BOARD MEMO

Date: May 4, 2023
For ACTION _____
For INFORMATION ___X___
Board Agenda: Yes _X_
No ___

FROM: Carmen Sanders, Executive Director of Instructional Support
Pierrette Finney, Ed.D., Executive Director of School Leadership
Peter Balas, Executive Principal, Alexandria City High School

THROUGH: Wendy González, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: The High School Project Team Update

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:
Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

SY 2022–2023 FOCUS AREA:
Social Emotional and Academic Learning Recovery
Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:
Address Chronic Absenteeism & High School Graduation Rate Among Hispanic Male Students
Social and Emotional Supports for Students

SUMMARY:
The High School Project Team (THSPT) (formerly known as the Educational Design Team) continues to plan for the educational experience of students in the Alexandria City High School (ACHS) Connected Network, focused on the goal of instructional excellence and multiple pathways that prepare students for college, career, and civic life.

The THSPT has contracted with The Learning-Centered Collaborative to continue the work that is needed to prepare for the opening of the new Minnie Howard Campus and the impact on other campuses in the Connected Network. There has been a review of completed work from the Educational Design Team and it will inform the path forward to developing an action plan. The educational programming planning will include:

- Development of Learner Profile & Learning Model aligned with Profile of a Virginia Graduate and Curricular Framework Standards;
- Development of learning pathways;
- Revision of the ACPS Program of Studies;
- Student placement based on learning pathways;
- Master schedule development;
- Staff professional development; and

- Ongoing executive coaching for current administration.

The Learning-Centered Collaborative will conduct a diagnostic visit on May 16-17, 2023. There will be class visits, input sessions with key leaders, middle and high school student forums, interviews with student support teams, families, and community partners, and high school focus groups. A revitalization of the working groups will be initiated after the diagnostic debrief and the team sets priorities. Success of this work will require a shared vision and commitment of all stakeholders, as we design the educational experience of current and future students of Alexandria City High School.

BACKGROUND:
The High School Project: Educational Design Team began in the summer of 2018 and has progressed steadily. On September 26, 2019, the School Board voted in favor of a Connected High School Network strategy to address Alexandria City's future high school capacity needs. This includes designing and constructing a new Minnie Howard Campus that will house more students and offer more programming opportunities. Educational specifications and design concepts were approved in 2021. As plans for the building were finalized and construction began, The High School Project Team has continued to work on developing an equitable and rigorous instructional program at the high school level.

RECOMMENDATION:
The Interim Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information in this memo and the attached presentation.

IMPACT:
Reviewing the status update will align the School Board's understanding of the progress of the High School Project Team and the priority areas of work ahead.

ATTACHMENTS:
1. 230504_Board_Presentation_The_High_School_Project_Update_v1

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