you for the difficult and unprecedented work you are doing. As a teacher, and as a parent, I hear your support for staff and families, and I appreciate your voices speaking our concerns. Happy Holidays.

Sandy Cash
Keep our Schools Safe

Given the skyrocketing cases, rising hospitalizations and the realization that many will choose to follow through with plans for gathering over the holidays, I believe it would be a prudent decision to keep students in remote learning through the end of the first semester at least and reevaluate based on metrics in January. I am an IA getting ready to transition into a teaching position in January. I care for my 80 year old mother and father (I am an only child). In order to do that in a safe way, I need to feel safe in the work environment daily. Right now, with the lower grades being on basically plan A with pre-covid numbers in the classroom, there is no social distancing possible. It truly is a cluster waiting to happen. It has been proven that the three W's help prevent the spread. We need to show our students and staff that they are valuable and worth keeping safe.

Molly Shepherd
Remote Learning for the year or at least until there is a vaccine.

With numbers rising, a quarantine after break is a smart and responsible choice.

It allows the Board a chance to look at all the information before them and evaluate whether we can safely maintain strict adherence to all 3Ws or whether we should explore a plan for the start of 2nd semester with less people in the buildings.

The most important thing is that with the amount of viral spread in our community, a 2-week quarantine will build in time for staff testing, looking at data, and making the right decision for our community.

There is no harm done in bringing us back to remote learning to end the first semester, in fact, we have gotten quite good at it.

Making this decision now will allow our families to prepare AND will encourage them to help enforce strict adherence to the 3Ws outside of school, even if it is just within their household.

Additionally, I am a third year teacher who's husband at the age 28 had to undergo a sporadic surgery for his bowels. In this surgery the surgeon accidentally ruptured his intestines. During the stitching process

his surgeon closed him up erroneously and this caused infection leading to sepsis. This resulted in his entire belly button getting taken out. Leaving him with a whole in his stomach (I could see inside his intestines). At the age of 25 I thought I was going to have to provide for myself on a teacher salary without a husband. I know for a fact that freak accidents like this are common to many in the Wake County District. I am usually a person that goes for the greater good, but in some circumstances you need to weigh out whether your choice is going to combat your integrity and ethics for the majority of your life.

Jacob Schaffhauser
Two week delay is smart

With a post holiday surge expected, a delay in starting in school instruction until at least January 18 makes a lot of sense. That gives the board time to determine if further in school instruction is possible safely, or if further delays are needed. Yes, it's hard on all of us, but we need to be safe!

Jed McLaughlin
Return to Virtual due to COVID-19

COVID-19 trends are not staying the same. We hear every day about students' travel and gathering plans. The state is setting COVID-19 records left and right. Please return WCPSS to plan C, at least for now. This would give time to see how numbers change after the winter break, to have staff and students tested, and to avoid simply "crossing our fingers" in the face of a deadly disease that is spreading rapidly in our community.

Do what you have the power to do, and protect the staff, students, families, and communities of WCPSS by returning to plan C.

kim hamilton
opening later in Jan.

I feel it is a smart and responsible decision to keep us remote after the holidays for staffing reasons, not knowing family decisions on visiting relatives, mask or no mask. That time will give virus a chance to show with families and staff. We are quite good at remote learning although we all agree its not ideal ,it is still LEARNING taking place under this pandemic.

Lauren Fitzgerald
Quarantine after break

With numbers rising, a quarantine after break is a smart and responsible choice.

MAE O'DONNELL
2 week quarantine after winter break

At least a 2 week quarantine after winter break would be the safest solution to prevent virus spreading from holiday gatherings.

Marlie Lasher
2 week quarantine in January

With numbers rising, a quarantine after break is a smart and responsible choice. This will surely put students and staff members in a safe position upon return to school.

Ian Brown

Increased risk of COVID-19 with school closure

I have two children who are students at Olive Chapel Elementary in Apex. If school becomes virtual again risk is increased not decreased. Since my wife and I both work full time jobs we are not able to provide full time school for our children in our home. Our children go to a virtual learning center when school is not open for children to attend. This increases exposure and risk of COVID-19 infection. Serving our children best is teaching them in our schools.

Virtual academy forces educators to teach other teacher's lesson plans with evaluation by teachers who don't know or have direct contact with the children they are evaluating.

Virtual learning for elementary school children is ineffective and detrimental to development. Excessive screen time for our children is still bad for children in a pandemic.

School is important enough to do well even when it's hard.

Erin Ostrowski

Hard decision, clear answer

First and foremost thank you for your time and service. There is no simple solution or magic wand we can wave. For every child who is struggling virtually there is one who is soaring better than ever. For every parent rejoicing that their child is back in school there is a staff member at school crying themselves to sleep every night because they can no longer see or help loved ones for fear of contaminating them. I am a mom of a high school student who is missing out on the high school experience, but I am also a wcpss employee working everyday in person in (Multiple) classrooms where we are packed in like sardines. While masks are "mostly" worn there is little to no social distancing. The proof is in the pudding.....the numbers are rising everywhere. A "pause/reset" is necessary.....THE ANSWER IS CLEAR!!! Thank you

Cheryl Boylan

January quarantine

I strongly support a quarantine for WCPSS in January. This is the most intelligent, responsible choice we have at this time in order to help limit the spread of Covid-19 after the Winter Break. Thank you for considering my statement!

Alison Church

Vote on School Closure

The measures that the Wake County School district has taken to prevent transmission of COVID 19 within schools have been working as evidenced by the COVID 19 dashboard and lack of reported clusters. It is in the best interests of the children to continue live in class learning without interruption. The asynchronous and online learning days are disruptive to the continued education of the children who are attending in

person school and are no substitute for in person learning. The school district must work to maximize in person learning by finding flexible staffing solutions and not go straight to online learning when issues arise. Teachers and staff must be encouraged to take the same preventative measures instituted at the school in their out of school lives.

Ronna Klionsky

Decision for in person attendance

I am a middle school teacher. I thought I would be a big fan of the hybrid, but having a month of hybrid teaching behind us now, I can say that: 1) Having students physically present is not worth the risk of exposure for either party. 2) The learning is not improved for in person, rather if anything, compromises the lesson for the majority, the Virtual Academy students.

