

## BOARD BRIEF

Date: June 17, 2022

**BOARD INFORMATION:**   X  

**MEETING PREPARATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** Kurt Huffman, Executive Director of Community Partnerships and Engagement

**THROUGH:** Julia Burgos, Chief of School and Community Relations  
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:** Parents for Safe Alexandria Schools Partnership Information

**ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

**FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

**SUMMARY:**

The Office of Community Partnerships and Engagement's vision is to build broad-based, innovative partnerships that strengthen all Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) students' education. Through the facilitation of the formal agreement process for partners from initiation to execution, we can inspire civic engagement in students and encourage lifelong learners. The goals of the office include:

- Supporting existing partnerships between ACPS and business/community groups to enhance the efforts of ACPS to be a high-performing school division
- Creating new partnerships between the school division, local schools, businesses and community agencies to support the education of all children
- Heightening community awareness of the desire of ACPS to partner with local businesses and community agencies actively
- Encouraging a sense of community ownership of our schools and support the development of the academic, social, physical, creative, and emotional needs of students

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- Establishing and maintaining strong relationships with all partner stakeholders
- Aligning partnerships with school improvement plans
- Providing each school and department analysis and information of current and potential newly aligned partner opportunities
- Conducting quarterly partnership relationship meetings with large scale partners to check implementation and progress of agreements and Memorandums of Understanding
- Providing quarterly achievement data reports to community partners
- Maintaining and developing new partnerships with higher education universities

In alignment with the vision and goals mentioned above, Alexandria City Public Schools has had an active partnership with Parents for Safe Alexandria Schools through an official agreement since July 2019. That successful partnership continues to strengthen through multiple collaborative efforts. Specific information regarding the official partnership and recent support initiatives can be found below and referenced in the attachment.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In 2019, Parents for Safe Alexandria Schools were connected with the Office of Community Partnerships and Engagement to discuss and establish an official partnership with ACPS to provide additional support in alignment with the ACPS school safety guidelines, information and initiatives. After initial discussion between Parents for Safe Alexandria Schools and the Office of Community Partnerships and Engagement, additional collaborative discussions with multiple ACPS departments (Safety and Security, Communications, Community Partnerships and Engagement and the Office of the Superintendent) occurred. These productive discussions resulted in the official creation and signing of the partnership agreement.

The partnership has strong collaborative components between Alexandria Parents for Safe Schools and ACPS aligned departments. Those include:

- Partner will provide recommendations regarding the Violence Prevention Plan
- Partner representation, as appropriate, at aligned ACPS Safety and Security meetings
- Partner social/emotional support resources for students through various programs and activities
- Partner will provide recommendations and information about safe schools community events and programs
- ACPS will provide in-kind facility space (in alignment with policies and regulations) for aligned partner events
- ACPS will disseminate agreed and approved partner outreach materials through multiple outreach methods
- ACPS will stay in contact with leadership from partner to reflect, enhance and continue to identify opportunities for collaboration

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### RECENT PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION:

During the spring of 2022, in response to the request from Parents For Safe Alexandria Schools, ACPS shared information regarding the Wear Orange/National Gun Violence Awareness Day. That information was shared through the following ways:

- Flyers distributed to students at George Mason Elementary School, Mount Vernon Community School and Charles Barrett Elementary School in English and Spanish
- Outreach through the ACPS social media, *Express* and *Insider*
- Resolution announced at a recent ACPS School Board meeting

In addition, ACPS and Alexandria Parent Teacher Association Council (PTAC) have supported the partnership in multiple ways, including:

- Being designated as an official community partner for the the local Wear Orange event that was held on National Gun Violence Awareness Day, Friday, June 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Market Square of Old Town
- Alexandria Parents For Safe Alexandria Schools were on the George Washington Middle School PTA agenda to present BE SMART information to the families and community

The Office of Community Partnerships and Engagement will continue to connect with the partner to ensure that the current partnership agreement components are supported.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information in this memo.

### IMPACT:

By establishing and maintaining strong partnerships, ACPS is strengthening its connection to community support that directly impacts the success of ACPS students, staff and families.

### ATTACHMENTS:

Parents for Safe Alexandria Schools Official Partnership Agreement

### CONTACT:

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