

Date: January 21, 2021
For ACTION
For INFORMATION
Board Agenda: Yes
No

FROM: Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Ed.D, Executive Director of Instructional Support
Peter Balas, Principal, T.C. Williams High School
Jesse Mazur, Principal, George Washington Middle School
Pierrette Peters, Principal, Francis C. Hammond Middle School

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: SY 2020-2021 Academic Calendar Revision for Parent-Teacher Conferences
at T.C. Williams High School, Francis C. Hammond Middle School, and
George Washington Middle School for Spring 2021

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

Focus Area 5: Academic Disparities

FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY

MTSS including Restorative Practices and PBIS

Chronic Absenteeism among Hispanic Students

Outreach to Hispanic Families to Improve Attendance and Graduation

Outreach to Underserved Communities to Increase Engagement

SUMMARY

T.C. Williams High School, Francis C. Hammond Middle School, and George Washington Middle School conduct Parent-Teacher Conferences twice each school year to provide parents and teachers the opportunities to discuss students' academic progress. These Parent-Teacher Conferences are conducted on middle school and high school early release days as outlined on the approved academic calendar. Given the ACPS Virtual PLUS+ schedule, the high school reformatted their schedule into semester-based classes, which now causes a slight conflict with the approved early release dates. In addition, the *Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 5.0* phased reentry for middle school now coincides with middle school parent conferences. As a result of these conflicts an academic calendar revision is needed.

BOARD MEMO

High School

- *Current Parent-Teacher Conference Days/Early Release Days for Spring 2021: February 4 and 5, 2021.* These days fall within the first week of the start of the second semester, and do not provide teachers enough time to get to know their second semester students, review data, and provide substantive parental feedback.
- *Proposed Parent-Teacher Conference Days/Early Release Days for Spring 2021: March 11 and 12, 2021.* Changing the Parent-Teacher Conference dates will allow teachers to get to know their second semester students and collect data to provide substantive parental feedback.

Middle School

- *Current Parent-Teacher Conference Days/Early Release Days for Spring 2021: February 11 and 12, 2021.* These days fall within the first week of the planning and phased reentry for middle school students with disabilities on February 2, 2021, and all remaining middle school students planned for February 16, 2021. Additionally, second semester electives teachers will be transitioning to new students. This does not provide teachers with enough time to get to know their second semester students, review data, and provide substantive parental feedback.
- *Proposed Parent-Teacher Conference Days/Early Release Days for Spring 2021: March 18 and 19, 2021.* Changing the Parent-Teacher Conference dates accomplishes two important tasks: providing the time needed for the middle school phased reentry; and allowing electives teachers time to get to know their second semester students and collect data to provide substantive parental feedback.

BACKGROUND

The School Board approves the school year academic calendars annually for both modified and traditional schools in ACPS. The calendars set conference dates, staff professional development days, teacher work days, as well as student and staff holidays. The SY 2020-2021 Academic Calendars were adopted on December 19, 2019.

On June 19, 2020, the modified academic calendar was revised to allow a one-year alignment of Samuel Tucker Elementary School's academic calendar with the rest of ACPS to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the school community.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the revision to the SY 2020-2021 Traditional Academic Calendar to move conference dates for T.C. Williams, Francis C. Hammond, and George Washington schools.

BOARD MEMO

IMPACT

Provide T.C. Williams High School teachers time to collect information and provide feedback to parents. Provide Francis C. Hammond Middle School and George Washington Middle School teachers time for phased reentry, collect information, and provide feedback to parents.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: DRAFT SY2020-21 Academic Calendar Revision

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