

## BOARD BRIEF

Date: February 11, 2022

**BOARD INFORMATION:**   X  

**MEETING PREPARATION:**       

**FROM:** Elizabeth Hoover, Ph.D., Chief Technology Officer  
John Crites, Director of Infrastructure and Support Services

**THROUGH:** Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** ESSER Funded IT Infrastructure Projects

**ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation

**SY 2021-2022 FOCUS AREA:**

Focus Area 1: Social Emotional and Academic Learning Recovery

**FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

**SUMMARY:**

Funds provided by the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) are enabling Technology Services (TS) to implement necessary projects to upgrade the IT infrastructure that will help meet the increased demand on systems and improve network security and student internet safety.

Below are projects that are in process, close to completion, or ongoing. Additional projects are planned across the next three years.

**New Firewall**

In anticipation of future needs for speeds higher than 10Gb, TS upgraded the Division's firewall hardware to one that supports speeds higher than 10Gb in January. The new firewall can protect at speeds upwards of 40Gb. ACPS utilizes what is known as NetXGen firewalls and was an early adopter of the technology. TS works with the vendor quarterly to review configurations and assist with best practices.

## **BOARD BRIEF**

### **Secondary Content Filter**

TS purchased an in-line content filter to add additional security and granularity to our protection for users that are connected to the network. This will provide content filtering and protection for all devices on the network, managed or not. If a device connects to the network, it will be protected. We are able to filter unwanted applications as well as prevent access to non-managed sites on the internet. By not allowing access to unknown or uncategorized sites, we decrease the risks against zero day attacks through phishing, malware/infected sites, and malicious sites. A zero day attack is one that has not been seen before and does not match any previous variants.

### **High School Cellular Direct Antenna System (DAS) Project**

The DAS project will provide improved cellular service throughout the King Street Campus. This project was initially planned to occur during the 2020-2021 school year. However, all funds allocated to this project were needed for student and staff devices and other unforeseen expenses due to COVID-19. This project was launched in October of 2021. Complications with the supply chain have and continue to hinder progress. For example, necessary cabling and hardware that was scheduled to be received in November has continuously been rescheduled. The current estimated shipment date is February 20th. All site visits, surveys, and permits have been completed and obtained. Once equipment is delivered, the project is projected to take 4-6 weeks to complete. The vendor provides weekly updates on supply and schedule changes.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information in this memo to become familiar with ESSER Funded IT Infrastructure Projects.

### **IMPACT:**

These projects improve the support and security of our network and access by its users.

### **CONTACT:**

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