

First Name:	Last Name:	Topic of Comment:	Public Comment:
Katrina	Wilson	Help with discrimination in nursing against black students	Help with discrimination against black nursing students
Samantha	Turner	Racism In America	Stop Trying To Erase Black History In America School Systems
Ann	Bell	24-25 School Calendar	I have enjoyed the work of helping to plan the 24-25 school calendar submissions, and feel that we were able to use input from the community, teachers, and other parties to create calendars we hope will meet the needs of students and their families, as well as schools and teachers.
Katie	Johnston	Academic Calendar 2024-25-Development Process/Results	I had the unique experience over the last few months to work on the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar proposals. In the thirteen years that I have enjoyed working with CCSD as a teacher, I have never had the opportunity to work alongside community stakeholders, CCSD staff, and teachers/principals to problem solve and develop a proposal for our district. Our calendar process was well orchestrated through having a clear timeline and goals. I enjoyed hearing the different perspectives of the various stakeholders which is always a strategic method to create a good solution. Overall, the four calendar proposals were a team effort with a thoughtful intent to do what is best for kids. I look forward for CCSD to use this community/stakeholder model more regularly in developing solutions for our district. Thank you for letting me be a part of the process.
Pam	Juranas	Academic Calendar 2024-25	I am a CCSD parent and took part in the Academic Calendar Committee. Personally I loved this experience and feel the calendar my group put forth was a good balance of opinions from all sides. I believe it meets academic needs (like ending the 2nd semester prior to Winter break), while giving teachers planning and also balancing vacations, and an added bonus of ending school prior to June. By having this committee and multiple options presented I hope the community feels more heard. While a calendar can never please everyone I hope the calendar my group presented is strongly considered. I also hope by putting out these options the one selected will be the model for future years and that the calendar will continue to be released sooner than the spring prior to that next school year. Would be even better to get further ahead by having 2 years out.
Ms. E	Benitez	Ed's leadership role	Kelly was re-elected to the leadership position of policy liaison and audit and finance committee. If there is zero tolerance for threatening or violence language between members of CCSD and the community how why was this decided and what/whose input was taken into consideration?
Kim	Clark	Policies	I am a Charleston RISE alum and advocate. Charleston RISE is a group of parents and community advocates supporting efforts in CCSD to close the achievement gap. This includes upholding 4 pillars one of which is High Quality School Options for All. In order to uphold this pillar we expect the community to be empowered to hold the district accountable to improve academic and social outcomes for students. This pillar also includes supporting student and family civil rights. At the combined Committee of the Whole/Board of Trustees meeting, Ed Kelley was reinstated as Policy Liaison. Multiple board members expressed their disagreement with this decision. They also expressed concern with creating additional problems for the board and district by reinstating Kelley in this role. Kelley was previously censured in accordance with Policy BCC and removed from the role of Policy Liaison for violating Policy BCA which outlines the Board's Code of Ethics. The Special Called Board of Trustees Meeting held on July 21, 2023 was difficult to watch. We were surprised and disappointed by the conduct of counsel and some of the board members. It was appalling to see the misuse of board policy, contradiction of previous motions and dismissal of valid objections made by multiple board members. Multiple board members pointed out the contradictions and the inefficiency of the meeting as well as setting precedence for having to continue to vote on the same matter in the future. The matter in question was whether the board would approve 2 motions regarding interim positions recommended by the superintendent. Multiple board members pointed out that a vote had already been taken to allow the superintendent to hire interim positions. In addition, a board member states that board policy CBC and CA give the superintendent the power to operate the school district and make hiring decisions. The superintendent was not given the opportunity to speak and provide rationale for either position or motion until after voting had occurred in both instances. Counsel when addressed during the meeting did not give sound reasoning for supporting the motions that led to the meeting. Counsel was misleading in saying that there were conflicting motions. The second motion Counsel referred to from May 18th allowed the superintendent to hire for interim and vacant positions. The superintendent was filling interim and vacant positions. At 7 minutes and 41 seconds Alice Paylor admitted "they're not even actually conflicting." So there was no point in the meeting or the 2 motions. Thus no reason to impede on the powers of the superintendent. During the 7/21 meeting the Board chair and the recently reinstated Policy Liaison continuously interrupted other board members by demanding that they stick to the motion being "on the floor." Board members were voicing their concerns with the legitimacy of the meeting as well as voting on policy that imposed on the role and responsibilities of the Superintendent. As noted previously, the parliamentarian stated in the midst of the discussion that the previous motions which supposedly led to the 7/21 meeting were not conflicting which made the point of the board members contesting the validity of the meeting as well as the motions they were being required to vote on. While this comment is being submitted online I do want to add a note regarding Policy BE. Regarding making public comments, Policy BE states "No speaker may use the public comment session for personal or derogatory comment of any individual, to discuss personnel matters, or to discuss matters otherwise private or confidential." Policy BE has been stated during meeting and used to censure members of the public and keep members of the public from holding specific Board members accountable for their actions in their capacity as elected public officials who are also expected to uphold and adhere to the Code of Ethics as noted in Policy BCA. This is a clear misuse of board policy and should be discontinued since members of the public are addressing the actions of public officers whose actions and decisions affect thousands a faculty, staff, students, families and community members. Please stick to the board policies as stated in the manual. Please don't waste the time of the Board of Trustees members, Superintendent, District staff or the community with unnecessary issues. Ultimately we all need to stay focused on closing the achievement gap.

