

BOARD BRIEF

Date: November 22, 2019

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION: _____

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: Strategic Planning Update

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
Safe Schools for Students and Faculty
Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments
Mental and Social/Emotional Health

SUMMARY:

This Board Brief provides the final report from the needs assessment conducted by FourPoint Education Partners as a part of the strategic planning process. Initial findings were provided to the Board in a Board Brief on October 25, 2019. The needs assessment examined six domains: finance, governance, school improvement, instructional delivery, college, career, and life readiness, and community voice. Based upon their needs assessment, FourPoint proposes that ACPS promotes equity throughout the system by ensuring that five key elements are in place: systemic coherence, instructional excellence, student accessibility and supports, strategic resource allocation, and parent and community engagement.

The next Strategic Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for December 11th at which time the committee will review the final Board draft of the division's mission, vision, and core values, develop a shared understanding of equity constructs, and discuss high-level indicators of success. Subcommittees,

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as formed by individual member interest and expertise, will begin defining high-level objectives and identifying big picture measures within each key area.

BACKGROUND:

FourPoint conducted a needs assessment consisting of extant data and document analysis, 175 classroom walk-throughs, 15 focus groups with 105 participants, 6 focus groups with 38 secondary students, and interviews with school leaders, division leaders, and city officials, to inform the strategic planning process. Intentional outreach efforts were made in seeking diverse perspectives, especially from historically underrepresented groups. The needs assessment examined six domains: finance, governance, school improvement, instructional delivery, college, career, and life readiness, and community voice. Preliminary findings were discussed with the Strategic Planning Committee on October 23rd and provided to the Board on October 25, 2019. The final needs assessment report, *Preparing for Strategic Planning: Engaging the Community and Assessing the Needs of Alexandria City Public Schools*, provides additional details behind the findings.

After analysis across all domains, FourPoint proposes that ACPS promotes equity throughout the division by ensuring that five elements are in place: systemic coherence, instructional excellence, student accessibility and supports, strategic resource allocation, and parent and community engagement.

With key elements identified, a survey has been sent to the Strategic Planning Committee to form subcommittees ensuring diversity and based on each committee member's interest and expertise.

At the upcoming December 11th Strategic Planning Committee meeting, activities will set the stage for the detailed work to come. To begin, the Strategic Planning Committee will be presented with the final Board draft of the division's mission, vision, and core values. The committee will develop a shared understanding of equity constructs from the Government Alliance on Race and Equity. Finally, the Strategic Planning Committee will be divided into subgroups to begin discussing overall indicators of success, defining high-level objectives, and identifying big picture measures.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review this Brief, along with the included attachment, 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.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. *Preparing for Strategic Planning: Engaging the Community and Assessing the Needs of Alexandria City Public Schools*

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