

Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #248

I would like to provide: *	In-Person Virtual Public Comments
Select the meeting date: *	April 8, 2021 5:00 p.m.
My public comments are related to: *	Virtual+ Plus Learning
Topic *	Classroom air quality and COVID risk management
Full Name *	Chris Pyke
What is your relationship to ACPS? *	Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

Dear School Board members,

I am here today because classroom air quality is a challenge for ACPS and a critical aspect of a safe, healthy re-entry. I am an environmental scientist, and I have worked on spaces and buildings for 20 years.

Let's start with science. COVID-19 is airborne. It is spread through the air. The primary mode of infection is "shared air" in indoor environments. The most important risk mitigation measures are occupant density reduction, personal protective equipment (e.g., masks), and ventilation.

I am concerned that ACPS policies and leadership are inconsistent with the science and not effectively managing risk across its portfolio of 1,300 classrooms. Specifically, in email correspondence with Dr. Hutchings, Dr. Hart, and their teams, I have observed:

* ACPS policies are not adequately aligned with Centers for Disease Control guidance or science evidence on ventilation and indoor air quality management.

* ACPS has not established and communicated a clear management process for indoor air quality. There is no single point of responsibility for individual schools or the district as a whole.

* ACPS has not provided information about the implementation of indoor air quality strategies across schools or classrooms. There is no information to affirm that policies are being carried out as intended and sustained over time.

* ACPS has not established policies or provided information about in classroom measurements of infection risk-related indoor air quality

conditions, such as air changes, carbon dioxide concentration, or relative humidity.

* ACPS has not provided a mechanism to collect and analyze feedback from faculty and students on their experiences in classrooms.

These are essential elements of effective indoor air quality management and COVID transmission risk reduction. These practices are being implemented by jurisdictions across the United States. The School Board can and should expect similar practices from ACPS.

I would appreciate your help improving classroom air quality to fight COVID and to provide safer, healthier learning environments for our kids.

Sincerely

Chris Pyke
Parent of Cassidy Pyke (TC Williams) and Ryan Pyke (George Washington Middle School)
Alexandria, VA