Cindy Bishop

Student Achievement Meeting Nov 23, 2020 SPED SERVICES

To WCPSS Board of Education

Thank you for providing a platform to add public comment on the student achievement meeting section of SPED Services. I am here to tell you there are layers of bureaucracy within IEP meetings. Multiple emails are sent back and forth from parent to school admin SPED LEA with little to no accomplishments. Perhaps sitting in an IEP meeting at the high school level would help have meetings run professional and lawful.

Often times parents are having to record these meetings for their own safety. Mr. Haggerty had to pull an answer from Ms. Hamilton when it asked "How can we as a school board provide help and assistance." She was not prepared.

Other districts do not use Certified Special Ed teachers for data collection. Not every instructional assistant is SPED Certified. Why would WCPSS not Hire a leader with a legal background, who cares for all the 18,000 sped students. Ms. Hamilton is a politician with no intent for improvement

New SPED Identification has been in the works for over two years. It has been noted that it is to be in effect July 2020. Ms. Hamilton stated they will start a soft launch in December of 2020, with training in January of 2021. How is it as a board no one question this? Is it because we are in a pandemic you can use this as an excuse? Post pone + post pone + post pone = never gets done.

She stated on Slide #13 this new identification is a competing priority with our staff. As parents we see this as, if I have the time it may or may not get done. As a board why did you not speak up for all the students that need this identification. Please stop viewing Special Education as the ugly stepchild. Please we are begging the school board to change the mindset. All students including those with learning differences and disabilities matter. Stop viewing these students as a nuisance and a hassle.

In closing her presentation was not clear, it was vague, misleading and inaccurate and the language used unprofessional. Please see you tube for this video.

Thank you Cindy Bishop

Shannon Bowman

Staff Proposal on 2 Week Quarantine

As a mother and teacher in WCPSS, I fear that the voices are listening to in objection of this proposal are not that of the many but of the loudest. As a frontline worker, I am highly concerned about my safety. I am the only person from my home that is working outside of the home so I am the only source of concern

and exposure my husband and children have. I want my life to matter as much as the parent's and student's do.

Robert Hill
on students continuing on campus

Governor Cooper should have never have given Wake County the choice of which plan to use because, as per usual, given a safe choice and a dangerous choice -- WCPSS will always choose the latter. I call on the entire board to resign over this decision and all members should be barred from holding a public office for the rest of their natural lives.

You are going to kill children. You are going to kill families. You are going to kill educators. You need to close campuses and abandon antiquated learning strategies that worked in the 1950s but not so much in 2020.

Evelyn Bussell
Return to Remote Learning

With COVID numbers rising in our community AND in our schools (particularly every week since the return of students to our buildings), it is a wise and responsible choice to return to Remote Learning for the remainder of the 1st semester, as well to remain in Remote Learning through the end of January 2021, if not 3rd Quarter. This will allow Board members to review data & information from the community and our schools to determine when the safest time for students to return to in-person learning and staff to return to buildings will be. Our students will continue to receive instruction in Remote Learning, just as they have since the beginning of the school year. Making this decision now will allow our families to prepare AND will encourage them to help enforce strict adherence to the 3Ws outside of school, even if it is just within their household. Making this decision now will show school staff that you care about us, our safety, health and well-being and that of our own families in addition to your concern for the safety and well-being of our students. Just as parents cannot do their best parenting when they are unwell, neither can teachers do their best teaching when they are unwell, and in this case worried about whether or not they will be exposed to or spread COVID while being in in-person learning. I am asking that the Board choose to send us back to Remote Learning for the remainder of the 1st Quarter AND at least through the end of January, and to take another look at data and information available at mid-January as to the COVID statistics of our community before determining the safest way to return to students to in-person learning.

Christine Spencer
COVID Cases Athletic Teams

Dear Ms. Moore, Mr. Sutton, WCPSS BOE:

Each week our high school has had a case to report. This week we received the text that two individuals tested positive and it was on the athletic team. Are you as a school system cleaning the school and doing a deep sanitize? How are these individuals getting into the school? Are you not providing temperature checks? How can you state schools are not a breeding ground for COVID? Anywhere people are present and gather COVID can spread!!!

Thank you Christine Spencer

Stacy Eleczko

In-person vs remote learning after break

The shortage of subs is symbolic of the way this pandemic is tearing through our community. Each sub that is needed represents a child or an educator that is sick or forced to quarantine. During last week's town hall with NCAE, several of you mentioned the importance of the social-emotional well-being of our staff and students. When basic safety needs are met, this will demonstrate care for our community. We are not asking for schools to be closed, but school buildings. Moving to remote learning, even if only temporarily, increases safety measures in our schools and greater communities, which we know will help reduce spread. All of the data is trending and continues to trend in the wrong direction. District 4 is, and has been, a hotspot in the state. Moving from in-person to remote learning will lessen the impact of this virus, which is already disproportionately affecting many members of this district. You have been diligent in coordinating with the ABC Science Collaborative to determine the proper safety protocols. We know that to keep this at bay, we must enforce the 3Ws. At the elementary level, "watching your distance" is not an option due to the space constraints under Plan A. If we throw one "W" out the window, they all go. We have an opportunity as one of the largest school districts in this state to be leaders and positively impact the effects of COVID on our community. A move to remote learning, for at least the two weeks after Winter Break, while continuing to monitor numbers of cases and hospitalizations is the right thing to do.

Lauren Nadolski

Remote learning after winter break

I am a WCPSS teacher in favor of scheduling remote learning after Winter Break. My building is already strained by staff absences due to quarantines. It is impossible to constantly maintain 6 feet of distance when helping students. Due to high community spread, this makes work riskier. Numbers are only going to increase and we should just be honest and forward-thinking about that.

Michele Hutchins

Return to school in January

I have read information available regarding the consideration to halt in-person instruction for a period of time in January. It has been reported this is due primarily to lack of substitute teachers and not because of substantial spread through the school system. As a parent of a 1st and 4th grader, I ask that if at all possible you continue in-person instruction. Both of my kids are diagnosed with ADHD and one has an anxiety disorder. Both are in therapy and one is medicated. They do best with classroom instruction, time for socialization with their peers, and access to the care of their teachers and counselors. I know this is true for other students as well. I realize there is more to consider and that with current staffing conditions, in-person instruction just may not be feasible for a time. However, if there are any other options available to us that would allow in-person instruction to continue, please pursue them. While the danger posed by Covid can be severe, so can emotional and psychological damage. The first month of remote learning, my 6yo got frustrated and hid in the bedroom. I had to carry him crying out of the room while he screamed "I'm dumb, I'm a failure!" This is not a belief he should have about himself ever, but certainly not in 1st grade. I hope you will give his needs and the needs of the many who are like him weighty consideration as you plan our return to instruction in January. Thank you.

