

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: August 31, 2022 8:19 pm  
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 50.93.180.138  
Unique ID: 1004428162  
Location: 35.6096, -88.8143

<b>Name</b>	Sean Higgins
<b>Email</b>	shiggins@liberty.edu
<b>Phone</b>	(540) 750-9899
<b>Organization</b>	Self
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: August 31, 2022 9:32 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 72.4.26.48  
Unique ID: 1004447970  
Location: 35.6096, -88.8143

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**Name** Julia Howell

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**Email** hhowell@eplus.net

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**Phone** (731) 298-7101

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**Organization** Private citizen (grandmother)

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** American Classical Academy Madison

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**Please provide your written comments below**

PLEASE approve Madison County to have an American Classical Academy in our city. I have watched over the decades as our public school system has declined first through my children and then through my grandchildren. The ELA scores in the public school system are embarrassing. If my grandchildren aren't able to get into an approved charter school in this city, at least some children will have the opportunity to better not only their lives through academics but become better more decent people in this world and we so very much need this!

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 8:57 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 47.7.150.153  
Unique ID: 1007945452  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

<b>Name</b>	Marjie Pjontek
<b>Email</b>	davidpjontek@bellsouth.net
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 267-6014
<b>Organization</b>	Teacher
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	I think Jackson would benefit from having a Classical public school option for families. This school would offer a unique style of teaching unlike any other public school in the area. Please give it a chance!

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 12, 2022 9:15 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 216.131.106.132  
Unique ID: 1008563239  
Location: 37.751, -97.822

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<b>Name</b>	Peg Ramsay
<b>Email</b>	Peghashope@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 444-4001
<b>Organization</b>	National Day of Prayer
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	The establishment of Charter Schools in Madison County is very timely. Parents deserve the option of school choice to educate their children as they desire. We need to at least seek to develop this option. There are educators who are knowledgeable and eager to train our children in this form of education. Let's move forward for the best of the future generation.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 12, 2022 9:31 am  
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / OS X  
IP Address: 45.18.164.242  
Unique ID: 1008569577  
Location: 36.3781, -87.036

<b>Name</b>	Dennis Pearson
<b>Email</b>	dennispearson63@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 809-0962
<b>Organization</b>	Austin Peay State University
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 12, 2022 12:00 pm  
Browser: Safari 15.6.1 / OS X  
IP Address: 136.58.117.187  
Unique ID: 1008639127  
Location: 36.1769, -86.7339

<b>Name</b>	George Grant
<b>Email</b>	george@parishpres.org
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 521-1439
<b>Organization</b>	Franklin Classical School
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Other

**Please provide your written comments below**

To the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

I am the founder of Franklin Classical School located in Franklin, TN and I have founded dozens of classical schools around the world. Additionally, I am a pastor at Parish Presbyterian Church, Director of the King's Meadow Study Center, Founder of Bannockburn College, and Coordinator of the Chalmers Fund. I've also authored dozens of books in the areas of history, biography, politics, literature, and social criticism.

I know and value the importance of a quality education. It's for this very reason I founded Franklin Classical School. Today, I write in support of American Classical Academy Madison's application and appeal to the Commission. The Tennessee Public Charter School Commission was founded to take politics out of the process and to judge an application solely on its merits. The Commission is responsible to provide a fact-based review of an application. I believe American Classical Academy Madison's application should be approved.

While there are many quality schools in Madison County, even the finest school is not the best fit for each student. Ultimately, I trust parents to make the decision that is best for each of their children regarding their education.

We need to provide additional public school options including high quality charter schools with a rigorous curriculum. For those students that need another option-this public charter school would provide at least one additional choice. Many families cannot afford other options and must rely on their traditional taxpayer funded public school and public charter school options.

I believe ACA dispels many of the falsehoods in Jackson-Madison County Schools' rejection of their application in their Commission Appeal Statement-so I will not regurgitate those valid points here.

The proposed curriculum that ACA will use is built around time-tested quality materials that are used in thousands of public schools to help students master these subjects.

Ultimately, families, community members, elected officials and teachers in Madison County have expressed interest in and support for American Classical Academy's application as expressed in their numerous letters of support. And, I believe their application meets all the standards in order to be approved.

The Commission should judge the application on its merits-full stop. And, once approved, let families decide if they believe ACA would be a good fit for their students. This is about providing high quality educational options for families. The more high-quality options for families, the better. It is no surprise that the traditional public schools are afraid of the unknown and therefore instead of providing options for families, they want to squash

additional options.

We cannot fit kids into a one-size-fits-all approach. Most students will stay in their current school, especially if they are happy and believe their needs are being met. And, even if a student leaves and goes to ACA or another schooling option-that traditional public school still receives partial funding to not educate a student. Ultimately, this should not be about money-which sadly, is what it seems the administrators in monopolistic public school system are most worried about. We should be empowering families to seek out options to best fit their student's needs. School choice is proven to help raise the bar and provide a quality education for students.

If the pandemic showed us anything, it is that each child has different and unique learning needs. We need to approve high-quality options and empower families to seek out the best public school option for each student. We should fund students and not systems.

I implore you to take politics out of the review process-alas, something Jackson-Madison County Schools did not do.

Thank you for your time and attention-and I trust you will carefully consider and approve their application.



Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 13, 2022 1:40 pm  
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 96.4.9.70  
Unique ID: 1009166042  
Location: 36.4198, -86.7946

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**Name** Mike Williams

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**Email** simiusgravis@yahoo.com

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**Phone** (615) 631-0563

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**Organization** nonw

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Jackson-Madison County Schools

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**Please provide your written comments below**

I am an educator with 30 years experience in the classroom, a Ph.D., and almost 10 years of private and international school administration; two of my years (the worst ever) were in Tennessee Charter schools. Never in my career had I witnessed and experienced blatant disregard for educational best practices, "shifty, questionable" use of public tax dollars, and complete disregard for student expression and exploration. Furthermore, there is no "real, hand-on" accountability, once a charter is approved.

To say the least, I now am opposed to ANY and ALL future Charter Schools in Tennessee, without more involved, hands-on, and direct oversight.

All decisions should remain at the local level and all those decisions should be upheld.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 13, 2022 11:36 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 73.108.205.89  
Unique ID: 1009372149  
Location: 35.9243, -83.9965

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**Name** Rob Quillin

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**Email** robquillin@comcast.net

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**Phone** (865) 588-7308

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**Organization** None - Tennessee citizen

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** American Classical Academy Madison

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**Please provide your written comments below**

I'm a 49 year old life-long Tennessee citizen with a graduate degree. My nephew just graduated from Hillsdale College this year. It was a wonderful experience and a balanced, truth- seeking education. I'm confident that any charter school associated with Hillsdale will be a wonderful option for Tennessee students. Our state should support giving our parents and children a choice in education and allowing them to use their hard-earned tax dollars to finance that education rather than limiting them to only the one-size fits-all government schools.

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Form Name:	American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time:	September 14, 2022 12:10 pm
Browser:	Chrome 105.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	71.203.201.17
Unique ID:	1009578206
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

<b>Name</b>	Ron Shultis
<b>Email</b>	rshultis3@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(770) 880-3231
<b>Organization</b>	Self
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison

**Please provide your written comments below**

Hello, my name is Ron Shultis and I wanted to provide a comment to the Commission as they consider the application for American Classical Academy Madison (ACAM). On behalf of myself and all parents in Madison county, I urge the Commission to approve ACAM's application. Currently, I don't even live in Madison, but in Nashville. But, my wife recently accepted a new job and we could choose to relocate to Memphis or Jackson. And we chose Jackson when we heard that ACA was seeking to start a school in Madison county and so we are moving to Jackson next month. ACAM is the type of educational environment that we wanted to raise our future kids in. We are currently expecting our first child and we love the robust approach to critical thinking, logic, and learning that a classical school provides. But we also want our children to experience the diversity of students and backgrounds that public schools provide. That's why we knew ACAM as a classical charter school would be such a perfect match for our upcoming child and future children as they enter school age. I respectfully urge the commission to approve this application to give myself and other parents and children the choice to choose the school that best meets our needs because I believe this school and others like it can serve as a magnet for Jackson and Madison county. I know this because it did for my wife and me. Thank you for your consideration.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 10:09 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.5195.100 / iOS  
IP Address: 69.167.209.93  
Unique ID: 1009819996  
Location: 35.6096, -88.8143

<b>Name</b>	Cassie King
<b>Email</b>	cassiemillerking@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 233-2676
<b>Organization</b>	Private citizen
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Jackson-Madison County Schools

**Please provide your written comments below**

I am writing to express my support Jackson-Madison County BOE's rejection of the American Classical Academy. In his explanation of the denial, Dr. King pointed out several issues with ACA's application that I believe are relevant and important. First, only three letters of recommendation were submitted and none of those letters were from parents of current JMCSS students. Second, ACA refused to send a representative to meet with the JMCSS to address any questions or concerns the board had. It could be surmised that ACA didn't want to bother trying to work with JMCSS because their plan has always been to simply appeal any decision with the Charter Commission. Third, and most distressing, is ACA's lack of a plan to address the educational needs of students with disabilities. Is this because their plan is to either not admit students with IEPs or simply not provide services for those students? If a public school's plan for students with disabilities were to be equally lacking, that school would likely be sued by any number of advocacy groups and would be actively breaking state and federal education law. Per Charter Commission Policy 1801, " All children with disabilities attending authorized charter schools receive a free and appropriate public education and the services to meet their unique needs; and (2) The rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected." Finally, when looking at the ACA's website. There is only vague language used to describe ACA's curriculum. How do they plan to teach Tennessee's standards? How do they plan to ensure that all students are on a path to success?

