Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #109

My public comments are related to: *	Continuity of Learning 4.0
Topic *	Fall school options
Name *	Dawn Ramsburg
What is your relationship to ACPS? *	Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student
To include your comments as part of the Public Comments agenda item at weekly Special Called School Board Meetings, enter your comments here:	Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. I am the parent of a rising 2nd grader in the dual language program at John Adams. I am concerned about my child's safety due to COVID-19 and recognize there aren't easy choices in front of any of us. In terms of the two options available for fall, I am greatly concerned about the virtual options for a few reasons. First, as parents, there was little training provided on how to access and support us in using the online tools. We heard about teachers receiving training but parents were receiving only letters or emails but no "hands on" training. My husband is in IT and we are both proficient computer users but continuously had trouble with links and getting to the right places on line which was frustrating to all of us. I think the week before online learning starts that parent training should be offered to help troubleshoot problems so we aren't having to do while our children are supposed in class. I felt like too much burden was put on teachers to "teach" parents how to troubleshoot when the district could have taken this on. I want the teacher to tech my child not me. Second, our daughter did NOT like us as school teachers. Again both my husband and I are college educated but neither one of us are school teachers. We had tears all around every week (and every day some weeks) because we didn't know how to teach the material to help her learn. This was especially hard for dual language (I have a degree in Spanish but it's been 30 years and I had work commitments so I couldn't always be available. Third, we only had 2 30 min zooms with the teacher. This was not enough and there were too many kids in class so the teacher would spend at least 15 min just trying to get some order. Third I'm concerned about using the alphabet (I've seen this mentioned) solely to determine on site attendance. I know this will help families with siblings. But I would like my daughter to have some of her friends in class and don't know how alphabet alone will affect this. I think she is going to be anxious returning to school with a new teacher and having a close friend in class could help. Finally I'm concerned about how the return to school is being coordinated in school and in the community with school-age/after school programs. My office is expecting us to return to work in the office in September. But my mental stamina is greatly diminished supporting online school and teleworking and dealing with all

the unknowns. It would help if the school and city could better communicate options for parents on the virtual learning days as the school plans are fine tuned. Again I want safety first and don't want my child on site if her safety nor staff safety is not top of the list. But parents are struggling with these extra demands and I worry about the impact of the mental stress on all. We need some leadership decisions that help is support our children and help the schools support their learning. Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.