

# Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #104

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

Name \* Katie Harris

What is your relationship to ACPS? \* Staff Member

To include your comments as part of the Public Comments agenda item at weekly Special Called School Board Meetings, enter your comments here:

I am an ACPS teacher. Originally I was all for returning to in-person learning as a classroom teacher of 2nd graders. I miss my students. But now I'm on the opposite side--I want virtual learning, at least until Northern Virginia's numbers are very low. Virginia cases are rising and we're surrounded by several other states with bigger outbreaks. I am healthy, but I'm not sure what that means...no one knows where on the no symptoms up to death continuum we fall if we get sick. Plus, I am married to a high risk person, and I'm terrified I'll bring this home to my family.

My classroom is small compared to others and THERE IS NO SINK. I wonder how much academic time will be lost as we make regular trips down the hall to wash hands, as we regularly clean surfaces, as we try to stagger schedules. What PPE will you provide teachers, schools, and nurses, because it is sure coronavirus will hit a school if we are all inside for hours without protection. Is PPE even going to be available to schools with the crises happening in hospitals around the country?

I have been worried about teaching emerging readers that lost significant teaching time last spring over Zoom. How to do phonics so that they can see and hear sounds effectively? But I realized...in a classroom right now, I can't differentiate in small groups at my table at all and maintain social distancing. I'd rather take on the challenges of Zoom, figuring out how to develop relationships online, figuring out good reading lessons, meeting individual family needs as we go, etc. I think my school did a great job of reaching out to kids, even though K-2 needs to be more independent of parent technology. 17 out of 18 of my kids regularly logged in and I worked with one student one-on-one whose parent had differing work hours from our schedule. We made it work to the best of our ability, and our SPED teacher also was phenomenal with break out rooms and individual meetings with his kids. I can split a class into separate meeting groups through the day and I know parents will help test technology if we need help. I think we could involve more community members online as well, to help kids.

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Despite the pressure from federal government, I hope ACPS will tread slowly and cautiously until a vaccine/treatment is available. Thank you for considering these concerns.

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