Katie Humphries

possibility of moving to remote learning

I would like the board to consider a different approach to the rise in COVID numbers other than moving to remote learning only. There are too many high needs children in our district that rely on school as a refuge from domestic and sexual abuse, drugs and alcohol, and poverty. By moving to remote learning only you are ignoring the needs and welfare of these children. I understand that there are concerns with staffing, but I ask that you come up with other ways (or allow schools to come up with other ways) to help alleviate this problem other than moving to remote learning. Thinking that remote learning is a way that will fix the COVID problem and simultaneously help our students is a huge error in judgement. We need to put the kids first. The best and only way to do that is to keep in person learning as an option for families. Those that are concerned can stay home and those that want and need their children in class for in person learning can send them to school.

Amy Marshall

WCPSS Female Student Privacy Violations & Letter With 700 parent signatures from Ed First Alliance NC

December 15, 2020

To: Cathy Quiroz Moore, WCPSS Superintendent

WCPSS Board of Education members: Keith Sutton, Lindsay Mahaffey, Roxie Cash, Karen Carter, Chris Haegarty, Monica Johnston-Hostler, Christine Kushner, Jim Martin, and Heather Scott

CC: Mr. Mark Robinson, NC Lt. Governor-elect, Mrs. Catherine Truitt, NC Superintendent-elect

Dear Ms. Mahaffey;

We are Education First Alliance NC – an alliance of parents, teachers, social workers, clergy members, and citizens advocating for students' rights in our state's public schools.

We write to urge you to scrap your plan to allow "a-gender" and "non-binary" adult and youth males to use female bathrooms and locker rooms in the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) deserve, as you have personally proposed in policy #1710/7100.

There is no litmus test for "A-gender" and "non-binary" identity – people claiming this status must be taken at their word according to The National Center for Transgender Equality.

Your policy will, for example, allow males claiming to be non-binary (true or not) to enter locker rooms full of half-dressed girls; or will enable a group of males to occupy bathrooms with a girl who is already in that space by herself. This practice will rob girls of the most important personal liberty they possess; the right to privacy.

But the safety of girls, aged 5-19, will also be jeopardized by enacting your ambiguous dictate.

As you know, there were 31 sexual assault crimes last school year, up from 9 the previous year.

We believe that girls in the WCPSS deserve to feel safe, and that parents deserve peace of mind knowing that their children will be protected while in the care of school employees.

Here are more examples of male teachers and students recently indicted for raping or sexually assaulting girls on WCPSS campuses:

- This July, a Middle Creek High School teacher and coach is facing 16 counts of indecent liberties with students, six counts of indecent liberties with a child, and has abused girls for 6 years while working for the district.
- a 5th grade teacher at Beaverdam Elementary School who was charged with sexually assaulting 4 children between August 2018 and June 2019.

- A Knightdale High School teacher who was charged with "sexual contact" with a 16-year old female.

- A 47-year old male teacher at Ligon GT Magnet Middle School who was charged with

one count of statutory sexual offense and one count of indecent liberties with a child.

- numerous male students indicted for felony sex crimes on several students at Athens Drive School in 2017.

Clearly WCPSS already has a serious problem safeguarding females in its care. Accordingly, you, your school board colleagues, and Superintendent should be laser focused on strengthening protections for children.

Perhaps most troubling, neither you nor your board consulted with the public you serve to get input before proposing this controversial policy. Rather, you proposed it immediately after you were elected and during the pandemic chaos.

When parents recently contacted you about an existing concern with a Score Academy male teacher, who identifies as heterosexual, sharing the girls' locker room and restroom, you replied:

"The concern I have for folks who may be using a public restroom with myself or my children is limited to their handwashing etiquette. Bless your heart."

Your condescending and dismissive approach to addressing parents' concern is troubling, but these parents aren't alone with their objections.

Education First Alliance's members are alarmed by your proposal that will rob girls of their privacy rights and give them to those who claim an identity that cannot be verified. And given that sex assaults were up 244% in the district last year, this policy will only feed WCPSS' culture of sexual abuse at the hands of your teachers and students.

We urge you to create serious policies to protect the privacy and safety of female students.

Please communicate your reply to our concerns by issuing a public statement.