I want to end by stating that JMCSS is not a perfect district by any means. However, it does offer a wide variety of schools including the only free public Montessori school in Tennessee. Madison Academic Magnet, JCM Early College High, and others are providing students with an impressive education. I now JMCSS graduates who work for the US state department, who are highly successful entrepreneurs, and many others who are working to make Tennessee a great state. I purposely am not focusing on the comments that Mr. Arnn made and that Governor Lee silently supported because at the end of the day, that is not the most important reason that ACA's appeal should be denied. The most important thing is that JMCSS did not reject ACA's bid for frivolous reasons. And unless ACA is prepared to thoroughly address these concerns presented by JMCSS, the Commission should reject ACA's appeal.

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Form Name:	American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time:	September 15, 2022 9:01 am
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 105.0.5195.79 / Android
IP Address:	76.248.232.12
Unique ID:	1009949718
Location:	35.8451, -86.4901

<b>Name</b>	Deirdre Grover
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<b>Email</b>	deirdrejg@gmail.com
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<b>Phone</b>	(719) 640-3523
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<b>Organization</b>	N/A
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<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison
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<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	<p>My now deceased mother gets a newsletter from Hillsdale College, the business behind this school. Since her death in 2020, I've continued to get them and read them in an effort to understand how she became so hateful towards anyone who disagreed with her very close-minded views. The newsletter is filled with terrible bias that completely rewrites history, tells its readers why they should think the way the school wants and denigrated anyone who disagrees. This is not the kind of charter school we want. Don't be fooled by the title of the school. There is nothing classical about the education they claim to provide. Add to that that our (RCS) capacity needs massively outweigh what this school will allegedly provide. This school would be a terrible investment for RCS.</p>
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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 9:31 am  
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 19.12.76.183  
Unique ID: 1009961829  
Location: 42.3975, -83.3733

**Name** Cleve Harrison

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**Email** Clevebharrisondba@gmail.com

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**Phone** (615) 336-3536

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**Organization** N/A

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Other

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**Please provide your written comments below** The school boards have already decided that this is not the right direction for their schools. The teaching provides a skewed image of what actually happened. This is a partisan attempt to miseducate our youth. Education content should not be a political debate, but an honest reflection of history. A specific way of thinking should not be forced on school boards after its been voted down. Thats tyranny not the ideals of the republic of the United States

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 10:02 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 50.93.177.186  
Unique ID: 1009974604  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

<b>Name</b>	Erin England
<b>Email</b>	erin040304@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 267-8952
<b>Organization</b>	Resident of jackson, Tn
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Jackson-Madison County Schools
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	We do not need a charter school, especially from Hillsdale. I wish to keep the current Jackson Madison County School System as is.



Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 10:06 am  
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 47.7.165.227  
Unique ID: 1009976632  
Location: 35.6096, -88.8143

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**Name** Mary Eberle

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**Email** freerangepastors@gmail.com

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**Phone** (541) 704-5744

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**Organization** Grace UMC

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Jackson-Madison County Schools

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**Please provide your written comments below**

A unanimous decision by elected officials must be respected. It is unethical, against Republican values, and an affront to democracy to overrule a local decision by elected officials.

The appointed commission should not exist., let alone have the power to decide what's best for people as if we can't decide for ourselves. Hillsdale's president has made clear the contempt with which it holds teachers; and anything associated with that attitude has no place in Madison County, let alone in Tennessee.

No to American Classical, No to Hillsdale.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 11:17 am  
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 69.150.98.238  
Unique ID: 1010010966  
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

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**Name** Ryan McKee

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**Email** ryan.mckee85@yahoo.com

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**Phone** (615) 605-6005

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**Organization** Rutherford County Parent

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** American Classical Academy Madison

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**Please provide your written comments below** As a parent of two students in Rutherford County Schools, a former professor at MTSU, and friend to many RCS teachers and staff, I feel it is necessary to clearly state my opposition to the reconsideration of American Classical Academy's application to sap funds from our excellent public schools to support a private business.

American Classical Academy has failed to show any improvement for their application and is relying on political pressure instead of actual merit. RCS has shown clearly that ACA still does not meet requirements and should be denied. ACA claims to be able to save the county money with absolutely no evidence to support this claim and plenty of evidence to prove it is false. Rutherford County Schools has consistently proven that our public education excels and contains many of the top schools in the state and even some of the top schools in the nation. Reducing funding from these public schools to accommodate financially supporting private schools (which are not performing to these same standards) is counter-productive and would result in a regression which would ruin this county's stellar reputation in education.

Making the choice that is best for Rutherford County students and our future as a leader in education is clear. It is imperative that we not permit ACA or any charter applicants to apply without merit and supporting evidence for the purpose of taking public funds to line the pockets of private business. Vote no on the ACA appeal.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 11:41 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 24.40.101.38  
Unique ID: 1010024172  
Location: 35.4846, -89.7307

<b>Name</b>	Michelle Wyatt
<b>Email</b>	mrwyatt1664@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 343-3859
<b>Organization</b>	JMCSS
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Jackson-Madison County Schools
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	As a retired teacher from Madison county school, I was proud to work in this system. My daughter recently graduated from the public schools in JMCSS. She is attended a four year college and was very well prepared. I have many friends who still work in our schools. They are doing an awesome job. I am opposed to any charter school of any kind

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 12:23 pm  
Browser: Chrome 92.0.4515.159 / Windows  
IP Address: 99.147.101.205  
Unique ID: 1010044580  
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

**Name** melissa limbaugh

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**Email** mlimbaugh@palminc.com

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**Phone** (615) 641-1227

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**Organization** parent

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** American Classical Academy Madison

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**Please provide your written comments below**

As a parent of two students in Rutherford County Schools and knowing many excellent and hardworking RCS teachers and staff, I feel it is necessary to clearly state my opposition to the reconsideration of American Classical Academy's application to defund from our excellent public schools to support a private business.

ACA has failed to show any changes for improvement for their stance in the appeal process. RCS has proven in these forums that ACA does not meet requirements therefore should be denied. ACA has no evidence to support their statement of saving county money. Rutherford County Schools has proven that our public education contains top schools in the nation. Reducing that funding to financially support lackluster education that cannot meet these standards would result in a regression in our already excellent reputation in education.

Voting no to ACA appeal is making the choice of what is best for RS students, teachers, and staff.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 2:15 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.5195.79 / Android  
IP Address: 174.49.20.156  
Unique ID: 1010107995  
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

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**Name** Lana Adkins

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**Email** lanaadkins@comcast.net

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**Phone** (615) 427-0660

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**Organization** Parent of Rutherford county students

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Other

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**Please provide your written comments below**

I believe the appeal by ACA should be rejected. They have not shown that their charter school would provide benefit to the students of Rutherford county. We currently have many schools that meet 'Reward School ' status based on TCAP scores, and some of the best ranked schools in the country. It makes no sense to divert tax dollars away from these schools to fund an out of state based company that has a questionable track record of student success and lack of accommodations for special needs students.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 3:01 pm  
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows 7  
IP Address: 47.226.59.137  
Unique ID: 1010131672  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

<b>Name</b>	Ronnie Bush, Sr
<b>Email</b>	techtrainer1@juno.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 422-3834
<b>Organization</b>	Parent, Grandparent, taxpayer
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison

**Please provide your written comments below**

I was in attendance at the appeal meeting at Jackson Madison County School board building on Thursday, September 15, 2022. I am a lifelong resident of Madison country Tn. I was educated in the city school system, my children were educated in the county merged system & my grandchildren attend the system currently. I taught at the TCAT-Jackson for 30 years, with incoming students from the JMCSS, as well as others. I have witnessed a steady decline in the quality of education & performance level of graduates of the system. I have had local employers state in advisory committee meeting that they place NO VALUE on a diploma from the JMCSS, because everyone gets it.

What is never mentioned are the Accuplacer placement test results for incoming students & the number of JMCSS graduates who have to take remedial & fundamental classes before they can take classes for credit; or at TCAT the low reading & math placement scores for applying students. Students who are recent graduates of JMCSS & who were awarded a credential indicating they met the standards. But the tests don't support the credential. These are indicators of the concerns with the system.

