

Date: January 19, 2017
For ACTION X
For INFORMATION X
Board Agenda: Yes X
No

REVISED 1/16/17

FROM: Julie A. Crawford, Ed.D., Chief Student Services Officer

THROUGH: Alvin L. Crawley, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Ramee Gentry, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Proposed Revisions to Draft Policy JCE: Redistricting Implementation
and Draft JCE-R: Redistricting Implementation Regulations

SUMMARY: The ACPS community has been engaged in a number of redistricting activities this fall as a continuation of the process that began in 2015. As a component of this larger effort, the School Board amended policies IGBJ, IHB, and JC/JCD, as well as regulations IHB-R and JC-R/JCD-R related to redistricting on May 19, 2016. In addition, it reviewed redistricting implementation draft Policy JCE and draft Regulation JCE-R on March 10, March 16, April 7, April 25, May 19, November 21, December 6, 2016 and January 10, 2017. Board feedback has been incorporated into the current drafts for review.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the Alexandria City School Board began the process of redistricting with the goal of implementing new elementary school boundaries. ACPS has not gone through a redistricting process since 1999. Redistricting is needed because the majority of elementary schools are at or over capacity and enrollment is projected to continue to grow over the next decade. The School Board gave direction to involve significant parent and community input throughout the process.

In June 2015, the Alexandria City School Board furthered the redistricting process to address capacity challenges across the school division by selecting an independent third party consultant, Reingold LINK. In collaboration with a Redistricting Steering Committee comprised of three School Board members and senior level staff, Reingold has provided guidance and facilitation for a Redistricting Review Committee of 35 parents and community members from across the Division.

From October 2015 to January 2017, the Redistricting Review Committee has worked to develop its recommendation for the School Board. During this time, a broad community outreach effort has been ongoing, including a series of community engagement meetings that have been held across the Division.

On September 21, 2016, Cropper GIS (part of the Reingold LINK consulting team), presented the Redistricting Review Committee with 3 preliminary baseline options (draft Options 1 – 3).

On October 5, 2016, Review Committee feedback was incorporated to create two additional draft options (Options 4 – 5). The Committee decided to move three of the five options forward (Options 3, 4, and 5) and provided feedback to create a new draft option for community feedback (Option 6). Feedback on draft Options 3-6 was provided at the October 19 & 20, 2016 community meetings.

On November 2, 2016, the Redistricting Review Committee was presented with draft Options 7 and 8 based on committee member feedback and community input. The committee moved these two forward and created draft Option 9 for feedback at the November 14 & 15, 2016 community meetings.

On December 7, 2016, the Redistricting Review Committee met and decided to eliminate draft Option 7 and move forward draft Options 8 and 9. Two other draft Options, 8a and 9a, were requested to incorporate minor changes. In addition, the first of two public hearings on redistricting was held on December 8, 2016.

On January 4, 2017, the Redistricting Review Committee voted to move Option 9a (with a minor adjustment) forward as its recommendation to the School Board. On January 19, 2017, the second public hearing on redistricting will be held, and the Board is scheduled to vote on redistricting on January 26, 2017.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve Policy JCE and Regulation JCE-R.

IMPACT:

By approving Policy JCE and Regulation JCE-R, the School Board ensures that student placement decisions are aligned to support academic excellence and educational equity.

ATTACHMENTS:

Presentation: Redistricting Implementation Draft Policy JCE & Draft Regulations JCE-R
DRAFT Policy JCE - Redistricting Implementation
DRAFT JCE-R - Redistricting Implementation Regulations

ADDED 1/16/17:

Responses to School Board Member Questions on Redistricting
Redistricting Capacity Analysis: Final Recommendation
Charles Barrett and George Mason Recommended Zone and Walk Boundary

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