

**Virtual School Board Meeting**  
**April 8, 2021**  
**Virtual Public Comments by Lee Abbott**

My name is Lee Abbott and I'm an ACPS parent.

I would like to know how decisions are made by the school board. Have any decisions about school reopenings been voted on by the board? It is my understanding that board members are active participants in any decision-making process.

Why is ACPS using 6 feet instead of the recommended 3 feet by the CDC and the VA Dept of Health. It appears that Dr. Hutchings' self-named "gold standard" holds more weight than the vast epidemiological research conducted by doctors in the top echelon of their fields at the CDC. Don't you find that odd?

Moving on, have you submitted your research on available community locations to add more classrooms if needed? The mayor asked for it over 2 months ago. And Why exactly are you not using the money that is available from the city?

When will you send out the long overdue follow-up survey to families, to determine if they've changed their minds about hybrid? There are empty desks at schools right now and families waiting to get in! Why have these surveys been delayed? Aren't you wondering that?

What IS the plan for having students in school 5 days a week with in-person teachers? It sure has been a long time to figure this out. I certainly hope there are no words like "Well, we just don't know" or "We're having some great discussions about that" at the upcoming long-overdue community session for parents.

There are exactly 95 working days left until school opens on August 23rd. If you're not working over the summer, as a board, then the days available to figure this out drop significantly. If you have done any of the things I've mentioned, my bad. Put please don't pat yourselves on the back for doing things that should have been way earlier.

Please know our intelligent parent community sees through all of the excuses: Oh, but we trust him.  
We are overcrowded.

We'll have to quarantine if we use 3ft in our schools, the very schools that are not superspreaders. Have any of you been doing research?

It is my understanding that school board members are responsible for questioning one another, their superintendents, and stakeholders. You are the people to whom Dr. Hutchings reports. Right now, it seems like it's the other way around. You are his boss; you are in charge. The fact that these decisions are being made without input from board members is incredulous. These decisions impact everyone in our city. Everyone. The fact that they have not been put to a vote is reprehensible.

I have posed very specific questions. If you need a reminder, they are all in the email I sent each of you, twice. And no, I don't need a babysitter. And no, I am not rich (and does it really matter if I was?).