The county commissioner who spoke this morning said that their vote represented the majority of the citizens, this is absolutely not true. In fact, I have written the school board & the Madison county commission challenging them to place such issues as the charter school, wheel tax, etc. on the referendum & allow the citizens to vote on it; they will not, because that would show that they do not represent the wishes of the majority. A referendum ballot would immediately remove the politics & the charter school application would be overwhelmingly approved forthwith.

As far as transportation, we are already providing daily transportation for our granddaughter to South Side High. She was the victim of bullying & physical abuse at North Side High. When we met with the principle to try to resolve the issue, we found no help. He did advise that we could transfer to South Side, but transportation would be our responsibility. With no other recourse to provide a safe environment for our granddaughter we chose to transfer & provide transportation. This is the second year of this arrangement & she seems to be safe from bullying & grades have improved.

The Classical Academy application was rejected purely on politics &, as they say, 'follow the money'. The meeting this morning showed the percentage of citizens who support the Classical academy is the overwhelming majority. Please review the application fairly & impartially & please recommend approval of the ACA application. We desperately need this opportunity for our children in Madison county.

Regards,

Ronnie J. Bush, Sr.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 3:13 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 216.41.173.71  
Unique ID: 1010136863  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

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**Name** Peg Ramsay

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**Email** Peghashope@yahoo.com

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**Phone** (731) 444-4001

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**Organization** We The People of West TN

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** American Classical Academy Madison

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**Please provide your written comments below** I appreciated the meeting today to hear both sides concerning ACE and JMCSS. I support the ACE curriculum and why not give this program a try? Madison Co. has gone thru several Superintendents with little achievement in academic success. I believe there is a stronghold of fear and resistance to "step out of the box" of passé standards. We need to step forward for our children's sake NOW.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 5:50 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 99.76.49.60  
Unique ID: 1010208057  
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

**Name** Marilee Peterson

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**Email** marileepete@gmail.com

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**Phone** (615) 638-1754

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**Organization** Rutherford County

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Other

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**Please provide your written comments below** I am staunchly opposed to charter schools in Rutherford County. We have an award winning system where ALL students are served, not just those who are chosen. Charter schools are in direct opposition to an equitable education for all, and I vehemently oppose their application.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 6:25 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 24.40.101.105  
Unique ID: 1010247633  
Location: 35.4846, -89.7307

<b>Name</b>	Charity Deaton
<b>Email</b>	chdeaton@icloud.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 513-0635
<b>Organization</b>	Grand Parent
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Jackson-Madison County Schools
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	I do not want any charter schools in the Jackson-Madison county area, NOR in the state of Tennessee!!

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 7:53 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 23.117.25.244  
Unique ID: 1010275370  
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

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<b>Name</b>	Gay Burton-Cox
<b>Email</b>	gsburton1@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(770) 363-8834
<b>Organization</b>	Rutherford County citizen
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Other

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**Please provide your written comments below** #acacharterappealw

Here is what I wrote:

As a teacher of Rutherford County Schools, a parent to two young children, and friend to many RCS teachers and staff, I feel it is necessary to clearly state my opposition to the reconsideration of American Classical Academy's application to sap funds from our excellent public schools to support a private business.

American Classical Academy has failed to show any improvement for their application and is relying on political pressure instead of actual merit. RCS has shown clearly that ACA still does not meet requirements and should be denied. ACA claims to be able to save the county money with absolutely no evidence to support this claim and plenty of evidence to prove it is false. Rutherford County Schools has consistently proven that our public education excels and contains many of the top schools in the state and even some of the top schools in the nation. Reducing funding from these public schools to accommodate financially supporting private schools (which are not performing to these same standards) is counter-productive and would result in a regression which would ruin this county's stellar reputation in education.

Making the choice that is best for Rutherford County students and our future as a leader in education is clear. It is imperative that we not permit ACA or any charter applicants to apply without merit and supporting evidence for the purpose of taking public funds to line the pockets of private business. Vote no on the ACA appeal.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 9:10 pm  
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 35.132.200.201  
Unique ID: 1010307028  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

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**Name** Wayne Whitt

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**Email** Waynedppq@aol.com

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**Phone** (731) 803-3142

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**Organization** Parent

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Jackson-Madison County Schools

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**Please provide your written comments below**

I think it is ridiculous that the public was not made aware of the appeals meeting. Very few people knew about this until after the appeals meeting. It is very odd that EVERY local poll that has been done has been overwhelmingly against Hillsdale bringing a charter school into our county, but yet the majority of comments at the appeals meeting were in favor of it. Telling the community that Jackson Madison County does not offer "options" is a flat out lie. Every single one of our high schools have programs that focus on DIFFERNT areas. JASA has a partnership with Union University. Madison ACADEMIC has a partnership with Lambuth (U of Memphis). ECH has a partnership with J.S.C.C. Liberty has programs that focus on agriculture. Our other high schools have medical programs. We have a program that helps our high school students enter the educational field. We even have a middle school that offers medical options. We have a cyber school that offers STEMS, robotics, clubs, and more. We have a middle school that is an academic academy. We have K-8 schools, K-6 schools, K- 5 schools, and more. EVERY school in this county has open enrollment. Stop allowing this nonsense. We have no need for a out of state group funneling money away from our schools. We absolutely do not want someone coming in this county that is LYING to get in. ABSOLULTY RIDICIOUS.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 10:41 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 216.41.165.49  
Unique ID: 1010344244  
Location: 35.6096, -88.8143

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**Name** Linda Lipford

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**Email** Rlipford72@yahoo.com

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**Phone** (731) 426-4294

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**Organization** Madison County tax payer

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** American Classical Academy Madison

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**Please provide your written comments below**

I give my unqualified support to the establishment of the American Classical Academy Madison. Foreign language instruction is sadly lacking in the JMCSS as evidenced by Spanish being the only foreign language widely taught and French instruction only offered at ONE high school. Latin is not available in the JMCSS at any level, in any school. That alone is indicative of the absolute necessity for a charter school presence and opportunity for our student population.

Sadly, the focus of the present JMCSS seems to be on the present myriad discipline issues and necessity for a Law Enforcement and Social Worker presence to "support the students".

By contrast, classical educations instill decorum. Classical educations inspire and encourage students to set goals and provides them the framework to assist in achieving those goals.

Classical educations teach phonics, spelling, reading, grammar, writing and math as essential early skills and omits creative spelling and urban speech.

Civics, history and political science are disconnected from contemporary issues and ideology and focus on the constitution.

Logic and critical thinking skills are taught and emphasised. Emotional reasoning leading to opinion is demonstrated to lack validity and not be factual.

In short, classical educations prepare students to be better citizens who are well prepared for their futures whether in Madison County, Tennessee, or beyond.

I urge a favorable decision in support of the American Classical Academy Madison.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 11:50 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 152.86.32.5  
Unique ID: 1010356827  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

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**Name** Linda Seely

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**Email** lwseely@gmail.cim

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**Phone** (731) 217-8013

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**Organization** Myself

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Jackson-Madison County Schools

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**Please provide your written comments below** I'd like to speak in favor of public schools and against the American Classical Academy. I do not want taxpayer dollars to go to private schools competing for public school dollars. My children went to public schools and my grandchildren do as well.

Public schools are the backbone of this country and all of our children deserve a fair and equal shot to make our world and country better and safer. Keeping schools open and operating gives all children a chance to learn.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 16, 2022 7:23 am  
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 24.183.206.239  
Unique ID: 1010429665  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

<b>Name</b>	Brenda Moss
<b>Email</b>	bmoss2@earthlink.net
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 427-3644
<b>Organization</b>	Private Citizen
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	I feel that any use of public monies for private schools is a gross misuse of funds. Public schools should not lose funds to private enterprises such as this business. Our public school system has enough of a struggle to meet its goals without having to compete with a private business. If parents choose a private school, fine, but don't use my tax dollars to pay for it.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 16, 2022 9:43 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 104.50.104.120  
Unique ID: 1010476915  
Location: 35.4345, -88.8953

**Name** Susan Ward

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**Email** thomasroyward@bellsouth.net

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**Phone** (731) 267-0952

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**Organization** None

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Jackson-Madison County Schools

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**Please provide your written comments below** Charter schools have no place in public education. But in this case the lack of proven curriculum and minimal information about the accountability outweigh any possible benefit. As well the specious comments from the president of Hillsdale speaking derisively about the qualifications and work ethic of teachers in general and Tennessee teachers in general speaks volumes. Contempt for public education and its purveyors has no business being funded by our tax dollars.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 16, 2022 11:48 am  
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 69.167.206.138  
Unique ID: 1010538961  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

**Name** David Wicker

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**Email** dlwicker@jmcss.org

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**Phone** (901) 825-2578

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**Organization** JMCSS

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Jackson-Madison County Schools

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**Please provide your written comments below**

ACA has not proven that they can establish, nor run a school within the JMCSS District. Although they have tried to distance themselves from Dr. Arrn, the gentleman who referred to teachers as, "being trained by the dumbest departments at the dumbest Universities," it is still obvious that he plays a large role in their organization.