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Oneathia	Washington	Excellent Students	<p>Hello, my name is Oneathia Washington. I would like to welcome Dr. Eric Gallien to Charleston South Carolina and congratulate him in his role as Superintendent of Charleston County. Hoping that you are accomplishing your 100 day plan. As a community member in North Charleston, and a Charleston Rise member, collaborating with you concerning our five pillars at Charleston Rise tells why we are passionate about all students getting the best education available in Charleston County. Excellence is the key to change and we are here to support and encourage you towards excellence for our students here in Charleston.</p> <p>Thank you, Oneathia Washington</p>
Kim	Clark	Public Comments	<p>Per the Committee of the Whole Agenda from 8-14-23: "Beginning in August 2023, per policy BDE the Committee of the Whole meeting agendas shall consist of three categories: policy, strategic education, other business. Written and in-person public comments will be reserved for Board Meetings." However, when I reviewed Policy BDE, the full first paragraph states: "In addition to routine items such as the appearance of visitors and adoption of minutes, the agenda for each meeting of the COW shall consist of three categories: policy, strategic education, other business." It sounds like the public (visitors) have the ability to speak/present at COW meetings. How is it that the latter part of the statement was interpreted to allow the Board to remove Public Comments from the Committee of the Whole Meetings? Also, I was disappointed to hear that the decision was made over email. Other Board members indicated they didn't have adequate time to respond. Why wasn't the issue of Public Comments discussed at a COW or BOT meeting? Why wasn't the public given an opportunity to weigh in prior to the removal?</p>
Kendra	Cooper	the removal of in person comments during the committee of the whole meetings	<p>I am a Charleston RISE alum, advocate, and educator. Charleston RISE supports closing the Achievement Gap in our schools through our 4 pillars: Great Administrators and Teachers; No Failing Feeder Patterns; High-Quality School Options For All; and Great Family School Partnerships.</p> <p>I have been watching the school board meetings and following the board's actions and I have a concern about the removal of the opportunity for the general public to make personal comments during Committee of the Whole meetings. This avenue for public engagement is a vital aspect of our democratic process and a fundamental means for community members to voice their opinions and concerns.</p> <p>Allowing individuals to make personal comments during these meetings fosters transparency, accountability, and inclusivity within our educational system. It provides a platform for parents, students, teachers, and other community members to directly communicate their thoughts on important matters that impact our schools. By participating in these discussions, citizens feel heard and valued, which ultimately contributes to a stronger sense of community ownership over education-related decisions.</p> <p>I urge the Charleston County School Board to consider the immense value that public comments bring to the Committee of the Whole meetings. These comments provide unique insights and perspectives that may not be captured through other channels of communication. As you deliberate on this matter, I kindly request that you prioritize the continuation of public comments to ensure an open and participatory dialogue that benefits our entire educational community.</p> <p>Thank you for your dedication to maintaining a transparent and inclusive decision-making process. I trust that you will take these concerns into account and make a decision that upholds the principles of democratic engagement and community involvement.</p>
Pam	Juranas Zwolak	2024-2025 Calendar	<p>I was a participant on the Calendar Committee and work on Calendar option 4. While I will agree the diversity was not fully there for the committee, I do believe my group tried to take into consideration every angle. We also had representation from different school teaching perspectives, district perspectives and also parents like myself.</p> <p>I truly believe our calendar works to match the needs of students, teachers and parents to have a well rounded learning environment, breaks for students and teachers (traditional break times along with some adjusted break times), and semesters ending a better time. While I am not able to be there to help represent the calendar I worked on, I trust the representative we have sent to answer any questions that might arise.</p> <p>I hope the board will consider continuing the calendar committee as work begins on the 2025-2026 to keep on track with earlier release times for the calendars which helps for better parent and teacher planning. But I would also be interested in finding ways in making sure the committee is more diverse and represents all CCSD districts properly.</p>
