

## BOARD BRIEF

Date: June 2, 2023

**BOARD INFORMATION:**   x    
**MEETING PREPARATION:**       

**FROM:** Matt Smith, Policy Services Consultant  
**THROUGH:** Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
**TO:** The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board  
**TOPIC:** Update: Staggered Terms

### **ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

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

### **FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Implementation of the 2025 Strategic Plan

### **SUMMARY:**

In 2018 and 2019 the Board discussed the possibility of altering the election cycle. The discussion included concepts of staggered terms and altering the length of the term. The work was paused due to COVID-19. The Board has decided to proceed with the exploration of staggering terms and has conducted three work sessions, a survey, and a public hearing to inform their deliberations. Additional input is necessary to ensure the Board makes an informed decision.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The feedback received through the survey has shown support for staggering terms, with neutral feedback for other possible changes such as lengthening the terms to four years. No changes being considered had more than 50% of respondents disagreeing/strongly disagreeing with the change.

In order to ensure stakeholders are given ample opportunities to inform the Board's decision, the following additional listening sessions are recommended.

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- Hold a panel discussion of current and former members from other public body governance boards who are currently following practices the ACPS board is considering, and subject matter experts in the field.
- Conduct targeted listening sessions. The Board members from each of the three districts would develop and implement a plan for how they will listen to the residents of their district. The exact details of each plan would be developed by the Board members based on the unique characteristics of their district. General informational resources would be made available to all board members to support the work. The Board members would report out their findings at the July 20, 2023 Board Meeting.

If the Board chooses to proceed based on this additional information, a resolution would be presented for information on August 31, 2023 and would be considered on September 14, 2023 for action.

The Alexandria City Council would need to decide to act on the resolution, including a holding public hearing, by the end of October 2023.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the proposal.

**IMPACT:** By periodically reviewing ideas such as staggered terms, the Board ensures they are continuing to function in a manner that best supports the residents of Alexandria.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. None

**REFERENCES:**

N/A

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