ACA has not proven that their curriculum meets TN State Standards, they have not addressed how they will deal with special needs students, and have yet to clarify any confusion on how they will provide transportation for students.

ACA is an unwanted entity in the Jackson Madison Schools, and as to date have not proven that they can provide the services needed to provide an equitable education for the students they hope to serve.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 16, 2022 4:10 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 107.119.65.104  
Unique ID: 1010655283  
Location: 35.2296, -80.843

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**Name** Rebecca Blackburn

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**Email** reblblac@gmail.com

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**Phone** (731) 414-4244

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**Organization** JMCSS

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Jackson-Madison County Schools

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**Please provide your written comments below**

I do not want one dollar of my allocated public education taxes used for charter or private institutions. JMCSS is under new leadership and they are making huge improvements. We do not have one dollar to spare that would impede their progress. This religious school does not represent my beliefs and I do not want my children indoctrinated with a religious education. If I wanted that, there are several different religious affiliated private schools in our area that also provide scholarship for those who cannot afford tuition. This faith-based program should simply start its own school with its own funds. Signed, Rebecca Blackburn, M.S.Ed.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 16, 2022 6:37 pm  
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 172.223.168.100  
Unique ID: 1010707936  
Location: 35.6491, -88.3945

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**Name** Leah Lundgren

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**Email** leahlundgren@aeneas.net

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**Phone** (731) 695-2550

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**Organization** None

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Jackson-Madison County Schools

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**Please provide your written comments below**

I do not want one penny of my allocated public education taxes used for charter or private institutions. JMCSS is under new leadership and they are making huge improvements. We do not have one dollar to spare that would impede their progress. This religious school does not represent my beliefs and I do not want my children indoctrinated with a faith-based education. If I wanted that, there are several different religious affiliated private schools in our area that also provide scholarship for those who cannot afford tuition. This faith-based program should simply start its own school with its own funds.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 16, 2022 7:16 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.5195.79 / Android  
IP Address: 72.4.36.246  
Unique ID: 1010717161  
Location: 35.6096, -88.8143

**Name** Danielle Wade

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**Email** D.williams0789@gmail.com

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**Phone** (731) 541-5000

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**Organization** N/A

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Jackson-Madison County Schools

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**Please provide your written comments below**

I do not want one dollar of my allocated public education taxes used for charter or private institutions. JMCSS is under new leadership and they are making huge improvements. We do not have one dollar to spare that would impede their progress. This religious school does not represent my beliefs and I do not want my children indoctrinated with a faith-based education. If I wanted that, there are several different religious affiliated private schools in our area that also provide scholarship for those who cannot afford tuition. This faith-based program should simply start its own school with its own funds.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 16, 2022 7:29 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 47.226.49.57  
Unique ID: 1010720006  
Location: 35.2028, -88.1987

**Name** Patricia Craig

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**Email** jimnpatcraig@bellsouth.net

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**Phone** (731) 234-4586

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**Organization** Tax Payer and Concerned Citizen

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Jackson-Madison County Schools

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**Please provide your written comments below**

The proposal to bring Hillsdale Charter School to Tennessee is very problematic!!

Tax payer revenue needs to be fully explained to communities. The statement from this entity about the quality of state education was ridiculous. That is an affront to our dedicated teachers, all local schools public or private. Private schools do not yet grasp how this could affect their student base. I am a 85 years old and a student of history. This is a veiled attempt to present curriculum that further crushes poorer children, children of color and promotes only one world view. We already have many choices in the Jackson Madison County system.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 16, 2022 7:58 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.5195.79 / Android  
IP Address: 174.202.195.18  
Unique ID: 1010725790  
Location: 35.16, -89.7768

**Name** Shana Clesson

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**Email** shana\_ramey@yahoo.com

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**Phone** (731) 695-4941

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**Organization** Parents

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** American Classical Academy Madison

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**Please provide your written comments below**

As a parent of three children one of whom was homeschooled once he reached high school was graduating c/o 2019 and two current elementary students it is important to our family that the charter school be passed. The curriculum of the charter school follows closely with the type of education we prefer for our children. It is our desire that our children receive a classic traditional education versus the common core curriculum offered through our current school system.

As a Christian family the current curriculum does not follow in a once thriving education system that we experienced as children 15-20 years ago in jmcss.

There are so many problems within our current school system that is forcing so many families as well as my own to consider homeschooling. My middle child who is currently in 3rd grade will complete elementary school at South Elementary for the fact that socialization is such a very important skill needed to be successful in school and life that is difficult to provide in a homeschool setting at this particular age due to our family residing in a very rural part of the county. As a former homeschool parent it is easier to participate in programs once the children reach a certain age.

This charter school would allow my family to keep my children in the school system while still ensuring that they received the type of education my husband and I want our children to receive without having to their education through homeschooling options.

I do hope that this board does reconsider the charter school and allow the choice to the parents of the jmcss to have a choice in what our children are being taught rather than having to accept whatever curriculum the current administration chooses to use.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 18, 2022 12:02 am  
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 47.13.68.133  
Unique ID: 1010980557  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

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**Name** Debbie Barnett

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**Email** dbarnett568@gmail.com

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**Phone** (731) 422-3939

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**Organization** Grandparent

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** American Classical Academy Madison

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**Please provide your written comments below**

I attended the hearing on 9/15/22 in Jackson, TN. I have been a resident of Jackson TN since 1978. I am very much in favor of having a public classical education available for my granddaughter who will start Kindergarten in 2024. I loved every word of those who spoke about what a classical education is. It is very much needed here in Jackson. I am very disappointed with our current public school system as it is just not overall doing a good job of educating our students. We have students who are graduating who cannot even read. Many test scores are very low. I want my granddaughter to be taught how to learn and how to think. I want her to have the opportunities to learn the way that classical education is taught. My daughter just cannot afford a private school. So, I am pleading with you to please grant American Academy Classical Madison a charter to open a school here in Jackson.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 18, 2022 9:18 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.5 / iOS  
IP Address: 47.226.57.16  
Unique ID: 1011047445  
Location: 35.2028, -88.1987

<b>Name</b>	Alicia Boswell Franco
<b>Email</b>	aliciabfranco@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(904) 881-3334
<b>Organization</b>	We the People
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison



**Please provide your written comments below**

I support the establishment of the American Classical Academy Charter School for Jackson, Madison County, TN.

My educational background is as follows:  
educated in the City of Jackson public school system....graduated in 1972 from JCMHS....

earned a B.S. from MTSU in Education /Art History and a B.S. from Lambuth University in Interior Design /Marketing.

Throughout life, I have taught school; tutored students in my home; tutored in local public elementary schools with Read Team; worked in banks; been employed in medical and legal offices; have owned a retail business; and have raised a family.

I am mother of three sons who attended both public and private schools in Jacksonville, FL.

All of my sons completed college and beyond.

They are employed as an orthopedic prosthesis salesman for J & J; a lawyer/MBA/financial manager; and a medical doctor.

In my lifetime of experience as a wife, mother, teacher, and participatory citizen, I realize how important high standards and expectations are to the achievement of people in life. The ability to read by second grade affects lifetime achievement.

Learning and studying our nation's founding documents, help with understanding the "why" we function under this system of laws set forth in our Constitution.

The future of our country depends on understanding how our government is designed to function. History teaches us our country's values.

History shows us the lives lost in establishing our independence and freedom. History teaches lessons that helps instill patriotism and love of country.

Statistics prove that the schools in Jackson are lacking educationally in many ways. This Charter School Classical curriculum alternative is a proven success where established in the other 13 locations in the country. This school could be another example of success like Madison Academic H.S. and the Montessori School here in Jackson.

Presently, the Jackson schools are losing students to private, religious, and home-schooling alternatives. Alamo and Medina, Tn have become communities where young families are moving so their children can attend good, safe public schools.

We are on the verge of having an explosion in population with the building of the ginormous Ford Electric Truck Plant down the road on I-40. Jackson will be where many workers choose to live because of the services our community can provide. School populations will increase in size due to this upcoming impact of the Blue Oval City Ford Plant.

This Charter school has a local backing for its establishment....a Board of TN citizens has been formed with Delores Grisham as Chairperson. Members and citizens are backing the establishment of this Charter School monetarily and with locating needs critical to the school's

establishment.....a building, upstart costs, finding qualified teachers, logistics, etc.

In summation, this public charter school is needed in our community as an alternative for parents to choose for their children. The classical curriculum (similar to my educational background) offered immerses the child in a well rounded education that will help them become productive, successful citizens with love and respect for their country.