Signed,

Sloan Rachmuth, President Education First Alliance NC

Laura Gale Simpson, Wake Forrest Laura Flythe, Cary

Elisabeth Wise, Raleigh Dr. Zvonimir Ordanic, Raleigh

Karen Ordanic, Raleigh Jeremy Wilson, Apex

Elizabeth Behringer, Raleigh Roger Cummings, Wake County

William Dwyer, Cary Elena Morgan, Raleigh

Emanuela Prister, Cary Ed Gehringer, Wake County

John R Allen, Raleigh Steve Makgill, Raleigh

Lisa Wooten, Mooresville Chip Wooten, Mooresville

Laurie Dangler, Wake County Heidi Moreno, Holly Springs

Kendall Conger, Raleigh Jean Carelli, Rolesville

Ed Carelli, Rolesville Barbara Garner, Fuquay Varina,

Tamie Nash, Cary Linda Cooke, Apex

Sandra Lamberton, Fuquay-Varina Kathryn Achterman, Wake Forest

Lee Blakely, Raleigh Paige McLaurin, Wake County

Shari Hooker, Youngsville Sterling Hooker, Youngsville

Gretchen Ethridge, Cary John S. Maxey, Raleigh

Ken Albrecht, Raleigh Lily Wang, Cary

Kathryn L. Riedy, Raleigh Carolyn Chilton, Raleigh

Robert Byrd, Fuquay-Varina Sheila Bishop, Wake Forest

Anna Medlin, Cary Andrew Mas, Raleigh

Haylie Humphrey, Raleigh Christine Cromer, Wake County

Beverly Bass, Wake County Morty Berkowitz, Cary

Susan Berkowitz, Cary Christine Daman, Cary

Hope Pete, Wake County Jared Van Dykhuizen, Wake Forest
Marian Buis, Raleigh Reg Harris, Raleigh
Dennis Ward, Raleigh Katherine fritter, Raleigh
Carol Becker, Wake County Steve Few, Cary
Frank Bouknight, Wake County Robert S Crist, Raleigh
Tim Bell, Fuquay-Varina Alice Brickman, Cary
Sal Giello, Fuquay Varina Liz Green, Cary
Pattie Brady, Wake County Erik Fako, Raleigh
Vickie Griffin, Wake County Elisabeth Wise, Wake County
Elaine Willers, Raleigh Debra McCauley, Raleigh
Steve Shakal, Wake County Debra McCauley, Raleigh
Steve Schaale, Apex Meredith Amundson, Raleigh
Dwight Nipper, Raleigh Joe Palko, Wake Forrest
Beverly Bass, Holly Sprigs Elaine Morrow, Raleigh
Robert Eastmann, Raleigh Elizabeth F Masters, Holly Springs
Donald Payne, Fuquay-Varina Angeles Gannon, Apex
Joseph Indiero, Zebulloun Diane Billings, Wake Forrest
Mary K. Kimbro, Apex Lauren Gilmore, Garner
Tom & Ginger Molthen, Apex NC Leonard Daman, Cary
Chris Wakeman, Raleigh Laura Billings, Wake Forrest
Laura Billings, New Hill James E. Doherty, Raleigh
Lisa Gerboth, Apex Lynn Jenkins, Cary
Brenda Gerken, Apex Anna Fowler, Willow Springs
Amy Marshall, Apex Sue Butcher, Wake County
Anna Little, Raleigh Gail Gilmore, Raleigh
Steven Sremaniak, Raleigh Evelyn Powell Heatherly, Apex
Vicky Wall, Knightdale John M Boesch, Holly Springs
Casimir Nowak, Fuquay-Varina Marjorie Nowak, Fuquay-Varina
Katrina Turner, Cary Ruben Martinez, Wendell
Martin & Ruth Hines, Raleigh Jill Leite, Holly Springs
Jeremy Moll, Wake County Val Price, Raleigh
John B. Watson Jr., Apex Todd, Cristen & Dee Wenzel, Garner
Larry Paul, Wake County Robert Colwill, Wake Forrest
Patrick J. Fauceglia, Wake Forrest Katy Brown, Apex
Marsha Landry, Cary Beata Lorinz, Cary
James C. Hobbs, Raleigh Timothy Lovdahl, Wake Forrest
Duard M May, Cary Paul & Grace Shackleton, Cary
Will Leaming, Raleigh Karen Adamow, Cary
Linda Eisele, Cary Greg Brantly, Wake County
Sarita Caserta, Cary Peter Billings, Wake Forrest
Karen Raines, Raleigh Albert Yeh, Wake Forret
Harriet Kankash, Fuquay-Varina Shaye King, Wake Forrest
Ann K. Gore, Wendell Richard Froom, Raleigh

Adam Rucker, Wake Forrest Patricia Taylor, Holly Springs
Gennaro (Gene) Adesso, Raleigh George Lipscomb, Raleigh
Stan Pinkus, Raleigh Opal Pinkus, Raleigh

Harry & Rebecca Gentry, Raleigh Todd Gentry, Raleigh
Chip Finley, Raleigh Beverly Cotter, Raleigh
Lillian Overton, Raleigh Terry and Rebecca Schnake, Raleigh
Edward S. Alexander, Raleigh NC Laurie A. Alexander, Raleigh NC
Fonda Notch, Raleigh Dennis Taylor, Holly Springs
Starla McKnight, Cary Steven DiStefano, Cary
Paul Boruff, Raleigh Marie Kirby, Wake Forrest
Leigh Bullard, Raleigh Jane Woodward, Raleigh
Robert W. Cordell, Raleigh Mrs. Kathleen Dusto, Cary
Grace Fetvedt, Raleigh Franklin Golden, Raleigh
Casey Parvin, Raleigh Robert Parvin, Raleigh
Patricia Margiotta, Wake Forrest Frances C. Newby, Raleigh
Patrice Hester, Knightsdale Nancy Pursell, Raleigh
Robert Ruegger, Wake County Alice Stallings, Raleigh
Christy Zellman, Raleigh Karl Zellman, Raleigh
Shirley Sorrell, Wake County David Handy, Raleigh
Carol Burgess, Raleigh Andrea Smith, Wake County
Deanna Cheatham, Raleigh Michael w Smith, Raleigh
Dianna Fisher, Raleigh Chris Youman, Raleigh
Paul A Meares, Raleigh Martha Carpenter, Raleigh
Elisabeth Chopinet, Raleigh Gene Ortiz, Raleigh
MATT CIOSEK, Wake County Suzanne Bresson, Raleigh
Cheryl Barbour, Raleigh Billy Simpson, Raleigh
Beth Bass, Raleigh Barbara and James Koob, Apex
Susan Giello, Fuquay-Varina Pat Kearns, Cary
Jackie Duncan, Garner Lewis Dodds, Cary
Reuben Umana, Wake County Brian Opitz, Holly Springs
Marianne Bradford, Raleigh Denise Souza, Raleigh
Jean Scaraglino, Raleigh Marianne Bradford, Fuquay-Varina
John M Carney, Wake County Sandra L Carney, Wake County
Karen and Arlan Arthaud, Raleigh Don and Conny Tidwell, Wake Forest
Molly Schubert, Wake County Diane Mullins, Wake County
Elizabeth Morgan, Cary Diane Carlin, Cary
Mike and Marielyn Hilton, Raleigh Richard Stevens, Raleigh
Gerald T. Mee, Raleigh Pamela J. Mee, Raleigh
Anne Grunow, Wake Forrest Thomas Whiting, Wake Forrest
Alex and Kathy Fuller, Holly Springs Sal Giello, Wake County
Kate Schneider, Raleigh Cathy Cawthorne, Raleigh
Graham Cawthorne, Raleigh Teresa McCabe, Raleigh
Lauren and David Buboltz, Fuquay-Varina Mark Hartley, Fuquay-Varina
Cindy Winter-Hartley, Fuquay-Varina Jeannine Cholerton, Knightsdale
Laura L. Hamo, Wake County Joy Stroud Ruhmann, Raleigh
Sal Giello , Fuquay-Varina Rita Haas, Raleigh
Tami Ashraf, Wake Forest Eric Britt, Bens
Beth Ellett, Garner Katie Dettelbach, Holly Springs
Sarah Wetherby, Raleigh Dawn Arnold, Fuquay Varina
Carlin Murray, Knightsdale Rachel Kiaski, Fuquay Varina

