

Date: December 9, 2011

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION X

Board Agenda: Yes X
No _____

FROM: The Honorable Helen Morris, Vice Chairman

TO: The Honorable Sheryl Gorsuch, Chairman, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: **Draft School Board Mission**

BACKGROUND

As part of our board self-evaluation process our ACPS-wide work toward implementing the Malcom Baldrige criteria for continuous improvement and performance excellence, the Board has begun work on a Mission Statement and Goals.

To follow up on our Board Mission Work Session on October 27 and presentation of a draft Board Mission Statement on November 7, I have met individually with Board Members Mimi Carter, Yvonne Folkerts and Arthur Peabody, who were unable to attend the October 27th Work Session, to brief them on our work session process and gather their feedback on our draft.

Attached, you will find the original draft Mission Statement with two additional sentences that capture the comments and input of Ms. Carter, Ms. Folkerts and Mr. Peabody. Below that, you will find a Revised Mission Statement that I have prepared for you to consider. I have tried to capture the intent and spirit of the original statement while streamlining and including comments from all board members. Please review and provide comments on the second draft, before our December 15th meeting, if possible. I would like to have a final draft for approval on either December 15th or December 20th.

We will work with Brenda Clark and Stefanie Karp on Board Goals that align to our Board Mission and Division Priorities at an upcoming meeting in the New Year.

Draft of Board Mission

The ACPS School Board will ensure all students achieve success by working together in an environment of respect, honesty, and trust to make sound decisions that will be communicated to all stakeholders with clarity and support. We will do this by focusing on key priorities, setting critical policies, and utilizing a decision making process aligned to our primary purpose of high student success.

We will use our Strategic Plan—supported by our vision to set the international standard for educational excellence—as the driving force for all Board decisions.

We will involve our stakeholders through outreach and transparent communications.

Revised Mission Statement

The ACPS School Board will ensure that ALL students achieve high levels of academic success, and that they are prepared for citizenship, higher education and the workforce. To accomplish this, we will make policy, budget and leadership decisions that are aligned with our strategic plan; and we will communicate with and involve stakeholders actively and transparently.