

**BOARD MEMO**

Date: December 5, 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

**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:**

Since the last School Board meeting, staff reconvened and expanded the Educational Design Team and held its first meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup> at T.C. Williams High School King Street Campus. The meeting oriented new members and focused on the connection between the ideal ACPS graduate and the Virginia Profile of the Graduate. Staff held a meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> with Peter Balas, Principal T.C. Williams High School, and James Parker, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, to gain a better understanding of the existing conditions at the King Street and Minnie Howard Campuses. The project team is actively supporting the Industry Advisory Board (IAB) chairs and co-chairs as they recruit members with a goal to identify the IAB participants by the end of the year. Finally, staff is developing a plan to host a panel of esteemed educational research professionals to help ACPS rethink the high school experience for our students.

**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 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

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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 for 1,600 students.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent has no recommendations for the School Board at this time. 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.

### **CONTACT:**

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