

## BOARD BRIEF

Date: May 8, 2020

BOARD INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_

MEETING PREPARATION: \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** Mignon R. Anthony, Chief Operating Officer  
Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer  
Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director of Secondary Instruction

**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:** The High School Project Update

**ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 4: Facilities and the Learning Environment

Goal 6: Effective and Efficient Operations

**SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:**

Focus Area 3: High School Project

**FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments

**SUMMARY:**

As a part of a complex and collaborative effort to manage The High School Project (THSP), regular meetings and momentum towards decision-making continue on a range of issues during the COVID-19 closures. The issues addressed include development issues regarding the site, schedule and budget, educational and building design programming, coordinating with industry experts and planning for robust community/stakeholder engagement. This board brief incorporates the summary of those areas and includes a copy of summaries of weekly meetings held from February 24, 2020, to April 27, 2020.

During the COVID-19 school closure, the entire 'core' project team has continued to meet weekly to provide updates and to devise strategies and actions for remaining on schedule. The High School Project team continues to move forward despite complications from COVID-19 and the deferral of future construction funding from FY2021 to FY2023. The team is transitioning from the planning phase to the design phase with the objective of maintaining an opening date for the T.C. Williams expansion campus at Minnie Howard of September 2024. As described in this brief, a Request For Proposal (RFP) is expected to be issued this month for design services. Later in the fall pre-construction support will be added. Educational design and curriculum programming planning will continue this summer.

All work related to THSP from September 2019 through February 2020 will be included in an upcoming report: *Update to the Educational Programming and Site Analysis Report*. This report builds upon the previous year's report submitted to the Board in September, 2019, and upon which approval for continuance of THSP's educational programming and site analysis work was based.

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### **Educational Design Team/Program Development**

The project team engaged T.C. Williams school staff during rolling staff meetings from January through the last one on March 9, 2020. The team presented the Education Design Team's (EDT) emerging ideas on curriculum and instruction and how those ideas could influence space design for the expanded T.C. Williams campus at Minnie Howard in support of the Connected High School Network model. The EDT has recommended the T.C. Williams King Street and Minnie Howard campuses function as one. Both campuses will serve grades 9 - 12. The International Academy and established Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs will remain at the King Street Campus. The new T.C. Williams Minnie Howard expansion campus will host advanced Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) spaces and programming, along with robust CTE programs and courses with interdisciplinary CTE career and industry collaboration support. The EDT recommendation is that all students will be assigned to T.C. Williams and class assignment and location will be based on class schedule and course subject matter. Some programs may allow students to spend time at the King Street Campus and continue to take courses there, while other programs in the model could operate independently on satellite campuses.

The recommendation for T.C. Williams' new expansion facility at the Minnie Howard Campus also encompasses full service special instructional facilities, social emotional support spaces, and athletic services. These will augment and provide services needed for a comprehensive T.C. Williams High School program no matter what campus is being accessed by students and staff. The EDT and the project team acknowledge that in order to recognize and promote equity between the campuses, some changes may also be required at the King Street Campus.

The EDT will reconvene in the summer and will begin applying innovative approaches for instructional delivery in support of the Connected High School Network model. New and aggressive thinking in instructional delivery spurred on by COVID-19 technology solutions will certainly be considered along with adaptive spaces to address continued capacity and growth planning projections for the school.

### **Industry Advisory Boards (IABs)**

The High School Project team held the Industry Advisory Boards (IABs) members' orientation for 30 experienced and committed individuals on March 10, 2020. The project team provided a presentation to participants before members broke into working groups for the rest of the meeting. Since then the Arts IAB and Business and Government IAB held their first Zoom meetings on April 16, 2020 one on May 7, 2020, respectively. Meetings for the STEM IAB and Education and Human Services IAB will be forthcoming. The project team continues to support and guide the IAB chairs/co-chairs by providing feedback that allows them to further develop their strategies to meet the goals outlined in their scope of work.

### **Development**

Through discussions on the Alexandria City budget reductions, project approach and the associated timeframes for each, the project team recommended to the Superintendent that a September 2024 opening is still achievable. Staff is currently awaiting city coordination objectives to be resolved so that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Architect and Engineer (A&E) Services so the redevelopment of the Minnie Howard Campus can occur as soon as possible, and not later than May 2020. A public pre-solicitation notice for this procurement was issued at the end of last year and recently updated on our website. The design firm hired will work with ACPS to finalize the planning program and the site-specific Educational Specifications (Ed Specs). As part of the design development, they will also provide a full feasibility, and site analysis based upon options and requirements. A pre-construction partner will be engaged by the fall 2020 to ensure incorporation of cost estimates during design development.

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Outstanding decisions and collaboration continue with our city partners on viable strategies for collocated services, including planning to determine where the fields currently at Minnie Howard will be displaced to during construction. Decisions on the city's request for collocated affordable housing options and city collocated services must be solidified prior to the award of the design contract this summer to meet the proposed timeline. Adequate community engagement is also key for these decisions to be finalized.

Planned engagements, including the school staff and community open house previously scheduled for March 26, 2020, were both postponed due to COVID-19. Staff is currently exploring new ways to engage the community through virtual means as we strive to understand the many demands being placed on the community during this time.

The core project team is also refining the strategy to establish an advisory group and involve the larger community when the project moves into the design phase.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The High School Project began in the summer of 2018, and has progressed steadily throughout the past year. On January 24, 2019, the School Board voted to continue The High School Project work with a focus on several priorities and a commitment to a multi-option evaluation process. On September 26, 2019, the School Board voted in favor of a Connected High School Network strategy to address Alexandria's future high school capacity needs that included the construction of an expansion to the T.C. Williams High School by building on the fields portion of the Minnie Howard Campus.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the attached materials to remain current with project progress.

### **IMPACT:**

The aforementioned activities and milestones continue to support the progress of the High School Project.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

200508\_Att1\_HSP\_03102020\_IAB\_Orientation\_PPT\_&\_Read\_Ahead\_Package  
200508\_Att2\_HSP\_February\_24\_to\_April\_27\_Meeting\_Summaries

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