

BOARD MEMO

Date: January 23, 2020

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

FROM: Mignon R. Anthony, Chief Operating Officer
Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Gerald R. Mann, Jr. Ed.D., Executive Director of Secondary Instruction

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: The High School Project Update

ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 4: Facilities and the Learning Environment

Goal 6: Effective and Efficient Operations

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 3: High School Project

FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments

SUMMARY:

Education Experts Visit T.C. Williams:

Since the last School Board meeting, ACPS hosted two major events with six nationally recognized education researchers on January 8, 2020, at T.C. Williams High School. The education researchers shared evidence-based practices that support strong academic outcomes, as well as first-hand knowledge of the best ways to redesign high school programs. At a 90-minute panel discussion with the staff and community, the experts answered questions generated by the *Educational Design Team (EDT)*, followed by thirty minutes of questions from the audience. More information about the panel discussion can be found on

<https://www.acps.k12.va.us/hsproject>.

At a future date, staff will present the observations, lessons learned, and recommendations provided by the panelists. This information will be considered as staff is developing an educational program model that will meet the needs of our diverse learners. In addition, the

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experts will continue to be available to advise ACPS and will review the future educational program model developed by the EDT.

BACKGROUND:

The High School Project began in the summer of 2018 and has progressed steadily throughout the past year. On January 24, 2019, the School Board voted to continue The High School Project work with a focus on several priorities and a commitment to a multi-option evaluation process. On August 22, 2019, the School Board had a work session that focused on the EDT's analysis of what a two high schools model or a Connected High School Network could look like, as well as a preliminary discussion on site options. The School Board Work Session on September 19, 2019, focused on a detailed site analysis and cost comparison between a two high schools model and a Connected High School Network model. On September 26, 2019, the School Board voted in favor of a Connected High School Network strategy to address Alexandria's future high school capacity needs that included the construction of a high school building (and associated site amenities) on the Minnie Howard campus for 1,600 students.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the School Board to stay current with project progress. The project team will respond to and accommodate inquiries from the Board on an as-needed basis.

IMPACT:

Advances The High School Project 2019-2020 significant activities and milestones.

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