

BOARD BRIEF

Date: July 12, 2019

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION X

Board Agenda: Yes ___

No X

FROM: Anita Cordova, Acting Director of Educational Facilities
Charles Stone, Director of Pupil Transportation

THROUGH: Mignon R. Anthony, Chief Operating Officer
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: Operations for the First Week of Summer Learning

BACKGROUND:

On July 8, 2019, ACPS summer learning commenced and was successful overall. ACPS planned for an estimated 3,600 students with ten programs offered in eight locations throughout the Division. Typically the start of summer brings bright and clear skies. However, this year there was a historical amount of rain with a surge of three plus inches of rain in an hour's time, causing multiple street closings, sewage overflows, power outages, falling trees and flooding. There were water intrusions at eleven (11) of our schools. Even with these challenges, we successfully transported and provided learning to over 2,800 students with few issues.

SUMMARY:

FACILITIES Due to the severity of the storms this week, every school within the Division was impacted, whether directly or indirectly. Those that were directly impacted had water intrusion. Those that were indirectly impacted had surrounding streets and fields submerged. The following schools had significant water intrusion:

- 1) Douglas MacArthur Elementary School
- 2) Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School
- 3) Francis C. Hammond Middle School
- 4) John Adams Elementary School
- 5) Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy
- 6) Matthew Maury Elementary School

Schools with minor intrusions or issues previously being addressed are:

- 1) Mount Vernon Community School
- 2) William Ramsey Elementary School

- 3) T.C. Williams High School
- 4) Charles Barrett Elementary School
- 5) Douglas MacArthur Swing Space (the old Patrick Henry Elementary School)

Most areas were inspected, contained, and remediated to enable the return to normalcy the same day. The more severe issues have been contained. These issues are being further assessed and will almost certainly be addressed through insurance. The Educational Facilities team with the support of Safety and Security team will continue to monitor for unforeseen issues that may arise and coordinate with the City and contractors where necessary.

TRANSPORTATION In addition to the eight (8) ACPS campuses supported, we are providing bus or taxi services to four out-of-division campuses still in session. Additionally, we are providing school buses to the City Recreational and Campagna programs and George Mason University. This results in fifty-two (52) buses and three (3) taxis in operation each morning and afternoon. There are eighty-four (84) individual AM and PM bus runs in operation.

On Monday morning there were some initial delays due to the timing of the severe inclement weather and mechanical issues on three (3) buses. Specifically, bus stops and reroutes for T.C. Williams' second runs were due to the inclement weather. Lyles-Crouch and Patrick Henry students were picked up significantly late as a result of the mechanical issues. All other routes arrived on time. Each of the malfunctioning buses was substituted for remaining runs.

The Office of Pupil Transportation has continued to refine the bus routes as student registration information is updated by campus staff. Updates that change the after-school delivery point are most impactful. Transportation will continue to provide Principals and program coordinators with updated lists of bus information as changes are made.

Two issues remain to be resolved:

1. Continued growth in the number of riders on school bus routes. New student enrollments "should" cease this week. However, changes to after-school delivery points continue to be sent to us, resulting in adjustments to bus routes.
2. Driver availability. Summer session began with no spare or substitute bus drivers and; therefore, no capability to "add" another bus run for a school.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends School Board review the information provided in this brief.

CONTACT: Anita J. Cordova, Acting Facilities Director
Charles Stone, Director, Office of Pupil Transportation