

BOARD MEMO

Date: February 4, 2021
For ACTION X
For INFORMATION
Board Agenda: Yes X
No

FROM: Dr. Alicia Hart, PMP, Executive Director of Facilities and Operations
Erika Gulick, Director of Capital Programs, Planning and Design

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

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

TOPIC: High School Project Colocation Decision

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Facilities Audit Implementation
Outreach to Underserved Communities to Increase Engagement
Improving Customer Relationship Services and Management

SUMMARY:

Following the January 21st presentation of testfits and the January 25th community meeting, the School Board is being asked to vote on:

- Whether to allow affordable housing to colocate at the Minnie Howard Campus.
- Allowing the project team to explore the other collocated spaces for current or future development, subject to the availability of funds, at the Minnie Howard Campus including:
 - ACPS or City Administrative Offices
 - Alexandria Health Department - Teen Wellness Center
 - Early Childhood Learning
 - Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) - Shared use of spaces for community programs
 - Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities (RPCA) - Shared use of the facility including fields, gymnasium and pool

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Community Engagement

On January 25, 2021, the project team held a virtual community open house to inform them of the colocation opportunities being considered for the Minnie Howard site and collect community feedback on colocation. Comments collected are provided as an attachment to the meeting item on February 4, 2021.

BACKGROUND:

The High School Project began in the summer of 2018 and has progressed steadily throughout the past two years. On January 24, 2019, the School Board voted to continue The High School Project work with a focus on several priorities and a commitment to a multi-option evaluation process. On September 26, 2019, the School Board voted in favor of a Connected High School Network strategy to address Alexandria's future high school capacity needs that included the construction of an expansion to the T.C. Williams High School by building on the fields portion of the Minnie Howard Campus. After over a year of planning work, ACPS hired Perkins Eastman in December 2020, to execute the pre-design and design for the redevelopment of the Minnie Howard Campus.

On January 21, 2021, the project team presented the preliminary analyses/test fits of the school program, fields, and affordable housing to help inform the School Board's decision-making. The preliminary analysis confirmed that it is physically possible to accommodate a school building for a minimum 1,600 students at one time, provide no net loss of fields and public open space, and accommodate all collocated uses currently under consideration including either affordable housing or ACPS/City office use. The work session included a discussion of possible trade offs related to land use and budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

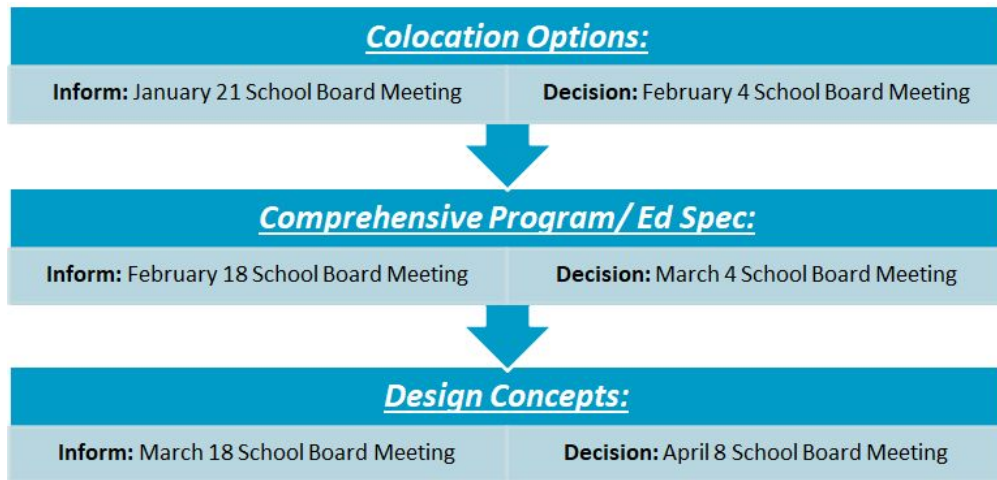
The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review all the attachments and be prepared for the February 4, 2021 vote. The School Board vote on February 4, 2021, will include:

- Whether to allow affordable housing to colocate at the Minnie Howard Campus.
- Allowing the project team to explore the other collocated spaces for current or future development, subject to the availability of funds, at the Minnie Howard Campus.

IMPACT:

The School Board vote will determine whether affordable housing will be collocated at the Minnie Howard site and allow the project team to finalize the Comprehensive Program/Educational Specification and then proceed to design.

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ATTACHMENTS:

210204_Att1_January_25_Open_House_Community_Comments

REFERENCES:

210121_Att1_HSP_PowerPoint_Presentation

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