All children will be welcome to apply to this school. Parents participation is encouraged and needed.

Please approve this application.

Jackson NEEDS this opportunity in our city/county.

I promise to support this school in every way during my lifetime, as do many others here locally.

Thank you....

Alicia B. Franco

6 Sutton Place

Jackson, TN 38305

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 18, 2022 1:26 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 97.64.112.233  
Unique ID: 1011100749  
Location: 35.6096, -88.8143

**Name** Adam Johnson

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**Email** adamkjohanson1990@gmail.com

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**Phone** (731) 608-2355

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**Organization** First United Methodist Church

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Jackson-Madison County Schools

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**Please provide your written comments below** To Whom It May Concern,

American Classical Academy may be a good fit within the demographics of certain parts of the country, but I believe is not in the best interests of Jackson-Madison-County TN. We, the taxpayers and parents of children within this great county, are investing and not giving up on our great public schools, our educators, or our student scholars. To create a tuition-free charter school would be undermining the continued progress that Dr. King and the school board are working tirelessly to lead. I stand behind and support our public schools in Jackson TN, Madison County, and stand opposed to an opposing charter school entering into the equation.

Sincerely,

Rev. Adam Johnson

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 18, 2022 4:27 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 47.7.150.153  
Unique ID: 1011138557  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

<b>Name</b>	Marjie and Dave Pjontek
<b>Email</b>	davidpjontek@bellsouth.net
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 267-6014
<b>Organization</b>	Parents
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	Please give Jackson this opportunity. This is a unique style of teaching with great success in other states.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 18, 2022 6:27 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 104.52.46.96  
Unique ID: 1011160466  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

<b>Name</b>	Bridgett Smith
<b>Email</b>	gidget1067@jea.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 267-7482
<b>Organization</b>	Teacher public schools
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	I think a change would be good for Jackson Madison County. A new outlook on education .

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 18, 2022 8:57 pm  
Browser: Firefox 104.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 12.195.182.215  
Unique ID: 1011186837  
Location: 37.8065, -85.4592

<b>Name</b>	Raul Lopez
<b>Email</b>	rauljlopez@comcast.net
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 977-1510
<b>Organization</b>	Latinos for Tennessee
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison

**Please provide your written comments below**

Dear Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

My name is Raul Lopez and I am the executive director for Latinos for Tennessee. We are a statewide group committed to promoting faith, family and freedom, which are top priorities for Hispanic families across our state. I ask that you approve the charter appeal for American Classical Academy Madison.

On behalf of Latinos in Madison County, we are supporting ACA Madison because we strongly believe that all families should have the ability to decide for themselves where to send their children to school. For the Latino community, school choice is especially important, because we believe education is the key to living out the American Dream. We know that with a good education, economic mobility is possible.

Unfortunately, Madison County schools consistently rank in the bottom percentage of schools across the state. According to the Tennessee State Report Card for 2020, only 30.6% of the students were deemed "Ready to Graduate." How can our families ensure a good education and economic mobility to our children when they live in a failing school district? And why would anyone oppose giving ALL families of Madison County - not just Hispanics - additional education options?

Our families specifically want this classical charter model because of its focus on reading and literacy, which are the bedrock of all education. At the end of the day, the decision we make about where to send our children should be based on our own best judgment, not that of an outside functionary telling us what is best for our children.

On behalf of Latinos in Madison County who support school choice and find themselves in a failing school district, I urge you to approve the charter for American Classical Academy Madison. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Raul Lopez

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 18, 2022 9:10 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.5195.136 / Android  
IP Address: 135.84.225.210  
Unique ID: 1011189113  
Location: 35.6096, -88.8143

**Name** Scott Murray

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**Email** smurr1874@gmail.com

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**Phone** (731) 695-3819

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**Organization** Individual parent

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Jackson-Madison County Schools

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**Please provide your written comments below** Please say "no" to charter schools. They siphon funding from the local schools and have a trach record not performing at the level they claim and financially unsustainable. JMCSS has improved and needs as much support as possible to keep it as a community asset.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 19, 2022 5:30 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.5195.79 / Android  
IP Address: 72.4.36.20  
Unique ID: 1011579871  
Location: 35.6096, -88.8143

<b>Name</b>	William Hale
<b>Email</b>	hale128@comcast.net
<b>Phone</b>	(847) 721-4861
<b>Organization</b>	Private citizen of 7 adult children
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	Jackson needs this as an option for outstanding education. Choice in America is the foundation of who we are. It produces outstanding students and citizens.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 19, 2022 6:47 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 174.202.203.18  
Unique ID: 1011609176  
Location: 35.16, -89.7768

<b>Name</b>	Janie Giles Carp
<b>Email</b>	janiecarp87@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 444-5400
<b>Organization</b>	Community Montessori
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Jackson-Madison County Schools
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	Please do NOT begin a charter school in our county! Fully fund the schools we already have!

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 12:24 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.5 / iOS  
IP Address: 69.167.206.138  
Unique ID: 1011896484  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

**Name** Bettie Mays- Irby

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**Email** bettieirby@hotmail.com

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**Phone** (731) 616-9743

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**Organization** Tea/ Nea

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Jackson-Madison County Schools

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**Please provide your written comments below** We donot want Charter Schools in the JMCSS

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 1:44 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 69.167.206.138  
Unique ID: 1011937125  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

<b>Name</b>	Julie Zanati
<b>Email</b>	darmeade@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 266-7728
<b>Organization</b>	NEA
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Jackson-Madison County Schools
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	I do not want this charter school in my district. I can not and will not support this school with the comments the president of it said. I will not support Lee again while he sat by and said nothing.... Not the audience members who laughed.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 3:45 pm  
Browser: Safari 16.0 / OS X  
IP Address: 193.239.87.10  
Unique ID: 1011995898  
Location: 34.0485, -118.2529

<b>Name</b>	Robert Curlin
<b>Email</b>	rpcurlin@eplus.net
<b>Phone</b>	(214) 668-7672
<b>Organization</b>	Semi-retired citizen
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison

**Please provide your written comments below**

Throughout the past 2 years, we have seen an unprecedented number of parents taking their children out of public schools-opting instead, to put them in private schools, and more frequently, post-Covid shutdowns, to homeschool. I know of at least two dozen local families who have had one parent elect to put their profession on hold, to homeschool their children. Unfortunately, two-parent families are not the majority in our local public schools. Single parents are far less likely to be financially able to make either of those decisions.

In most public school systems across the country, we find that teachers are underpaid, overworked, and usually overregulated. The number one complaint I heard from teachers when running for the JMC School Board two years ago, was that they were "tired of administrators just popping in" unannounced, to watch and grade THEM on verbiage or how they were teaching. Teachers' unions and administrators set all teaching and curriculum standards today-including what may be taught and how. Administrators are not unlike quality control inspectors on a widget production line. More importantly, our children are NOT widgets!

Teachers-especially good ones-are leaving the profession in droves throughout the country, because they are no longer free to teach in classical ways they learned and specialize in, but instead are being given rules for indoctrination into leftist, progressive ideals-and away from more traditional, Christian and moral values upon which this country was founded and the basis of which made us the most powerful nation in the world. We've lost that position over the past two decades through a slow and steady march to the left by bowing to the demands of socialist progressives. THAT is political!

The "equity" emphasis was always to drive to the lowest common denominator amongst the students-trying to ensure "equal outcomes" (for DISTRICT grades) over "equal opportunities" (for student success probability in the post-secondary world). In other words, equipping students to take tests to justify the administrative power with public school funds over preparing those students to succeed in life.

There is seemingly no end to national and state funded grants that require lessons be crafted toward the narratives of the NEA and TDE-more importantly, the teachers' unions who control them. Although they brought millions upon millions of extra government program dollars to the district, the COVID shutdowns saw even more challenges, as here in Madison County, there was a significant population in the rural east and south of the county that did not have home internet accessibility for those students to even attend virtual class! Talk about being fully left behind!

I completely agree that the initial ACAM charter application review by our school board in Jackson, was both politically and racially biased against Hillsdale College itself and its President Larry Arnn's comments taken out-of-full-context in a private meeting-rather, his opinion (Constitutionally

protected free speech) --about many teachers. However, Hillsdale itself is neither the operator nor the applicant looking to bring this CHOICE to our community!

The local district has made every effort to inject the word "Hillsdale" anywhere it can to trigger political discrimination. (I sympathize with any local public school student who might want to attend Hillsdale College after graduation---the behavior I've seen through this process firmly leads me to believe guidance counselors and administrators would do all they could to change the student's mind. Or would that be "choice?")

Reading through Dr. King's memo of May 2nd, regarding the original application denial, it's interesting to note that he said, "Every graduate has to meet the specified criteria as prescribed by the Tennessee Department of Education in order to receive a high school diploma." He goes on to list district achievements-throughout, he emphasizes the current "choices" parents have in schools is more than sufficient, but the state report card data shows a JMCSS dropout rate of 7.9% vs. a statewide average of 4.5%.