Kerri Frie, Holly Springs Amanda Brendle, Holly Springs
Chadwick Smith, Raleigh Angie Mangin Apex
Kris Taylor, Raleigh Rhonda Tedder Terhune, Fuquay-Varina

Robert Spivey, Knightdale Angela S. Crumpler, Garner
Jennifer Daniel, Fuquay-Varina Stacy Sailsbery, Holly Springs
Danielle Lafountain, Holly Springs Lisa DAlessio, Holly Springs
Ruth Baker, Raleigh Glennie Blalock, Fuquay Varina
Kristin Malaer, Holly Springs Jenni Keith, Fuquay-Varina
Summer Senter, Fuquay-Varina Ann Corona, Fuquay Varina
Heather Goeller, Raleigh Donna Williams, Raleigh
Nina Golden, Apex Jason R. Pleasant, Willow Spring
Gloria Faress, Raleigh Sarah McCallie, Raleigh
Lisa Derby, Cary Landon Carroll, New Hill
Carrie Cleek, Raleigh Kristin Gonzales, Raleigh
Beth Graff, Holly Springs Myra Dean, Raleigh
Ann Gore, Wendell Shay Campbell, Wake County
Coletta Bise Campbell, Wake County Scott Bentley, Apex
Dr. Toni Mascherin, Cary Susan Austin, Knightdale
Vickie Whaley, Raleigh Richard & Kathy Welvang, Raleigh
Vivian Vander Bee, Raleigh James Vander Bee, Raleigh
Loyd Sorrell, Apex Gloria W. Fish, Wake County
Thomas J. Fish, Wake County Judy Oakley, Apex
Cynthia A. Bower, Cary Sarah Mitschke, Durham
Susan Payne, Cary Charles Payne, Cary
Elaine Willers, Raleigh Mark G Atkinson, Raleigh
Elizabeth F Masters, Holly Springs Rev. Winn Crenshaw, Raleigh
Carol Becker, Wake County Lauren Connors, Apex
Henry Becker, Raleigh Judy Carlton, Wake County
Anita DiSisto, Wake County Stacey mcKowan, Cary
Colleen P Miller, Cary Damian Lombardi, Wake Forest
Jean Leppek, Raleigh Prithiva Ely, Raleigh
Jane Woodward, Raleigh F. Janel DeJong, Raleigh
Claire Barrus, Cary Lisa H. Johnson, Wake Forest
Caroline Maendel, Holly Springs Kathy Sullivan, Wake Forest
Stephen Gaertner, Holly Springs Holly Yoest, Raleigh
Todd Roberts, Raleigh Dr. Lisa M. Roberts, Raleigh
Gary and Andrea George, Raleigh Luis Gutierrez, Cary
Franklin E. Golden, Raleigh Kara Granger Hoy, Wake County
Alex & Jamie Mitchell, Cary Ann Craighead, Wake County
Gary Pendelton, Raleigh Curtis Leary, Cary
Douglas D. Frie, Wake County Kerri A. Frie, Wake County
James J. Singer, Raleigh Virginia S. Merkle, Wake Forrest
Tate Truslow, Raleigh Margaret Bain, Raleigh
Nellie M. Greer, Apex Don Waggener, Apex
Nicholas Balmes, Cary Donna Williams, Raleigh
Julie Jones, Apex Cynthia McLaughlin, Wake County

Bruce Miller, Raleigh Neil Mitchell, Garner
Mindy Varkevisser, Wake County Lily Wang, Cary
Graham Spencer, Raleigh Anne Kimber, Raleigh
Sheila Bishop, Wake Forrest Barbara Burk, Apex
Mary K. Kimbro, Raleigh Mike Wilson, Garner
Ben Owens, Raleigh Milvia Caban, Raleigh
Sandra Douglas, Raleigh Tom Williams, Raleigh
Michelle Neal, Cary Randy Neal, Cary
Tommy Williams, Raleigh Taylor Williams, Raleigh
Stephanie Holman, Knightdale Luke Holman, Knightdale

Brett Lloyd, Knightdale Rob Williams, Raleigh
Morgan Hurst, Raleigh Guy Rachmuth, Apex
Brooke Koppari, Wendell Brian Kenedy, Cary
Marleen Vitale, Wake County Suzanne Richards, Wake County
Katrina Turner, Cary Sarah Segard, Wake County
Marybeth Zampino, Fuquay-Varina Tonya Zampino Fuquay-Varina
Anthony Zampino Fuquay-Varina Jennifer Balina Fuquay-Varina
Pastor Dave Guinn, Raleigh Tiffany Stopper, Apex
April Rush, Cary Cheryl Andrassy, Raleigh
Leigh Ann Steeber, Wake County Keta Dodds, Cary
Mary C. Prince, Apex Pastor Nick Gough, Apex
M. Jane Wendling, Raleigh Judith Carlton, Cary
Tara Lindstrom, Wake County Jason Lindstrom, Wake County
Michele Larsen, Raleigh Polina Voronsky, Raleigh
Christopher Nielsen, Wake County Vikki Harris, Wake County
Marci Dash, Raleigh Wendy Schwarz, Wake County
Kristina Burrows, Raleigh William P. Ward II, Morrisville
Maureen McBride, Wake Forrest Van Brinson, Wake County
Natalie Tingey, Holly Springs Dr. Martin van Cleeff, Cary
Heather van Cleeff, Cary Dan and Cori Crawford, Raleigh
Jeanmarie Foreman, Raleigh Trisha Roelofs, Willow Springs
Gloria Shiveley, Apex Debbie Bruen, Rolesville
Freya Heflin, Wake County Dean and Kim Moss, Raleigh
Corrine Mulholland, Wake County Patrick & Yesenia Ferguson, Apex
Isabella & Kyle Kennedy, Apex Donald Dietzel, Wendell
Dorothy Ferrone, Wake County Maureen McBride, Wake Forest
Martha McDonal, Apex Frank & Joanne Empie, Raleigh
Gene Bridgeman, Wake County Heidi Stanovich, Holly Springs
Ann Bradley, Wake Forrest Joy Stroud Ruhmann, Raleigh
Stan & Opal Pinkus, Cary Karin Link, Raleigh
Gregg Teague, Raleigh David & Sandra I. Otero, Cary
Betty Rogosich, Raleigh Anne & Bill Whipple, Raleigh
Dr. Toni Mascherin, Cary Susan Austin, Knightdale
Harold Barnes, Cary, NC April Pennisi, Raleigh
Heather Goeller Raleigh, NC Carolyn Dupree, Willow Springs
Wendy Carraturo, Garner Jason R. Pleasant, Willow Spring

