

BOARD MEMO

Date: 04/22/2021

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION X

Board Agenda: Yes X

No _____

FROM: Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D, Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Stephen M. Wilkins, Ed.D., Chief of Staff
Patricia "Sheril" Waldron, Director of Compensation and Benefits
Rene Paschal, Principal, Samuel Tucker Elementary School

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: Request to Amend the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar for Samuel Tucker
Elementary School

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA

Focus Area 1: Educational Equity

FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY

Academics

SUMMARY

This proposal is for a one-year calendar adjustment for Samuel Tucker Elementary School to the 2021-2022 Modified Calendar approved on May 29, 2020. The proposal will change the student start date from July 26, 2021 to August 9, 2021. The threefold purpose of this change is to: (a) maximize students' summer learning opportunities; (b) ensure an additional two weeks of summer break for students and ACPS staff; and (c) preserve the School Board's commitment to the Intersession program and Modified Calendar framework.

BACKGROUND

The modified calendar typically provides for a six-week summer break for our students. This summer represents the lone year in which the summer break for families would shrink to four weeks, given it is the last year of our late ending and the first year of our early start date. In subsequent years, the modified calendar can revert back to its one-month early start date without impacting summer learning participation or a shortened summer break. Since 2004, the modified calendar has been in existence at Tucker, and was adjusted this school year based on the rationale for alignment during Virtual PLUS+.

BOARD MEMO

In regards to Tucker school community feedback, the Samuel Tucker principal and administrative team engaged the staff and parent community to gather stakeholder feedback as outlined below:

Meeting (s)	Date (s)
Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Meetings	February 8, February 22 + March 9
Samuel Tucker Leadership Meetings	February 22, March 22 + April 5
Parent Calendar Forum	March 23
Family Survey	March 27 - April 15
Staff Survey	April 5 - 15
Meeting with Senior Leadership Team (SLT)	April 13
School Board Meeting	April 22

The Samuel Tucker staff and community's feedback reflects a statistically even split between stakeholders supporting a modified calendar of some kind and those supporting an additional year of alignment with the traditional calendar schools.

Overall, this calendar adjustment maximizes student learning options for Tucker families – whether the priority is securing downtime or participating in the *ACPS Summer Learning for All* program in July 2021. With the first-ever, pre-Labor Day start this year, Tucker families face a shorter summer in this transition year than in later years. The pandemic's lingering impact also suggests that an amended version of our modified calendar would allow more time to set health and safety guidelines for the attendance of more students.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the memo and attachments on Samuel Tucker Elementary School's proposed calendar change for the 2021-2022 school year. A formal request to approve the calendar amendment will be presented to the Board on May 6, 2021.

IMPACT

This proposed calendar change for Samuel Tucker for next year allows Tucker families to maximize participation in summer learning options and provides increased time for ACPS staff to prepare for the 2021-2022 school year.

ATTACHMENTS

1. ACPS Modified Calendar 2021-2022
2. ACPS Proposed Amended Modified Calendar 2021-2022

CONTACTS

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2. Ms. Patricia "Sheril" Waldron, patricia.waldron@acps.k12.va.us
3. Mr. Rene Paschal, rene.paschal@acps.k12.va.us