And in every single category-despite recent "improvements"-Madison County is still at the bottom of the state! We should not be bragging about a 24% English language proficiency and 16% proficiency in math! (Note: these figures are from slides shown the Madison County Commission by the Chief Accountability Officer in their meeting on 9/19/22, after the local public hearing. These figures are from the 2022 TCAP District Participation Rate.) Again, that 24% and 16% are an "IMPROVEMENT!"

And despite specifically questioning ACAM's ability to meet "academic growth of all students, particularly students with disabilities, ESL students and students struggling academically and behaviorally," those very demographics are the ones that JMCSS fails the most with itself! It is encouraging to see an increase of 3.2% in graduation rates over the past 3 years-and a 10.3% increase in "Ready Graduates" (meaning an indicator of success in postsecondary opportunities). Interestingly, the state itself has barely a 40% "Ready" rating and despite a 10.3% increase in the past 3 years, JMCSS still lags behind at 32.9%! Even more interesting, is that Dr. King uses those statistics to try to justify denial of ACAM's application for a charter school in Madison County-while the state's data download site specifically says Ready Graduate data "are for informational purposes only, as the United States Department of Education and the Tennessee General Assembly have waived its use in accountability determinations."

The ready graduate indicator means that in addition to receiving a diploma, the student met at least one additional criterion--scoring higher than a composite 21 on the ACT or 1060 or higher on the SAT; OR completed four Early Postsecondary Opportunities (EPSO's) which are things like dual credit classes; OR completed 2 EPSO's and earned an industry credit (i.e. a job through LOOP); or 2 EPSO's and earn a score of 31 on military

readiness qualifying tests. Ironically, the state standard for completing an ESPO is to have a better than 50% attendance record.

The JMCSS data on the ACT for 2020 (the last year available for public inspection), had only 26.7% of students taking the ACT to score a composite 21 or better; while 62.8% scored below a 19!

For the 5 high schools in JMCSS in 2020 (last year stats available), the average composite ACT scores came up as follows: Madison Academic (25.5), Jackson Central Merry-Early College High (19.8), Southside (17.5), Northside (16.8), and Liberty Technology Magnet (15.3).

Only ONE school (the 539-seat "choice" school) had an average composite score over 21! And that single high school is run on a lottery-if parents don't win that lottery, "school choice" (as defined by the district) is moot. The same with all the other elementary and middle "choice" schools. Moreover, in its new location, as part of the public-private partnership that built it, Madison's lottery has a 25% favoritism to students residing in the neighborhood. That's hardly a "district-wide choice."

Moreover, in Madison County, parents may elect to send their child to a school they're not zoned for-frequently used to justify they have "choices." Only, picking another under-performing school (not determined by lottery) is hardly a quality "choice." Parents are also responsible for transportation in those choices-which unfairly limits many parents' "choices." They can't afford private school; they can't get into their preferred school because of the lottery; and they can't work around transportation if they "choose" a better public school they are not zoned for!

We clearly have a case where the school district wants to use a statistic not generally accepted for accountability determination, in an effort to try to hold a charter applicant to a higher standard than it meets itself. And when looked at overall, the only TWO successful public schools are Community Montessori (K-8) and Madison Academic (high school). The two schools combined can only handle barely 1,000 students-about 1/12th the district enrollment--and both are determined mostly by lottery. The quality of the rest of the schools is nowhere close. Some "choice."

My own public school education taught me that 32.9% of graduates who are actually rated as "ready" for postsecondary opportunities is a pretty miserable track record. Not to mention the district data is skewed by one really successful high school compared to 4 mediocre (at best) ones!

THIS is considered enough "quality choices" for parents? For employers?

One thing we've all seen demonstrated over the past few years, is that college is not for everyone. Aside from a new superintendent, opening up to that fact has been pivotal in changing the trajectory of the local public school system on accepted industry metrics.



Refusing to allow a charter school such as ACAM-over something like politics or trying to keep district scores inflated-is doing a disservice to the parents in our community, not to mention the children who might thrive in a classic environment, but not in public schools.

Two years ago, while running for school board myself, I was decidedly against bringing charter schools into Madison County. Today, my comments reflect a mind firmly changed. Two things led to that awakening:

First, there was a coordinated effort through election mail fraud to inflate the number of mail-in ballots-confirmed by the FBI, TBI and Postal Inspector as well as the Secretary of State's office. Despite being one of three candidates personally targeted in that letter from a fake identity, only my district was affected by the ratio of mail-in ballots. I lost the election primarily by the absentee ballots requested as a result of the fraudulent mailer. More importantly, not only that fraudulent letter--but half the sitting school board at the time and a sitting City Councilman--were actively supporting and campaigning for a doctor who was also a prescription drug dealer (now in prison) for the school board! Thankfully, she lost!

Further, when a loophole in state law concerning homeschools allows for a Black Lives Matter activist to open up a local "Law and Leadership Academy" and run it for 2 years that did nothing but falsely educate and groom social activists-complete with the ability under that loophole to offer a high school diploma-until its leader was brought up on 27 criminal charges, including impersonation of a lawyer and teacher without a degree or license. Unregulated, but hey, it was a "choice."

Today, we have a situation where a bonafide group, with legitimate credentials and a track record of success by the parent organization ACE (again, not "Hillsdale") throughout the country, is being told "you're not qualified" by one of the worst performing public school systems in the state? THAT is a travesty!

Granted, the local public school system has turned a corner and is getting better, not worse. But it's still well within the bottom 5-10% of schools statewide. In no way am I-or any of the parents or citizens supporting this charter-cheering for the demise of public schools. We truly want public schools to succeed. We're simply pointing out that both our state legislature and our Governor sought to give parents a real choice (beyond seat lotteries) to "let the state/local funding follow the student." To deny parents that CHOICE, simply because they believe in and want "classical" education and not curriculum designed "to the test" for the success of the administration over the student, is in my opinion would be the height of state bureaucratic overreach.

After watching the few who turned up to speak out against ACAM at the local public hearing last week, I can assure you their objections are based

on two things only: first, leftist politics, and second, because they fear that some of the district's best students' (and teachers) might choose ACAM over the public schools-and thereby dilute the district's still struggling (albeit improving) scores in statewide metrics.

To "both" parents who spoke to deny the charter: You don't "have" to send your children to American Classical Academy Madison! But for the TPCSC to use their and the JMC School District's PURELY POLITICAL objections, to prevent the parents who want-and "supposedly" have the "right" under state law-to send their children to ACAM instead of the public school system, when they don't win one of the precious few lottery seats for the handful of "choice" schools? How is THAT in the "interest" of students or equipping them for life in the real world?

Or how is that in the interest of parents who want a legitimate choice for a classical education that is in line with their moral and religious convictions-not to mention wanting an active voice in their child's education-only they simply cannot afford private school...

Please, give Madison County parents another option to make a real, legitimate "school choice." Because as things stand now, "lottery odds" assure they still only have just one: public or private.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 5:51 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 103.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 107.119.65.141  
Unique ID: 1012050086  
Location: 35.2296, -80.843

<b>Name</b>	Christine Mutter
<b>Email</b>	mutterchristine@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 499-3848
<b>Organization</b>	Concerned citizen
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Other
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	I strongly support allowing a charter school in our county. We have 5 children and we would ONLY consider changing from homeschool to a charter school, especially with a curriculum like Hillsdale. Their curriculum is unbelievable and has a strong focus on civis and government and personal responsibility.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 8:17 am  
Browser: Safari 15.6.1 / OS X  
IP Address: 47.7.160.250  
Unique ID: 1012242692  
Location: 35.6096, -88.8143

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**Name** Mary Bowen

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**Email** mary@theledge-springcreek.com

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**Phone** (731) 424-7939

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**Organization** Community member and parent

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** American Classical Academy Madison

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**Please provide your written comments below** I am strongly in favor of approving the American Classical Academy for a '23-'24 school year, which will introduce a much-needed new option in curriculum and mentoring for Madison County students.

Those of us who are guiding children through precious years of mind- and character-formation, and those who know the desperate needs of a culture running amok - ALL of us need to reach forward and upward toward new and inclusive education systems. It will require first our willingness to learn new things and apply different strategies. But the very next step must be spreading the news to every parent and guardian in Madison County. ALL children in our county should have the very best chances, year after year, to flourish. I and many of my friends are on-board to assist in any way needed. Thank you for your work on the commission.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 9:34 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 72.4.41.201  
Unique ID: 1012271957  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

<b>Name</b>	Trudy Abel
<b>Email</b>	abeltrudy@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 358-2228
<b>Organization</b>	Retired university professor
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	The Jackson-Madison area desperately needs another educational option, especially for lower income students, since the only other options are expensive private schools or homeschooling, which may also be cost prohibitive. Diverse populations require diverse educational solutions and offerings.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 9:38 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari 14.1.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 174.202.194.163  
Unique ID: 1012274099  
Location: 35.16, -89.7768

**Name** Teresa Beavers

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**Email** teresa.beavers@fcsofjackson.org

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**Phone** (731) 697-0527

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**Organization** Family Christian School

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** American Classical Academy Madison

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**Please provide your written comments below**

Hello Friends and Neighbors, Our great state of Tennessee has the opportunity before us to bring forth a school that will educate our children classically the same way our founding fathers were educated.