Marjorie Benedetti, Garner Harold Barnes, Cary
April Pennisi, Raleigh Amy George, Cary
Patricia W. Paris, Raleigh Steven Hess, Raleigh
Jane Adams, Wake County Brenda Jones, Wendell
Elizabeth Chapin, Wake County Charles Tew, Raleigh
Aaron Wood, Durham Bev Chrismon Wake County
Gayford Bowden, Raleigh Lyneka Judkins, Cary
Jared Van Dykhuizen, Wake Forrest Amy Rosenthal, Morrisville
Mina Akita, Raleigh Sarah Lein, Apex
Elena Morgan, Raleigh David & Jennifer Howison, Wake County
William Langenburg, Holly Springs Christa Langenburg, Holly Springs
Kim Welborn, Cary Eddie Taylor, Apex
Don and Conny Tidwell, Wake Forest Lora Addair, Apex
Pastor Frann Sarpolus, Wake County Andrea and Howard Ellis, Wake Forrest
Diane Mullins, Wake County Laurinda Dooley, Apex
Marian Buis, Raleigh Phil Begany, Raleigh
Jane Dyer, Raleigh William VerSteeg, II, Raleigh

Mike & Marielyn Hinton, Raleigh Jim Grunewald, Raleigh
Belinda Harder, Raleigh Sara and Rob Chapman, Wake County
Susan and David Robertson, Wake County Melissa Westbrook, Wendell
Tracy Medlin, Raleigh Alice Fallon, Apex

Shirley Tang

Why I believe WCPSS is on the wrong track in finding solutions to the SRO policing issue

Dear Board Members, Superintendent Moore, Dr. Gardner, Mr. Blumberg, and Mr. Smith,

I appreciated your questions and comments as I observed the Safety and Security Committee meeting on Oct. 28. However, WCPSS has never openly identified the SRO issue. Without clarity, there will be no real solutions.

A) WHAT exactly is the SRO issue? It is Black and brown students and students with disabilities being targeted, criminalized, and victimized in the SRO Program. Need evidence?

Our review group has provided you a list of 15 such published/known cases that exhibited how 22 students were gravely harmed: <http://bit.ly/Evidence-Cases-Of-SRO-Police-Trauma-On-WCPSS-Students>
The list includes the 8 cases in Legal Aid's 74-page complaint filed with the Dept. of Justice in 2014: <http://bit.ly/SROs-WCPSS-Violations-of-Student-Rights>
Thousands of unpublished cases have likely occurred since SROs, who are police officers, were first placed in WCPSS in 1993.

B) WHO harmed these students? (Bad apple) SROs/ police officers AND (bad apple) WCPSS employees.

C) WHY? Discrimination on at-risk students due to their race, disability, and non-American national origin.

D) HOW? By abusing power and authority:

SROs: a) Discriminatorily target innocent students. Or, b) Arbitrarily criminalize students by applying criminal laws on their school-based infractions, such as falsely or loosely accusing them of “assault,” “disorderly conduct,” “affray,” “larceny,” and “drug possession,” and then pushing them into the criminal court system.

WCPSS employees: Arbitrarily request SRO assistance and then falsely accuse at-risk students of committing “crimes,” especially “assault.”

Here are 2 of the 8 cases outlined in Legal Aid’s DOJ complaint:

Case 1: An SRO handcuffed Student T.S., a Black student with an IEP, as a result of him allegedly cutting in the lunch line. The SRO continued to target him and ended up referring him to Juvenile Court.

Case 2: A gym teacher told a SRO that Student P.D., a Black student with an IEP, “assaulted” him. The school’s video proved that he lied. But the SRO told P.D., “It’s the teacher’s word against yours,” and charged P.D. with assault.

In fact, in the last 5 school years, SROs sent almost 1,400 students to criminal court and over 1,200 students to juvenile court, with over 60% of them being Black students. Meanwhile, Black students represent less than a quarter of the student body.

The abuse of power continues after 2014. For instance, in 2018, three assistant principals told a SRO that XX, a Black student with an non-American heritage and an IEP, “assaulted” them by “pushing.” The SRO wrote up the 3 charges as told and referred the student to the criminal adult court. The problem is, the accusations and written citations all contradicted the footage of videos taken by witnesses. On behalf of the family, an advocate filed a complaint with HR and the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), but both dismissed the case by ruling based on the APs’ words only.

In our appeal, we provided to OCR factual rebuttals and frame-by-frame screenshots of the videos to prove the APs’ false accusations. With no counter-arguments, OCR returned a “not guilty” verdict in favor of the district, ignoring our forensic evidence and rebuttals. A 4/7/2020 record shows OCR sent Superintendent Moore a letter to respond to our appeal. An OCR Chief Attorney informed me that WCPSS did not submit a rebuttal.

E) HOW to fix the injustice in the SRO Program? Three key actions:

- a) Hold (bad apples) employees and SROs accountable for their wrongdoings;
- b) Stop condoning and ignoring their wrongdoings; and

c) Follow the laws (and DOE guidelines) and distinguish the laws from the policies in Policy 4309 Code of Student Conduct. For example, like Mr. Blumberg said at the Oct. 28 meeting, “... an assault which really involves the potential for serious injury and again to see whether referrals can be more aligned with your Code of Conduct [policy], more in line with that this would need to be a serious assault for referral purposes as opposed to what would be your level 2 [in the policy]...” Meanwhile, “pushing” – if it happened at all – with no injury, let alone serious injury, is NOT an assault.

Conclusion: Currently, the district's priority is to protect SROs and employees, not the students. And the district's culture is to ignore the truth, ignore the injustice, and ignore accountability. With that kind of priority and culture, how could the district ever find real solutions to the SRO policing issue??

Sincerely,
Shirley Tang
Founder, uCANcomplain, Inc

Dana Tabb
Quarantine after winter break

Teachers should be allowed the flexibility to work (not required to be in the building) from home during the quarantine to continue with safe practices after the holiday.

