

BOARD BRIEF

Date: September 6, 2019
For ACTION _____
For INFORMATION X____
Board Agenda: Yes ___
No X___

FROM: Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Updates to the Strategic Planning Process

SUMMARY:

This Board Brief is intended to provide an update to the strategic planning process as it relates to the work completed over the summer, engagement with the strategic planning committee, community activities, and overall timeline of events.

BACKGROUND:

The Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:6 provides that each local school board shall adopt a division-wide comprehensive, unified, long-range plan based on data collection, an analysis of the data, and how the data will be utilized to improve classroom instruction and student achievement. The plan is to be developed with staff and community involvement and is to include, or be consistent with, all other division-wide plans required by state and federal laws and regulations. Each local school board shall review the plan biennially and adopt any necessary revisions. ACPS Board policy, AF - Comprehensive Plan, implements the Code of Virginia’s requirement.

ACPS has been working with FourPoint throughout the summer months to develop a needs assessment plan. FourPoint will be conducting classroom observations, interviews, focus groups, and extant data and document analysis to answer overarching research and issues-specific questions related to college and career readiness, community voice, finance, governance, instructional delivery, and school management through an equity lens. Identified research questions to be studied are provided as an attachment to this brief. Findings will be shared with the Board and Strategic Planning Committee later this fall to facilitate the development of the strategic plan.

The steering and strategic planning committees have also remained engaged by reviewing chapters of the data workbook and been provided opportunities biweekly to share their thoughts around how to strengthen various aspects of ACPS, from educational equity to staffing and operations. At the September 23rd meeting, the strategic planning committee will further reflect on where ACPS has been through a SWOT analysis and continue discussion around increasing equitable access to high-quality education in ACPS. Subsequent meetings are

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scheduled through January as the committee will review findings from FourPoint's needs assessment, confirm goals and high-level measures, specify objectives and indicators, and identify the strategies to reach those goals resulting in a draft strategic plan. The timeline for these activities is provided as an attachment.

At the September 9th work session, the School Board will be asked to revisit ACPS' vision, mission, core beliefs, and values as facilitated by FourPoint. The goal in the second work session would be to finalize the mission and vision as well as discuss the Board's role in the strategic planning process, throughout which the Board will be regularly updated regularly.

Lastly, ACPS continues to be engaged with both the City and Alexandria Health Department in their process of updating and refining their respective strategic plans to ensure this vision is realized through each entity's respective planning process. To formalize this collaborative partnership, on September 5th Alexandria City Public Schools, Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services, Alexandria Health Department and Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria signed a letter of intent for cooperation committing to a mutual interest in developing aligned strategic plans for the betterment of the entire Alexandria community. The letter of intent for cooperation is attached for Board member review.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the attached materials for possible planning, procedural, programmatic, and/or budgetary changes.

IMPACT:

The division remains on target to have a draft strategic plan to be presented to the Board in the spring and finalized by April 2020.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. *Strategic Planning Needs Assessment Domains and Research Questions*
2. *Strategic Planning Update with Timeline*
3. *Intent for Cooperation*

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