

BOARD MEMO

Date: October 24, 2019

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION x

Board Agenda: Yes x

No _____

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: Timeline and Educational Design Team (EDT) Guidance Exercise

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

Timeline

This is a broad projection timeline of significant activities from now until a target occupancy of School Year 2024 for the expanded T.C. Williams High School. Focus is the current fiscal year activities from the September 26 School Board vote, the extended planning period, site-specific educational specifications, and the beginning of the building design phase by June 2020.

Educational Design Team Guidance Exercise

On August 22, 2019, the Educational Design Team (EDT) presented high-level programming concepts to the School Board to inform them of the decision regarding a connected high school network or a two-high school model. As a result of the Board's vote on September 26, 2019, the EDT will continue to explore options and design educational programming for the connected network. To expedite this process, Dr. Gerald R. Mann, Jr. will collect feedback from Board members regarding priorities for exploring and expanding educational programming in the connected model.

BOARD MEMO

Options to explore and expand the programming are based on the work of the EDT and include:

- Alternative Education
- Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- Dual Language
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Project-Based Learning (PBL)
- STEAM and Humanities Interdisciplinary Approaches
- Work-Based Learning

Industry Advisory Boards Update

As part of The High School Project, ACPS is convening Industry Advisory Boards (IABs) comprised of industry leaders in business, higher education, government, and nonprofit institutions. The IABs will provide input to the EDT on the types of educational programming and work-based learning opportunities necessary to prepare students for success in the 21st century. The chairs kick-off meetings confirmed roles and responsibilities, recruiting strategy, focus areas, and next steps. The chairs have been asked to complete the IAB membership by the end of December 2019.

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 high school project work with a focus on several priorities and a commitment to a multi-option evaluation process. On August 22, 2019, the School Board had a work session that focused on the EDT's models of what a two high schools model or connected high school network could look like, as well as a preliminary discussion on the site analysis. The School Board Work Session on September 19, 2019, focused on the detailed site analysis and cost comparison between two high schools model and connected high school network. 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 a high school building (and associated site amenities) on the Minnie Howard campus.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review this memo as a means to stay current with project progress and be prepared to engage in the educational programming guidance exercise. The project team will respond to and accommodate inquiries from the Board on an as-needed basis.

IMPACT:

Advances The High School Project 2019-2020 significant activities and milestones.

BOARD MEMO

ATTACHMENT

191024_Attachment1_Presentation_The_High_School_Project

CONTACTS

1. Mignon R. Anthony, mignon.anthony@acps.k12.va.us
2. Dr. Terri H. Mozingo, terri.mozingo@acps.k12.va.us