Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #192

I would like to provide: *	Written Public Comments
My public comments are related to:	Virtual+ Plus Learning
Topic *	Open the schools to in person learning
Full Name *	Valerie Varano
What is your relationship to ACPS? *	Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student
Enter your comments here OR upload below:	Dear ACPS School Board, I am a grandparent of three children in the Del Ray community. I am also a former first grade teacher. I would like to add my voice to all those who are asking for the opening of the ACPS to in person learning. I know and have seen the downfalls of virtual learning. It is only survivable for a few. The valuable learning, such as social and emotional skills, that can only come from being in person are not attainable and lost to this generation. I believe that with the right precautions and safe guards in place the schools can and should be reopened. If what the CDC is saying is in fact true, that wearing face masks are the preventive measures needed, then requiring face masks for all, hand sanitizers on every desk and practicing social distancing can aid in the reopening of the schools safely. Lastly, I believe that teachers are an essential worker, as the many Target, Walmart, grocery workers and delivery people in our community are. These brave people go to work to help us all through each day of this pandemic. If they can go to work for all of us, then teachers should also. Again, providing the teachers, staff and pupils with the protections needed and plans for the inevitable issues that may arise. If the private schools in our area and those around the country have opened our public schools need to do the same, especially for the most vulnerable in our society that do not have another alternative. Thank you for listening.