

BOARD MEMO

Date: August 26, 2021

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION X_____

Board Agenda: Yes x_____

No _____

FROM: Jennifer Abbruzzese, Director of Policy and Board Initiatives
Kennetra Wood, Executive Director of Equity and Alternative Programs

THROUGH: Dr. Julie A. Crawford, Chief of Student Services and Equity
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: Equity Policy Audit: Proposed Board Review and Approval Approaches

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

- Goal 1: Systemic Alignment
- Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
- Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support
- Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation
- Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA:

- Focus Area 2: Policy Equity Audit
- Focus Area 5: Academic Disparities

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of Equity Audit of School Board Policies

SUMMARY:

Upon completion of its initial review of Tier 1- identified policies, the ACPS/IDRA Equity Policy Audit team seeks the School Board’s direction on a preferred approach for Board review of these (approximately 115) policies during the 2021-22 school year.

The Equity Policy Audit team recommends either:

- full Board review and approval of all Tier-1 policies following the Board’s current practice of regular order; or
- formation of a Board committee, which could perform the in-depth, initial policy review at committee meetings, followed by subsequent summary review and approval by the full Board at Board meetings. (Options include 3 Board Members appointed to the committee for 6 months; 3 Board Members serve on the committee per 2-month rotation cycle; multiple committees focus on policy categories by theme, e.g., discipline policies).

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If the first option (full Board review) is preferred, the Equity Policy Audit team recommends adding one policy work session per month to the Board's current meeting schedule.

BACKGROUND:

Based on the School Board's approved fiscal year 2021 budget and its identification as a 2020-2021 school year focus area, Superintendent Gregory C. Hutchings directed the Department of Student Services and Equity, in collaboration with the Office of the School Board, to embark on an innovative equity audit of all School Board policies. The presentations linked as references below provide updates on the progress made since the initiative began in December 2020 and a timeline for the ongoing policy review, community engagement, recommendation and revision process.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review and provide direction on the proposed Board approval process approaches.

IMPACT:

Reviewing the proposed approaches will align the School Board's understanding of the equity policy audit with its projected timeline and process.

ATTACHMENTS:

210826_Presentation_Equity_Policy_Audit_Board_Review_Approaches

REFERENCES:

[June 17, 2021 Board Presentation: Equity Policy Audit Update](#)

[April 9, 2021 Board Brief: Update- Equity Audit of School Board Policies](#)

CONTACT:

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