"We are already fairly familiar with the explicitly biblical influences on America's founding, but we are far less familiar with the classical influences on the founders-and how these two influences worked in concert to mold their education and their thinking".

I may be wrong, but I believe the standard of classical education received by Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, John Adams, John Hancock...has been largely lost in our current school system. And may I say..., that wisdom, virtue, and logic have gone out the door along with it. As leaders in our community, myself a high school teacher in a private Christian school, I believe "in order to be like those we admire, we must not only admire them, we must do what they did." Our country, our great State and our local communities, specifically Madison County, are in desperate need of graduating capable thinkers, who are virtuous and just. We need future leaders who are thoroughly well educated to become skilled workers to uphold the wellbeing and livelihood of the community. American Classical Academy is an opportunity to invest in providing provision for our community and states overall well-being.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 9:49 am  
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 72.4.41.38  
Unique ID: 1012279441  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

<b>Name</b>	Pamela McAlexander
<b>Email</b>	pamela.faih.mcalexander@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 694-5935
<b>Organization</b>	Just a concerned citizen
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	A choice is always good. A voluntary alternative, with no testing or referral requirements would give more students choice and opportunity. I would gladly support such an endeavor and be proud that any of my tax dollars would support it

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 11:20 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 47.7.185.65  
Unique ID: 1012324177  
Location: 35.6096, -88.8143

<b>Name</b>	Linda Northcott
<b>Email</b>	lcarolnorthcott@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 234-3519
<b>Organization</b>	Laddies Fellowship Bible Study
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	We welcome this school into our community! Though my children are grown, I have multiple grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends in the school system. This will mean much to our community's future.



Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 11:45 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 69.167.206.138  
Unique ID: 1012336995  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

<b>Name</b>	Shashona Snyder
<b>Email</b>	shashona.snyder@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 453-5415
<b>Organization</b>	TEA Madison Ciunty
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Jackson-Madison County Schools
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	I believe the teachers in our district are highly educated. We work hard, we know our community, and how to fill the needs of our children. I don't believe someone who practically called all teachers in the district dumb should be allowed to run any school. Also, our distant has made a highly impressive amount of growth.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 12:23 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 107.77.236.37  
Unique ID: 1012359760  
Location: 33.7485, -84.3871

<b>Name</b>	Jason Exum
<b>Email</b>	jtexum@hotmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 315-9180
<b>Organization</b>	Jmcass
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Jackson-Madison County Schools
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	I do not want my tax dollars being spent on non public schools.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 12:54 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.5195.129 / iOS  
IP Address: 107.77.241.17  
Unique ID: 1012374908  
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

<b>Name</b>	Lindley Carpenter
<b>Email</b>	lccarpenter@jmcass.org
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 608-3256
<b>Organization</b>	Jackson-Madison Schools
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Jackson-Madison County Schools

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 1:38 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 69.167.206.138  
Unique ID: 1012396549  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

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<b>Name</b>	Donna Slaughter
<b>Email</b>	drslaughter@hmcass.org
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 394-6759
<b>Organization</b>	Teacher assistant
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Jackson-Madison County Schools

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 1:54 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 107.77.236.37  
Unique ID: 1012404059  
Location: 33.7485, -84.3871

<b>Name</b>	Jason Exum
<b>Email</b>	jtexum@hotmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 315-9180
<b>Organization</b>	Jmcss
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Jackson-Madison County Schools
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	I do not want my tax dollars being spent on non public schools.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 2:42 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 14.0.3 / iOS  
IP Address: 47.226.43.134  
Unique ID: 1012427570  
Location: 35.6491, -88.3945

**Name** Patricia Fields

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**Email** wildflowerfarm@charter.net

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**Phone** (731) 695-3959

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**Organization** The Ledge

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Other

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**Please provide your written comments below**

As a parent, grandparent and great grandparent, I have seen lots of changes in education over the last 50 + years. Public schools in our area are an absolute failure and our kids are paying the price... and if one learns differently or has some disability the get lost in the maze. Private schools are too expensive for the majority. ..and too polarizing for less privileged kids.... they hide in the shadows. We need an alternative. We need the charter school.. .. give our kids and parents the benefit of the taxes we pay for education .

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 7:22 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 99.93.168.208  
Unique ID: 1012544683  
Location: 35.4265, -88.6413

**Name** Zane Taylor

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**Email** zanetaylorw@gmail.com

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**Phone** (731) 439-6828

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**Organization** JMCSS

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Jackson-Madison County Schools

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**Please provide your written comments below**

I write this comment to strongly oppose charter schools in Jackson-Madison county- the school system for which I currently teach. I am also a member of JMCEA.

Charter schools undermine the public school systems that are already struggling under the pressure from Tennessee law makers/leaders. They take money and students from public schools and leave us to deal with the aftermath. Charter schools have also historically been linked to racial, disability, and ELL segregation in schools. This is a history likely to repeat seeing as these schools are tied to Hillsdale, which is a whole other problem. Keep unaccountable, predatory, propagandizing, and community crushing charter schools out of our system. Strengthen public schools that better serve and build our community, not conservative propaganda machines that would love to see public schools crumble.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 8:24 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.5195.136 / Android  
IP Address: 135.84.205.198  
Unique ID: 1012563509  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

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<b>Name</b>	Donna Hollin
<b>Email</b>	dlkhollin@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 616-2037
<b>Organization</b>	Retired JMCSS teacher
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Other

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**Please provide your written comments below**

In May, the Jackson-Madison County School Board voted to deny the application for a charter school.

The board voted 7-1 to deny Hillsdale College's American Classical Education Charter School. The reasons for the denial were multiple reasons. I am not sure why it is necessary to complete this form as you would think that a school board's decision would be the final say. It appears that politics has gotten a foothold and the issue is back.

Based on the numbers I have read, it appears that the charter school would have a 80/20 enrollment. This is contrary to what I understand is the mission. The mission is to address at-risk students. After working for 25 years in the city and county school system, those numbers would not come close to addressing our most at-risk students. I feel certain this is why the answer was no. I see charter schools as a money grab. I personally do not want to see my tax dollars helping to subsidize private school tuition for a few. I vote a resounding NO. The school board NO should have been enough.

On a snarky note, why would you want to come into Jackson Madison County? We are all dumb. The governor said we were.

I would like to request that my letter be published or read aloud in a public forum.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 8:26 pm  
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 47.226.39.53  
Unique ID: 1012564039  
Location: 35.4265, -88.6413

<b>Name</b>	Larry Hearn
<b>Email</b>	lhearn@charter.net
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 499-0892
<b>Organization</b>	taxpayer
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Jackson-Madison County Schools

**Please provide your written comments below**

Any intention of fairness would have permitted an equal number of speakers for each side of the issue. Allowing ACAJM supporters to "pack" the public speaking allotment provided the opportunity for the group to falsely claim that 11 or 13 speakers represented the majority of people in Madison County. Even those trained in the dumbest departments of the dumbest colleges know better than that. If a survey was favorable to the application, ACAJM would have numbers readily available, which they did not. If the survey process was to allow people to go online and respond, the results would be invalid as most people who are opposed would not waste their time. After months of newspaper articles and news stories indicating how Governor Lee plans to partner with Hillsdale College to establish charter schools in Tennessee, it was interesting to hear ACAJM do all it could to distance itself from Hillsdale, despite so many references to the college in their "revised" application --3 HC persons on the design team, p3; partnership with HC, p6-7; HC... will provide training, p8,46; repeated reference to HC member schools, p13,14,23,43,46; ...learn from OTHER HC member schools, p31; educators trained by HC,p42; ...support and training provided to HC member schools, p46; external reviews by HC K-12 Education Office. That is a small sampling of the references in the first 50 pages of the application and does not include the many references to HC curriculum and materials. To say this group is not affiliated with Hillsdale is not being honest. Just look at the application. Polished presentations do not cover up the necessity of changing the board, changing the demographics, changing whatever has to be changed on paper to give the "appearance" of what the school will look like in an attempt to get this application approved. While ACAJM claims to match Tennessee State Standards, Madison County contends in many cases they do not. They have no plan for providing lunch for the children, but are hoping Madison County will do it for them. If approved, the final school will meet their original 80/20 ratio, not matching the demographics of Madison County. With "support provided only when truly needed," p42, they will weed out underperforming students, creating a segregated group of higher achievers. Students will be pressured to "fit the mold" and those who do not will become outsiders, and one way or another, they will no longer be at the school. Many other points could be made but I am limiting my comments to stay within a two minute time frame afforded those who had the opportunity to speak publicly. If this charter school program was the Holy Grail, Michigan would be full of Hillsdale College affiliated member schools. This is not the case. No one questions that our local schools need improvement, and within the guidelines provided by the State Legislature and the State Board of Education, local school officials are diligently working to accomplish those goals. Taking money from public schools is not the answer, particularly giving those funds to a group that has spent more time at the State level trying to gain acceptance than it has at the local level. I urge you to reject this application.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 8:28 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.5195.136 / Android  
IP Address: 135.84.205.198  
Unique ID: 1012564682  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

