

BOARD BRIEF

Date: September 27, 2019

For **INFORMATION**: X

Upcoming Board Agenda:

Yes

No X

Agenda Date:

FROM: Clinton Page, Chief Accountability 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: Updates to the Strategic Planning Process

ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:
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:
Specialized Instruction
English Learner Services
Gap Group Achievements
Academics
Leadership and Professional Development
Retention and Recruitment
Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments
Mental and Social/Emotional Health

SUMMARY:
This Board Brief provides an update to recent and future activities involving the division’s current strategic planning process. Board members have worked with FourPoint to provide feedback informing revisions to the vision, mission, and core values under the next strategic plan. FourPoint is currently conducting a needs assessment across the organization involving a multitude of stakeholders to inform future strategic planning work. Finally, the Strategic Planning Committee met on September 23rd and engaged in conversations centered on equity and what is, and is not, going well currently within the division.

BACKGROUND:
The ACPS School Board held two sessions with FourPoint Education Partners to provide feedback on the division’s current vision, mission, and core values and on proposed revisions.

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These core tenets will serve as the foundation on which subsequent strategic planning work will be built. The Board can expect to receive final drafts of the revised vision, mission, and core values in the coming weeks.

FourPoint has begun their needs assessment to inform the strategic planning process this fall and winter. FourPoint will be conducting classroom walk-throughs, interviews, focus groups, and extant data and document analysis. Completed focus groups/interviews have included a wide range of stakeholders including: Superintendent, Board members, Senior Leadership Team members, principals, the Mayor, City Manager, and Health Department officials as examples. Upcoming sessions are scheduled with various school-based staff groups, students, business partners, and parent/community groups ensuring purposeful outreach and efforts to historically marginalized groups. Findings will be shared with the Board and Strategic Planning Committee beginning in late October to facilitate the development of the strategic plan.

The Strategic Planning Committee had their second meeting on September 23rd at the [Virginia Tech School of Architecture and Design Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center](#) (WAAC) located in Old Town Alexandria. The site was chosen based on the ability to inspire committee members within the themes of making history visible, innovation, experiential learning, risk taking, going from impossible to possible, and diversity as our greatest strength. Virginia Tech graduate students took committee members on a thirty minute tour of the space connecting the key themes above throughout the tour and discussing their own educational journey.

After tours were completed, members were placed into small groups of 12-15 people. These groups first discussed overall themes from the data review work they completed over the summer. Next, the groups were led through a facilitated conversation centered on the prompt, *“With respect to equitable access to high-quality education in ACPS, what’s going well? What’s not going so well? Consider funding, instruction, access to programs as areas to think about.”* These discussions will be used to inform FourPoints needs assessment. The next Strategic Planning Committee meeting will take place on October 23rd and will be focused on an initial review and discussion of FourPoint’s findings from the needs assessment.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review this Brief to remain informed on the current strategic planning work taking place within the division.

IMPACT:

The division remains on target to have a draft strategic plan to be presented to the Board in the spring and finalized by April 2020.

CONTACT:

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