

Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #90

My public comments are related to: * Continuity of Learning 4.0

Topic * ACPS reopening plans

Name * Larry Altenburg

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:

The current approach to covid-era learning is failing most students. Distance learning only works for a small number of students who have means and parents who can also home school. Maintaining all-virtual schooling will only ensure that most of our students are uneducated and unprepared for their futures.

Additionally, getting 5000 kids back into TC in the fall is a fool's errand. We need to seriously reconsider adding a second high school, reevaluating instruction overall to accommodate all students, and getting over our traditional teaching approaches to address the immediate crises at hand – covid, overcrowding, and underperformance. The board's decision to keep a single school was ill-advised.

I highly recommend a hybrid model with staggered schedules. Half of the students in the classrooms in the morning and the other half in the afternoons. This will enable students to be in school every day of the week and facilitates parents getting back to their jobs. Many of our students' parents can't work from home or if they do, they can't work and also home school. Getting the kids back in the classroom safely is important.

Finally, in light of the past facilities performance of our schools, I do not currently trust the school system's ability to provide basic sanitary needs in the buildings, much less the enhanced cleaning and sanitization required to safely reopen without a SARS-Cov-2 vaccine. The schools have to do a much better job of supplying soap and paper products in the restrooms and hand washing and sanitization in the classrooms. I have heard constant complaints about GWMS and MVCS not providing adequate supplies in the restrooms, and children carrying their own toilet paper and hand sanitizer since there often is inadequate supply in the restrooms.