

February XX, 2021

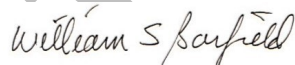
Dr. Brabrand and Members of the School Board:

Your Return to School plan formally adopted on February 4 is a step in the right direction, but we believe it represents just the beginning of our recovery. During this pandemic, significant damage has been done to our children's development. Governor Northam recently said that "even if the decision is difficult," offering in-person schooling is needed "to prevent irreparable learning loss and psychological damage." We respectfully offer the following comments:

- **Learning Loss**—Governor Northam has recently advised schools to "provide additional learning opportunities... [which] could include extensive summer classes, remediation, additional instructional time, or even year-round schooling." We believe you should put all options on the table to fulfill your fundamental mission of preparing our children for success.
- **Planning**—We are concerned that other priorities have distracted from sufficiently focusing on "Return to School," and we urge you to concentrate your efforts on remediation on an expedited basis, with a clear plan including a timeline, metrics, and any budget adjustments needed. This should include a timeline for evaluating and recovering from learning loss at all grade levels.
- **Community Support**—While FCPS has historically enjoyed broad community support, this is predicated on FCPS' excellence as an educational institution. To help build community support, we recommend that you solicit views on "Return to School" plans from students, parents, teachers and staff. This could be through more targeted surveys and/or public hearings of the type you held in the summer of 2020. Dr. Brabrand's town halls can provide useful information, but should not be a substitute for having targeted and frank feedback.

Sincerely,

The Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations



William Barfield
President