

Date: October 19, 2016

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

**FROM:** Erika Gulick, Facilities Planner & GIS Specialist  
Richard Jackson, Director, Educational Facilities  
Elijah Gross, Director, Planning, Design & Construction

**THROUGH:** Alvin L. Crawley, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Clarence Stukes, Chief Operations Officer  
Terri Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer

**TO:** The Honorable Karen Graf, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria  
City School Board

**TOPIC:** Educational Specifications High School(s) for ACPS

**BACKGROUND:** On Thursday, June 16, 2016, ACPS staff presented the educational specifications (Ed. Specs.) for a high school and pre-k center to the School Board. Following the presentation of the Ed. Specs., ACPS compiled comments from the School Board as well as other interested parties who have provided feedback on the Ed. Specs. The High School Ed. Specs. were presented to the School Board on July 5, 2016. At that time, the School Board requested that staff research the utilization at the High School to see if it is better to have every teacher assigned to a classroom.

**FINDINGS:** Staff has found that using teacher collaboration rooms for teacher planning periods allows for more efficient utilization of the school and for teachers of similar subject areas to share ideas and plan collaboratively to achieve academic success.

Currently, ACPS utilizes this practice with a majority of T.C. Williams High School classrooms being used by more than one teacher during the school day. Classrooms are coordinated by subject area so that similar subjects are taught in the same classrooms. Staff also asked neighboring school divisions how their high schools are utilized and found that this model of efficient space utilization and teacher collaboration is consistent throughout the region.

At the July 5, 2016, meeting, the School Board expressed concerns that teachers would be required to teach in several different classrooms which may disrupt the teachers' workflow. Efficient scheduling may allow for most teachers to stay in the same classroom for the majority, if not all, of their classes. The School Board also expressed concern that classrooms may lose their identities if they are used by multiple teachers and/or subject areas. The Ed. Specs. promote configuring classrooms by subject area so that teachers of similar subject areas teach in the same classrooms. This will allow for classrooms to maintain identities, for example, as a math classroom.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Superintendent recommends the School Board approves the High School Ed. Specs.

**IMPACT:** The adoption of these educational specifications will be used to benchmark the existing school facilities as well as inform the focus of future resources and future building projects.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Erika Gulick, 703-619-8298

**ATTACHMENTS:** Attachment 1 – Presentation – High School Ed. Specs.  
Attachment 2 – Effects of Teacher Collaboration Summary  
Attachment 3 – NCEF Study – Teacher Workspace  
Attachment 4 – The Value of Teacher Collaboration  
Attachment 5 – Teacher Collaboration Research Excerpt  
Attachment 6 – ACPS High School Ed. Specs.