

Date: May 24, 2018
For ACTION _____
For INFORMATION X
Board Agenda: Yes X
No _____

FROM: Jennifer Abbruzzese, Clerk of the Board & Policy Liaison

THROUGH: Lois F. Berlin, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Ramee Gentry, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Policy Revisions: 5/24/18 School Board Meeting

SUMMARY:

Best Practices/School Division-Initiated Policy Revisions:

As part of the School Board's continuing policy review, we recommend that it review the proposed policy revisions. (Hyperlinks to the current policies are included for reference.)

[Policy DAA: Investment Policy Statement](#)

Last reviewed in 2017, Policy DAA has been revised to reflect the Investment Advisory Board recommendation to combine the Domestic Equity and International Equity line items in the Asset Allocation Table on pg. 11 of the policy.

ACPS employees participate in a supplemental pension plan funded and managed through Principal Financial Group. The purpose of the Alexandria City School Board Retirement Plan (Plan) is to provide supplemental retirement benefits to employees of Alexandria City Public Schools. Statutory authority for the establishment and investment program of this Plan is provided by the Code of Virginia §51.1-800 through §51.1-803. Plan assets are invested and closely monitored by ACPS management and the Investment Advisory Board (IAB), with investment advice provided by both Principal Financial and Dahab Associates.

The Investment Policy Statement (IPS) establishes investment administration guidelines, delineates investment goals and objectives of the School Board, and outlines the roles and responsibilities of participants. This IPS was originally enacted on December 19, 2013 as Regulation DA-4. On April 21, 2016, the School Board reclassified this as Policy DAA.

On May 19, 2018, the Investment Advisory Board voted unanimously to submit a recommendation to the School Board amending the asset allocations on page 11 of the policy. The recommended change is to combine the Domestic Equity and International Equity line items within the policy statement to one Equity Asset Class.

This recommendation is being made to provide more flexibility to the Investment Advisory Board to transfer investments between domestic and international equity. Anticipated risks and returns by asset class change with market conditions and this amendment will allow the IAB to

react more efficiently. On May 19, 2018, the IAB also voted to decrease the Domestic Equity target by 5% and increase the International Equity target by 5% subject to School Board approval of combining these two asset classes within the allocation table.

[Policy EBCD: School Closings](#)

Last reviewed in 2016, Policy EBCD is being renamed, “Emergency School Closures, Delayed Opening and Early Dismissal.” [EBCD-R: Regulations for School Closings and Employee Work Schedules](#), is being renamed, “Emergency School Closures, Delayed Opening and Early Dismissal Regulations.” They have been revised to address and clarify the procedures to be followed, the staff reporting structure, and the methods of information dissemination during school closures, delayed openings and early dismissals due to inclement weather, emergencies, or building system failures.

[Policy IGBC: Parent/Guardian Involvement](#)

Last reviewed in 2015, Policy IGBC is being renamed, “Parent/Guardian and Family Engagement,” and the references to parent/guardian involvement throughout the policy have been expanded to include family engagement. These changes reflect the repeal of 20 U.S.C. § 6316 and the amendment of 20 U.S.C. § 6318 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The majority of the text previously included in this policy has been moved to the newly proposed [IGBC-R: Parent/Guardian and Family Engagement Regulations](#). The previous text was limited to Title I requirements for parent/guardian involvement. It has been expanded to create guidelines for family and community engagement throughout the school division.

[Statutory/Regulatory/Triennial Review Policy Revisions:](#)

Changes to the Code of Virginia impact School Board policies. As part of the Board’s continuing policy review, we recommend that it review the resulting statutory and regulatory policy revisions below, as well as those resulting from the Board’s triennial review. (Hyperlinks to the current policies are included for reference.)

[Policy AA: School Division Legal Status](#)

Last reviewed in 2013, this policy has been revised to reflect the Board of Education’s framework of school divisions within the state, and that the supervision of schools in Alexandria City is vested in the School Board. Policy AA’s legal and cross references have also been updated.

[Policy AFA: Evaluation of School Board Operational Procedures](#)

Last reviewed in 2014, Policy AFA has been renamed, “School Board Self-Evaluation,” as part of the Board’s triennial policy review to clarify that it relates to the Board’s annual self-evaluation, and not an annual review of its newly developed [School Board Operating Procedures](#).

[Policy BCA: School Board Organizational Meeting](#)

Last reviewed in 2014, this policy has been updated to reflect the current VSBA model as part of the Board’s triennial policy review.

[Policy BF: Board Policy Manual](#)

Last reviewed in 2015, this policy has been revised to reflect Board Member proposals to relax

the triennial policy review requirement to align with the state mandated five-year policy review requirement.

[Policy BFC: Policy Adoption](#)

Last reviewed in 2015, this policy has been updated to reflect the current VSBA model as part of the Board's triennial policy review.

[Policy CA: Administration Goals](#)

Last reviewed in 1996, this policy has been updated to reflect the current VSBA model as part of the Board's triennial policy review.

[Policy CBA: Qualifications and Duties for the Superintendent](#)

Last reviewed in 2005, this policy has been updated to reflect the current VSBA model as part of the Board's triennial policy review.

[Policy CBB: Appointment and Term of the Division Superintendent](#)

Last reviewed in 2009, the word "Division" is being removed from the title of this policy for nomenclature uniformity with the other "C" policies relating to the Superintendent. As part of the Board's triennial review, it has also been updated to reflect the amendment of Va. Code §22.1-60 by HB 81.

[Policy CBD: Superintendent's Contract, Compensation and Benefits](#)

Last reviewed in 2004, this policy has been updated to reflect the current VSBA model as part of the Board's triennial policy review. Its legal references have also been updated to reflect amendment of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act by HB 1539 in 2017.

[Policy CBE: Severance Benefits](#)

Last reviewed in 2009, Policy CBE is being renamed, "Superintendent's Severance Benefits," to clarify whose severance benefits the policy relates to and for nomenclature uniformity with other "C" policies related to the Superintendent. It has been revised as part of the Board's triennial policy review.

[Policy CC: Administrative Organization Plan](#)

Last reviewed in 2015, this policy has been revised as part of the Board's triennial policy review. The proposed revision reflects Board Member feedback regarding the current requirement for Board approval of all staff organization changes.

[Policy CH: Policy Implementation](#)

Last reviewed in 2007, this policy has been updated to reflect the current VSBA model as part of the Board's triennial policy review.

[Policy CHD/BFE: Administration in Policy Absence](#)

Last reviewed in 2015, this policy has been updated to reflect the current VSBA model as part of the Board's triennial policy review.

BACKGROUND:

The Code of Virginia § [22.1-253.13:7](#) requires that each local school board shall maintain and follow up-to-date policies, and that all policies shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed. In addition, the Alexandria City School Board's Policy BF provides that policies will be reviewed at least every three years and revised as needed.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the attached policies.

IMPACT:

By reviewing policies periodically, the School Board ensures that ACPS operations are aligned to support excellence and high performance.

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposed revisions to attached policies

CONTACT:

Jennifer Abbruzzese, 703-619-8314