

The Coalition for Common Sense in Chesterfield County Public Schools

Petition for Removal of Chesterfield County School Board Member Kathryn Haines

Whereas, Virginia Code section 24.2-233 states in pertinent part: “Upon petition, a circuit court may remove from office any elected officer or officer who has been appointed to fill an elective office, residing within the jurisdiction of the court . . . [f]or neglect of duty . . . or incompetence in the performance of duties when that neglect of duty . . . or incompetence in the performance of duties has a material adverse effect upon the conduct of the office.”

Whereas the School Board of Chesterfield County adopted the misguided philosophy known as Critical Race Theory (CRT) (but disguised that fact by instead calling its 2018 strategic plan “Imagine Tomorrow”), the consequence of the School Board’s irresponsible substitution of ideology for common sense is that Chesterfield students have been effectively denied compulsory education for almost a year and a half, and they are now the least educated that they have ever been in the history of the Chesterfield County Public School System.

Whereas, specifically, the School Board refused to allow teachers to require online homework in the spring of 2020 (because of a purported concern that doing so might have been “unfair” to “disadvantaged” students), they did this even though virtually all students possessed smartphones and would have easily been able to access the internet for their school work using those.

Whereas, specifically, the School Board refused to allow teachers to require that student cameras be kept on during the first semester of the 2020/2021 school year (because, again, of a purported concern that doing so might have been “unfair” to “disadvantaged” students), that refusal denied teachers a way of insuring a minimum level of accountability during Meets. The result of their having done this is that a great many students were minimally attentive (if attentive at all) the entire year.

Whereas, specifically, the School Board was repeatedly informed of simple, cost-free measures which would have insured student attendance accountability during Meets (such as the suggestion that students be required to answer periodic “Chat” questions, the lack of responses to which could have been used to deny attendance credit), the School Board refused to implement those measures (and instead implemented only face-saving measures which never addressed the root of the problem).

Whereas, specifically, the School Board endorsed an attendance system for the entire 2020/2021 year that gave students full credit for attending their classes should they simply (and momentarily) check into the attendance website on the day of their class, the consequence of their having done that (which was completely lacking in common sense) is that great numbers of Chesterfield students didn’t attend their Meets, great numbers of the students who did attend their Meets only remained on them for a short period of time, and great numbers of those students who did stay on their Meets did so in name only (and instead preoccupied themselves with playing games on their phones for the entirety of each class).

Whereas all of these catastrophic breakdowns of the educational process were easily foreseeable and easily preventable by anyone who was using common sense, the School Board was so blinded by its ideological commitment to Critical Race Theory that it naively supposed that greater fairness that might break out amongst our students if fewer students actually attended their classes. By failing to take the common-sense measures to fix the many loopholes that allowed students to essentially skip all their classes, the School Board created the current educational catastrophe where Chesterfield students are now the least educated that they have ever been, and where the “disadvantaged” students (which the School Board so loudly proclaimed concern for) have now been disproportionately disadvantaged the most.

Whereas it is mandated by the state constitution that compulsory schooling be provided for all Virginia children, and whereas the residents of Chesterfield have already paid for that compulsory education with their taxes, the Chesterfield School Board deliberately and wantonly withheld that compulsory education from the students of Chesterfield Public Schools because of misguided ideological commitments.

(The Coalition for Common Sense in Chesterfield County Public Schools)

Therefore, we the undersigned registered voters of Chesterfield County ask that the Chesterfield County Circuit Court immediately suspend Kathryn Haines from the office of School Board Member upon the filing of this petition, as allowed for by Virginia Code section 24.2-236, and subsequently set a trial for her removal.

In signing this petition, each signatory affirms and represents, under penalty of perjury, that he/she has read and understands the foregoing allegations, is over the age of eighteen, is a resident and registered voter in the Midlothian District of Chesterfield County, and is in fact the person whose name that signatory purports to be and the signatory's signature below is the genuine signature of the person that signatory purports to be.

#	Printed Name	Signature	Residence Address	Date Signed	Last 4 Of SSN (Optional)
1.					
2.					
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AFFIDAVIT:

Commonwealth of Virginia, County of Chesterfield:

I, _____, swear or affirm that (i) my full residential address in the Commonwealth of Virginia, County of Chesterfield is _____, (ii) I am not a minor, (iii) I am not a felon whose voting rights have not been restored; (iv) I have witnessed the signature of each person who signed this page; and (v) I consent to the jurisdiction of the courts of Virginia in resolving any disputes concerning the circulation of petitions, or signatures contained therein. I understand that falsely signing this Affidavit is a felony punishable by a maximum fine up to \$2,500 and/or imprisonment up to ten years.

_____, signed _____ in the presence of a notary.
Circulator Signature Date

The foregoing instrument was subscribed and sworn before me this _____ day of _____, 2021, by (circulator name) _____.

(Notary Seal)

Notary Signature

Registration #

Commission Expiration