Joy	Wymer	Academic Calendars for 2024-25	<p>I would like to publicly offer my full support for calendars two and three which shorten the summer holiday by one and two weeks, respectively, by providing additional week-long breaks during the academic year. Shortening our summer is one step to reducing the "summer slide" that negatively impacts so many students and also gives our students one (or two) additional vacation weeks to break up the academic year. There have been some concerns about childcare during these weeks and both public and private after school care and childcare agencies have already made plans to offer these services. Additionally, moving one or two of our weeks to the academic year may allow families to take vacations outside of peak season at a less expensive price point. I assisted in developing calendar three and would be happy to have this or calendar two implemented for the 24-25 academic year. I do not see any downside to this change. Thank you.</p>

First Name:	Last Name:	Topic of Comment:	Public Comment:
Mary	McConnell	<p>Improve our American Education Curriculum</p> <p>I recently watched a PBS show – Firing Line – and was dumb struck by the topic and guest speaker – Richard Dreyfuss! He’s a bright guy, on a mission for democracy. Oh my gosh, he is passionate about a topic that has dropped off my radar – school curriculum. Purchase his book to learn more</p> <p>I included the links below and I really encourage you to watch and perhaps pass along to our community leaders and parent organizations etc. anyone who can advocate for change. 😊</p> <p>Our Mission: The Dreyfuss Civics Initiative is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that aims to revive the teaching of civics in American public education to empower future generations with the critical-thinking skills they need to fulfill the vast potential of American citizenship.</p> <p>The Dreyfuss Civics Initiative https://www.thedreyfussinitiative.org/</p> <p>PBS Firing Line aired 8/24 https://www.pbs.org/show/firing-line/</p>	School Education Curriculum - Civics
Monica	Dynak	NO FORCED MASKS	<p>Received via email to publiccomments@charleston.k12.sc.us on 08/27/23 at 11:59 AM. Entered by staff into the form.</p> <p>Please help keep masks out of our schools!</p>
Angelique	Kochera	Calendar Option 3	<p>As a 16 year veteran teacher, I know that thinking about calendar option 3 is a little scary because it is totally different from a traditional calendar. However, I believe it is needed. Teaching is an extremely hard job, especially due to our large class sizes and the growing number of behavior issues. It is easy for a teacher to get exhausted and therefore burnt out for a time. Having a break every other month to look forward to, should help with this issue. The long period of time from the beginning of school until November’s Thanksgiving break is a huge amount of time to go without a break. Likewise coming back from winter break and waiting until nearly the end of April is very hard for teachers. I feel like for months beforehand everyone is counting down until spring break which really does affect our teaching. Early release and half days are not a break for teachers-it is a time for us to work and get lesson planning and report cards done. Teachers need breaks to recharge so we can best meet our students needs.</p> <p>Teacher retention is currently a huge topic of discussion and I believe giving teachers breaks throughout the school year would be a great incentive. During the calendar committee process, I contacted teachers in other districts around South Carolina and North Carolina who currently have a schedule close to option 3 to find out their opinion. Every teacher who I talked with raved about how wonderful the calendar was and how they saw a large difference in teacher morale throughout the school year. Those breaks give them the energy to give everything to their students throughout the entire year because they are able to recharge regularly.</p> <p>The first few years of my teaching experience were in Kentucky and everyone had a "Fall Break" near the beginning of October. This provided options for teachers as well as students and families to go on vacations at a different time than the summer. Hotels, cruises, and airline tickets are more expensive in the summer and spring break, yet those are the only times we have for vacations. Taking a vacation in October or early spring provides us with more affordable options.</p> <p>A concern that I have heard from people is about childcare for those extra weeks off. As I said before I talked with multiple teachers from other districts and they all said it is not a problem because the community molds itself around the school district calendar. If we have a week off in October, businesses in the community will offer camps just as they do during spring break week and the summers.</p> <p>Calendar option 3 gives us a break almost every other month, ends the first semester before winter break and ends the school year for the students at the end of May. I know that it is the least traditional of the options, but I really think it is a change this district needs to move to. Thank you so much for your time.</p>