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<b>Name</b>	Richard Hollin
<b>Email</b>	richardhollin@eplus.net
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 616-2036
<b>Organization</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Other

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**Please provide your written comments below**

The Jackson-Madison County School Board voted to deny the application for a charter school.  
The board voted 7-1 to deny Hillsdale College's American Classical Education Charter School, according to a news release from the school system.  
The Board said NO. That is enough. The answer should be NO. I vote NO.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 8:52 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.5195.136 / Android  
IP Address: 135.84.205.198  
Unique ID: 1012571090  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

<b>Name</b>	Donna Hollin
<b>Email</b>	dlkhollin@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 668-0050
<b>Organization</b>	Retired Educator
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Other

**Please provide your written comments below**

As I did not get a notice of submission, I will take time to write it again. If you received it earlier, I apologize. It is too important not to make my opinion known.

The Jackson-Madison County School Board voted in May to deny the application for a charter school with a resounding no. The board voted 7-1. That is a hard no in my book. There was not just one reason. There were multiple reasons given by members for denying the charter school.

I am not even sure why it is an issue again. A no is a no. I believe this is just a money grab. Charter schools take public school funds away from public schools. No way to sugar coat that and not truthful to say different. As a 25 year veteran teacher, I am especially confused with your mission. You say you want charter schools to address at-risk students. What students are you talking about? You say your student ratio will be 80/20. Do you really think that matches the makeup of our city/county population? I do not think anyone in the room would agree that these numbers will address OUR at-risk students.

I vote NO. I urge you to leave us alone. When the Board said NO, they meant NO.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 11:59 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 104.50.106.22  
Unique ID: 1012613649  
Location: 35.8088, -88.7589

<b>Name</b>	Tonya Joy Merriweather-Ward
<b>Email</b>	tjmerriweather01@hotmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 217-6974
<b>Organization</b>	JMCEA
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Jackson-Madison County Schools
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	Please don't over ride my school board. We elected them to make decisions for us. We need you to fund our public schools to ensure we have the best start for our students. We don't need a charter school in our district. We have choice in our private schools. Stop trying to change something that is not broken. Fund our public school so that we have all that is needed for our students. Don't divide the money, listen to your tax payers.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 22, 2022 11:32 am  
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 69.167.206.138  
Unique ID: 1012802221  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

<b>Name</b>	Bob Sparks
<b>Email</b>	rrsparks@jmcoss.org
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 803-4884
<b>Organization</b>	JMCSS Parent and Teacher
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Jackson-Madison County Schools

**Please provide your written comments below**

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the appeal being made by American Classical Academy. I write as an involved parent of three school-aged children who attend JMCSS schools and a dedicated public school teacher who works in the system. While I am not necessarily opposed to charter schools nor am I an opponent of classical education, my concerns with the opening of this particular classical charter school in Madison County are twofold.

First, while this school may have some local support, the fact is it is being proposed by a board comprised of out of state individuals and supported by organizations and interests that are outside the Jackson-Madison County community. Schools-public, private, and charter-are best overseen and managed by local individuals or organizations, by those who are a part of the community they seek to serve. While this school would employ people from our community, its genesis is not from within Madison County but from without. A lack of local awareness, connection, and control will hamstring this effort and hamper the unity of our community around our educational goals. Further evidence of this outside perspective is found in the proposed demographics of the school, which do not mirror the overall demographics of the community, and questions around the suitability of some of their curriculum choices. The majority of Madison County as well as Tennessee believes in local control and governance. Our local, elected school board vetted the American Classical Academy application using the State's own rubrics and evaluation criteria and found it wanting in several crucial areas, such as financial planning and plans to support special education students. Our local elected officials, representing the families and citizens of Madison County, have spoken.

Second, while our local public schools have and continue to face challenges, they are making progress. I have witnessed this in my own career and in the almost five years my own children have been in school. Furthermore, I have seen first-hand the effects of draining schools of resources and the loss of engaged families and students to private schools or homeschooling. While I do not criticize the choice anyone makes for the children educationally, I wish more would consider engaging intentionally in their local public schools. Rather than pull my children out to homeschool or place them in private school, my wife and I deliberately placed our children in our local neighborhood school, which at the time was on the state Priority List denoting its position in the bottom 5%. We along with many other parents and the faculty and staff have worked hard these past few years to support our school, and I am happy to report they were recently removed from the Priority List. Investment, not divestment, in our schools is the key.

If American Classical Academy wishes to rectify their application's deficiencies, appoint a board with local representation and support, and reapply in the future, they are welcome to do so. However, the Charter Commission simply granting this appeal without American Classical Academy substantially addressing the aforementioned problems would be

a poor decision. Again, this would override the decision of the local school board and lead the public to question to impartiality and integrity of the Commission itself. As teachers, we should not pass students who do not make the adequate grade, nor should you pass a charter school application that also fails to do so. Thank you.



Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 22, 2022 12:50 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 69.167.206.138  
Unique ID: 1012930610  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

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<b>Name</b>	Michele Billings
<b>Email</b>	mlb.jazz@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 549-5261
<b>Organization</b>	Jmcea
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Jackson-Madison County Schools

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 22, 2022 12:56 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 172.58.146.115  
Unique ID: 1012948384  
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

<b>Name</b>	Linda Thomason
<b>Email</b>	lcthomason@jmcass.org
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 664-2575
<b>Organization</b>	JMCEA
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	Jackson-Madison County Schools
<b>Please provide your written comments below</b>	Hillsdale should not circumvent our local school board to try and force its unwanted charter schools on our community.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 22, 2022 12:59 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 172.58.147.153  
Unique ID: 1012958739  
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

**Name** Camille Pruett

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**Email** cwpruett@jmcoss.org

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**Phone** (731) 664-2575

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**Organization** Jmcoss

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**I wish to comment on behalf of** Jackson-Madison County Schools

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**Please provide your written comments below** As a public educator with more than 25 years of experience, I whole-heartedly disapprove of Hillsdale College's attempts to establish a charter school in JMCSS. Hillsdale College is a an out of state private organization that promotes extremist right wing doctrines that do not reflect the diversity of our community.

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Form Name: American Classical Academy Madison Public Hearing Form- Written  
Submission Time: September 22, 2022 1:58 pm  
Browser: Firefox 104.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 69.167.201.170  
Unique ID: 1013020104  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

<b>Name</b>	Adrian Eddleman
<b>Email</b>	adrian@eddeleman.biz
<b>Phone</b>	(731) 554-2408
<b>Organization</b>	Eddleman & Eddleman, Inc.
<b>I wish to comment on behalf of</b>	American Classical Academy Madison

**Please provide your written comments below**

I am providing my comments to advocate for American Classical Academy Madison on behalf of myself, my family, and my community. Though the focus of my career has been in finance, I have been very involved in education from teaching as an adjunct professor at two universities, to Junior Achievement, to Team Read, and substitute teaching. I am the product of public schools and two teachers as parents. So, education is important to me.

Two of my three children are students of Augustine School as Classical school in Jackson/Madison County. And, my wife and I have not only paid for their education there, but done what we could to help fund the experience for other children as well. I firmly believe providing my children this classical education was the best investment and decision I made regarding their upbringing. And, I only wish that more children in the area had the opportunity to attend such a school.

I am not concerned with any negative consequences to Augustine with a competing public classical school. If anything, I believe it will be beneficial for more of the public to understand what a quality education classical learning can provide. Yet, it is the most impoverished and most at risk children who will not have such an opportunity without the option and the choice for such a school through public education. Please, provide these children with the choice and opportunity to attend such a school!

Finally, I will conclude by encouraging those concerned about dilution of funds from public general funds for the benefit of charter schools. Evidence compiled by Dr. Corey DeAngelis, Heritage Foundation, and other studies clearly show that charter schools actually improve the outcomes of non-charter schools in the same system. Furthermore, for American Classical Academy Madison, it will help prevent the use of local resources in building another school. The smallest minority is the individual and the individual parent and child should be able to choose the education that is best with those tax dollars. Again, I advocate for the approval of American Classical Academy Madison.

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