

Date: March 8, 2018
For ACTION _____
For INFORMATION X
Board Agenda: Yes X
No _____

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

THROUGH: Lois F. Berlin, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: Update on Redistricting for School Year 2018-19

SUMMARY:

The Board presentation on March 8, 2018 will provide an update on the redistricting implementation for the School Year 2018-19. This update will include (1) a review of redistricting communications and actions this year; (2) an examination of transfer data for the School Year 2017-18 (3) an analysis of the Notice of Intent to Return form responses indicating student school placement for School Year 2018-19 (4) an overview of enrollment, capacity and utilization rates for School Year 2017-18 and projected data for School Year 2018-19.

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 was held.

On January 26, 2017, the School Board approved the Redistricting Review Committee's elementary school attendance zone boundary recommendation.

Throughout the 2017-18 school year, ACPS has engaged in communication with families and staff regarding the implementation of new attendance zones. As a part of this process, ACPS has monitored student data and analyzed responses to Notice of Intent to Return forms in order to project enrollment for the SY 2018-19. Spring transition activities are planned for students and families, such as Open Houses.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the updated redistricting implementation information including the SY 2017-18 transfer information.

IMPACT:

By providing for the redistricting of elementary school boundaries in accordance with Policy BBA, the School Board not only contributes to the efficiency of the school division, but also to academic excellence, programmatic equity, and the best education for the community now and in the future. Along with a number of newly planned construction projects, including the addition of the Ferdinand T. Day School, redistricting was necessary to balance utilization across the school division and to make sure every student is provided with essential resources to succeed. Updated projections for the SY 2018-19 demonstrate that utilization rates are improving with the redistricting process.

ATTACHMENT:

Presentation - Redistricting Implementation

CONTACT:

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