Stephanie Zavaleta
Teachers working from Home

If students are to stay home remotely for 2 weeks post holidays, I think teachers should work from home as well. Even though we are in our classrooms, we still have to share common spaces and touch the same devices to check in and we do not want to put ourselves at risk.

Wake County Black Student Coalition, Education Justice Alliance, ACLU-NC, Southern Coalition for Social Justice, El Pueblo, Justice Love Foundation, Cimite de Acción Popular, Pastors for NC Children, Youth Organizing Institute, Village of Wisdom, Jennifer Castillo-Parent/PTSA President, This Will Help, Public School First NC and Great Schools In Wake, Raleigh PACT, Black Arts District LLC, Action NC, NC Child, UCC, Fayetteville PACT, Save Our Schools, NC North Carolina Justice Center

Fund School Peacebuilders

The Wake County #CounselorsNotCops campaign led by the Wake County Black Student Coalition, Education Justice Alliance, ACLU-NC, and Southern Coalition for Social Justice is calling for the funding of a Peacebuilder Program in the Wake County Public School System to ensure a safe and welcoming school environment for Black and Brown students. The Wake County #CounselorsNotCops campaign envisions a future where schools prioritize students' mental and social development by staffing professionals trained in restorative justice, de-escalation skills, and nonviolent crisis intervention techniques. With that vision in mind, the twenty-one organizations listed below demand that the Wake County School Board allocate one-tenth of one percent of its 2021 budget to implement and properly staff a Peacebuilders Program within our school system.

Peacebuilders are interventionists that identify the strengths and potential of young people and their families. Peacebuilders help create positive school climates by facilitating safe, nonjudgmental, restorative justice circles that help students learn social skills and emotion regulation. Each year the Wake County School Board and Superintendent Moore manage a school budget of approximately 1.7 billion dollars to allocate across the Wake County Public School System. This year we ask that the Wake County School Board uses one-tenth of one percent or approximately 1.7 million dollars to fund a Peacebuilders program.

One-tenth of one percent is a small price to pay for slowing the funneling of students into school-to-prison and school-to-deportation pipelines by staffing trained Peacebuilders to intervene in the criminalization of Black and Brown students in the Wake County School System. Black students represented only 22% of WCPSS student enrollment in 2018-2019. Although data confirms that Black students do not misbehave at higher rates than their White peers, Black students comprised 73% of school-related complaints to the youth justice system. It is time to end the criminalization of our Black and Brown students and invest in alternatives that create equitable experiences for all students in schools. We are asking you, Wake County School Board members, to use your voice and voting power to allocate one-tenth of 1% of the 2021 budget to fund a Peacebuilders Program .

Sincerely,

Wake County Black Student Coalition
Education Justice Alliance
ACLU-NC
Southern Coalition for Social Justice
El Pueblo
Justice Love Foundation
Cimite de Acción Popular
Pastors for NC Children
Youth Organizing Institute
Village of Wisdom
Jennifer Castillo, Parent/PTSA President
This Will Help
Public School First NC and Great Schools In Wake
Raleigh PACT
Black Arts District, LLC
Action NC
NC Child
UUC
Fayetteville PACT
Save Our Schools NC
North Carolina Justice Center

Mary Gilbow
Student Achievement Meeting 11/23/2020

Dear WCPSS Board of Education:

I appreciate this opportunity to write you all, running a school district of 162,000 students is not easy. My comment today is to discuss Karen Hamilton presentation on Special Education during the student achievement meeting dated November 23,2020 which was recorded and can be found on you tube. Mr. Haggerty mentioned we can have a much more in-depth conversation about special education. We could have a separate meeting to drill down and go deeper with special education. Well, as a board please schedule this into your meetings. As families we should not have to wait for October Disabilities Month to speak of special education. Once a year is not enough. A 20-minute presentation which was fast paced and poorly delivered.

Please help raise the bar for this department to deliver the services needed for the children. Parents are concerned that she sets up the local schools for failure. Principals reach out to her for her guidance in Special Education. Often what is sent back down is snarky, intimidating and not clearly defined.

Her job is not defined by state statute so as a school board who is overseeing her. Does she have accountability? What chain of command do school officials and area superintendents execute when a student is identified as by law to receive special education services.

Parents are concerned she appears to use the role in SPED as an IEP is a legal issue. Isn't a sound basic education legal? Aren't state statues, superintendent, and principal jobs legal since it is in state statues? How much of the budget does her department spend on legal fees? Are these legal fees necessary? Why as a board would you not discuss? Is it possible Ms. Hamilton is directing principles to do what she says to do under the guides of IEP. Is Ms. Hamilton allowed to function soley in WCPSS acquiring more staff when her directives to principals create more legal issues for WCPSS? Why is someone without legal training Dr. McFarland the supervisor over Ms. Hamilton? Is Ms. Hamilton still reporting to Superintendent Moore as she did from 2008 to 2018?

Is Ms. Moore responsible to recommend and assign positions and job titles in WCPSS? Ms. Moore and Ms. Hamilton has had a long history together. Is Ms. Hamilton treated with white gloves because of this relationship? Please fix special education in WCPSS. Please do it for the children and families.

Thank you

Mary Gilbow

Kristin Beller

End of Semester Proposal

December 15th, 2020

Dear Superintendent Moore, Chair Sutton, and Board members,

Wake NCAE continues to maintain the position that remote learning is the safest option for education during this pandemic, not to be confused with our profound desire to be back to a safe in-person instructional environment with our students. We are invested in creating a safe transition to in-person instruction which includes a sustained period of hybrid learning or cohorts, but doing so is complex and unfortunately, conditions outside of the school building impact what happens within it.

Two weeks ago, Wake County was hovering at 5% of people testing positive for COVID and last night we were at 8.0%. Two weeks ago, Wake County's 14-day case count was 352 cases per 100K residents. Last night it was 592. These data points will not be updated before public comments must be submitted, but as many of you referenced in your comments last night, the rate of viral spread in our community outside of schools is increasing at an alarming rate. Even more alarming is knowing that this number doesn't even reflect all of the cases in our community because not every person infected with COVID experiences symptoms and not every person with symptoms seeks testing. This surge was the result of a 3-day holiday. There were warnings and guidance shared in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. No one knows how strictly households in our community followed that guidance, but this data gives us reason to believe that we can expect at least the same level of increase to come after 2 weeks of Winter Break. Unfortunately, now the starting place isn't 5%, it's 8% and may be even higher by Friday.

