

City Council School Board Subcommittee Public Comment List January 25, 2021

Speaker #	Name	Comments/Questions
1.	Clayton Wirtz Email: clayton@thewirtzs.com Phone: 703.371.9966	Will the school district attempt to reopen without the union's support? I believe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every ACPS board member is delinquent in their responsibility and should resign immediately; • Non-at-risk teachers who refuse to return in-person should be replaced.
2.	Jennifer Niccolls Email: Jennifer.niccolls@gmail.com Phone: 703-395-9966	Please, spend time on plans for reopening school buildings. Please, spend time on figuring out other city properties that schools can use to ensure social distancing. Please, make more space available in Rec programs that operate during school hours.
3.	Kate Tagert Email: Katetagert@gmail.com Phone: 202.491.1022	Why can't Alexandria open schools like other small cities have done all over the country? ACPS has repeatedly cited the CDC recommendation of six feet as being an insurmountable hurdle to getting kids back in school. Once teachers are vaccinated and metrics are looking better, is the six feet recommendation still going to act as a eternal roadblock for our children getting back in their classrooms? In other words are our kids only going to attend school two days a week into September 2021? If so why is Alexandria not looking at new spaces so our kids don't suffer another year of learning virtually? We want schools opened five days a week and we need a plan from Alexandria otherwise your constituents will move or do everything in their power to send their kids somewhere else. It is becoming comical that ACPS has not opened their classrooms when it's been done safely all over the country and within Alexandria private schools.
4.	Julie Forsht Email: julieforsht@gmail.com Phone: 703.963.8487	How is it possible for kids to be in school for next year?

<p>5.</p>	<p>Lee Abbott Email: abbott.lee.m@gmail.com Phone: 703-408-8268 (1st email)</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>As an ACPS parent for 12 years and a community member, I would like to know why our School Board is not following the statements of the CDC, the VDOE and our President in regard to the opening of our public schools.</p> <p>I would like to know why there is [no need to have a plan in place for reopening fully in September because], according to Dr. Hutchings, "we don't know what the virus is going to be doing in the fall."</p> <p>I would like to know why our School Board and our Superintendent are spreading fear and hiding behind made up metrics.</p> <p>I would also like to know why our City Officials have remained silent on the issue and keep passing the buck back to the School Board without standing up for us, as other School Boards are doing for their constituents.</p> <p>I have asked these questions before. The responses are always in generalities. Always. I would like specific, pointed answers.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Lee Abbott</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Lee Abbott Email: abbott.lee.m@gmail.com Phone: 703-408-8268 (2nd email)</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>As an ACPS parent of 12 years and a community member, I would like to know why our School Board is not following the statements of the CDC, the VDOE and our President in regard to the opening of our public schools. For example, "The CDC says x, but we are not following this because y."</p> <p>I want to know why there is [no need to have a plan in place for reopening fully in September because], according to Dr. Hutchings and accepted as an answer by the School Board, "we don't know what the virus is going to be doing in the fall."</p> <p>I would also like to know why our City Officials have remained silent on the issue and keep passing the buck back to the School Board (please don't quote law; I know how it works) without standing up for us and speaking out, as other School Boards are doing for their constituents.</p>

		<p>Specifically, ask yourself why your political career is more important to safeguard than the needs of our children. Actually, your silence just might negate your future popularity.</p> <p>I have asked these questions before. The responses are always in generalities. Always. This community is not ignorant to the evasiveness of this council and this school board.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Lee Abbott</p>
7.	<p>Stacie Andersen Email: cobragal56@gmail.com Phone: 7605380308</p>	<p>Both of my ACPS children, both of whom are high school students, can not believe that co-location of housing on school grounds is even up for discussion.</p>
8.	<p>Janine Scianna Email: jfisler@umich.edu Phone: 8145715028</p>	<p>With health metrics improving each day, and with teacher/staff vaccinations well underway, ACPS may reach a point where it could easily staff those students wishing to have in-person instruction (40%+) with 2-day on/2-day virtual cohorts. This scenario would negate having to do concurrent instruction as staffing limitations ease up.</p> <p>Will ACPS consider hybrid (not concurrent) instruction once the teacher population is vaccinated and the health metrics continue to improve?</p> <p>Concurrent instruction appears to be simply shifting virtual learning to the setting of the classroom. While I understand this was considered originally to get around the staffing limitations, that was before the advent of staff vaccination. Now, the only real barrier to opening to full instruction is the social distancing recommendation, which hybrid would achieve.</p> <p>Thank you, Janine Scianna Parent to two Matthew Maury Elementary students</p>