

BOARD BRIEF

Date: February 7, 2020

BOARD INFORMATION: _____

MEETING PREPARATION: X

FROM: Stephen M. Wilkins, Ed.D., Chief Human Resources 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: Update: Review of Pre-Labor Day Calendar Start in August 2021

ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity

Goal 2: Family and Community Engagement

Goal 6: Effective and Efficient Operations

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 1: Educational Equity

Focus Area 5: Strategic Plan

FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Communications and Customer Service for External/Internal Stakeholders

SUMMARY: Using the results of a public survey, the Calendar Committee reviewed the question of a pre-Labor Day start in August 2021. The Committee recommends a start date of August 24, 2021.

The Committee has requested the Superintendent to refine the draft calendar for Board approval in the March/April 2020 time frame. This means the division would publish the 2021-2022 calendar in May 2020.

BACKGROUND: At the December 19 board meeting, the Board approved the study of a pre-Labor Day start in August 2021. A public survey on the question was completed in January 2020 and the results were reviewed by the Calendar Committee. The Committee recommends a start date of August 24, 2021 to better align the school calendar with other divisions in the region. The goal of this effort is to provide a recommendation for Board approval well in advance of the start date to allow staff and families to plan accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the School Board review this information pending Board approval of the 2021-2022 calendar.

BOARD BRIEF

IMPACT: The school calendar impacts the division, school community and city. Making this calendar start date decision early in the process will allow the staff more time to schedule changes to school programs, adjust timelines for facilities projects and coordinate operational services impacted by such a change. Likewise, families will be able to better plan their family and student activities.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Summary Chart of Public Survey Results
2. Public Comments from the Calendar Survey
3. VDOE List of 2019 School Division Start Dates
4. Initial Draft of 2021-2022 Calendar

REFERENCE: [Board memo, December 19, 2019](#)

CONTACT: Stephen M. Wilkins
Stephen.Wilkins@acps.k12.va.us