Because of this, we fully support the Board bringing students and staff back into remote learning as we complete first semester. We also encourage a public conversation about reducing the number of students in classrooms during second semester or even continuing remote learning at the start of the second

semester depending on the conditions within our community. As one Board member referenced last night, this is a community effort. There are almost five weeks between now and the end of the first semester. Our community can demonstrate strict discipline in regards to masking, distancing, and hand hygiene between now and then to prepare for a safe transition to in-person learning for second semester, and we would appreciate a concentrated effort around this made by all. If the warnings and guidance fall to the wayside again during this holiday, as they appear to have during the last, it will be important for families and staff to know that learning can still continue remotely. If the spread of COVID continues to increase, staffing will continue to be an issue that incentives alone cannot solve. It would do no harm to prepare our families and staff for a remote start to second semester with the intention to assess the conditions and re-evaluate at the Board meeting on January 5th. It will be less inconvenient for families to move from an expectation of remote learning to in-person than the reverse.

We fully support the Board adopting the staff proposal for remote learning after Winter Break and ask that the Board go a step further to include a start to second semester with less people in the buildings.

Sincerely,
Kristin Beller
Wake NCAE President

Carrie Bley
Lack of math resources

We have often wondered how a math teacher in Wake County would even begin to evaluate a student's math comprehension in middle and High schools these days? We know our children's teachers are capable, smart, and caring, but we are concerned that the curriculum tools they are given do not provide enough data to evaluate if each individual student has learned what they were supposed to in each WCPSS secondary math class?

This is an honest question...How does an educator identify if a student is not reaching a reasonable level of comprehension in their class?

As our children have rattled around in these "discovery based" learning curriculums, this has been a major hurdle in our lives. Because, there has to be some measurable education goals that students need to meet. Some level of success that lets a teacher know that students are receiving the math knowledge they were supposed to have learned in class. In person school or virtual. A common, reasonable measurement that can be shared by the student, school, and the parents.

In our experience, we have never been contacted by any of our math teachers. Not one proactive phone call in 4 years. Not one call from administration...as they watch our kids slowly failing a math course all year long. That's astounding to us.

A student that misses more than five math assignments...no phone call or email.
A student that has failed 3 unit tests in a row- Failed every other quiz for 2 quarters- Had test scores that hovered in the 50% range all year with some doozies of 17%, 32%...there was even a test score of 0%. That's quite a feat getting a 0% on a test that you took sitting in class. But still, no phone call from the teachers or administration in four years.

We would like you to consider that point today. If a Wake County math classroom is set up to encourage failure as part of the journey through these “discovery based” learning curriculums...

How will an educator know when a student's “failure” stops being productive and starts being a sign of severe academic and comprehension issues?

When does a teacher need to begin some form of an academic recovery plan with that student? When do parents need to be informed that their child is receiving failing grades in a core math course and called into the situation for help? Drastic, inconsistent academic performance, low grades in a core class could be indicators of some very serious issues for a student. That child might have an undiagnosed learning disability. They could have comprehension and reading deficits. It could even be a sign of a very serious problem at home...

But again....How would a teacher even know if a student is really true distress in a math class in Wake County anymore? Is there an acceptable amount of academic failure before measures are taken to help students?

Our concerns with MVP and Open up Resources math curriculums pre-date this pandemic and virtual learning environment. As the debates begin and conversations have started about the EOG requirements this year we already know that the math scores will probably be poor across the board. Students haven't been evaluated in math in two years...the raw scores will definitely tell a story, we have no doubt about that.

We can also predict that those raw scores will not make it to our eyes. Our students' poor math EOC scores will be curved by the county. If not there...by the school. Students will be pushed into the next math course whether they are ready or not next year.

That's our morbid prediction because that has been our experience for four years in WCPSS. An experience that we have tried desperately to bring an end to. Our child has been accelerated every step of the way up your math ladder...Riding the line of failing every class the entire way up. Failing major exams, unable to complete homework, failing quizzes.

We really want you to consider whether or not the current math curriculums ever allowed enough opportunities for educators to gauge student comprehension. Do students have any access to learning resources and math reference material so that they might take responsibility for their own math education and comprehension today?

-Carrie Bley

Michelle Clopper
Students Returning to On-Campus Learning

WCPSS website says "A school system cannot eliminate COVID-19 from the community. It can, however, slow and even stop the spread of the virus inside a school by strictly following health guidance about face coverings, social distancing and hand washing." Also, the 11/17/20 e-mail to parents from WCPSS states "we will not keep schools open if health officials do not believe we can do so in a safe and responsible manner. To this end, we will continue to monitor our district's current plan and programming to ensure

high compliance rates with public health guidance..." Yet, we have students and teachers in (A) contained indoor classrooms, with (B) cases of more than 10 people in the room, (C) regularly at less than 6-feet distanced (for some reason, 3 feet is now acceptable for students and teachers, even though public health guidance continues to be 6 feet), AND (D) for several continuous hours a day. How is any of that "safe and responsible" or in "high compliance" with public health guidance on social distancing?

By Executive Order, it wouldn't be considered safe to have a school board meeting of more than 10 people for a couple of hours and with adults who are masked and following proper 6-feet distancing...yet the school board determines it's okay for students, teachers and school staff to be only 3-feet distanced...together for 6-7 hours...daily? The last time I checked, students, teachers, and school staff are considered part of the same "public" as I am...right? Not to mention, consider the people those students, teachers, and school staff come home to each day...other members of the public.

Plus, all this is being done (A) with COVID cases continuously rising and (B) during the holiday season (during which several students will travel and gather and then will return right back into the classrooms alongside those who followed public health guidelines and sacrificed time with family).

Additionally, kids are known to be more asymptomatic, which means they would have the virus, not be aware they have it (so not get tested), and be unknowingly spreading it.

Tell me again why we can't just wait until February (after the holiday gathering effects have possibly begun to calm, and when some vaccinations have started to become effective) before beginning any in-person rotations?

It makes more sense for staffing reasons as well. If all students are remote learning, a teacher who is quarantined but not suffering with severe symptoms can likely still teach their class, so there wouldn't be a need for replacement staffing.

Wake County is one of the most populous counties in NC, and WCPSS is one of the largest school systems, meaning it has more potential than other counties to have an effect on virus spread and case counts, more potential to sway it higher and more potential to sway it lower.

Please consider continuing remote learning for all until it is safer. Thank you!