

BOARD MEMO

Date: February 6, 2020
For ACTION x
For INFORMATION x
Board Agenda: Yes x
No

FROM: Erika Gulick, Director of Capital Programs, Planning & Design

THROUGH: Mignon Anthony, Chief Operating Officer
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Douglas MacArthur Concept Vote

ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 4: Facilities and the Learning Environment

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 4: Douglas MacArthur Swing Space

FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Safe Schools for Students and Faculty
Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments

SUMMARY:

This is the second presentation for the School Board on the architectural and site concepts being proposed to the School Board for consideration of the replacement school building for Douglas MacArthur Elementary School. The Advisory Group, School Team and community have participated in discussions with ACPS and the project team several times regarding the priorities for the school and upon which these concepts were developed.

After much discussion between the City government and ACPS at many levels, we have jointly decided to direct our staff and consultants not to proceed further with analyzing affordable and workforce housing co-location options at the proposed new MacArthur Elementary School. Other smaller scale co-location options such as recreational programming/facilities will continue to be explored for the new MacArthur building. A joint memo from the Superintendent and City Manager is an attachment to this memo.

As a reminder, the concept phase is preliminary and is intended to determine the site layout. Design elements such as exterior and interior materials, the school façade details, glass components, site landscaping details including play spaces, colors, furniture, wall and room layouts, etc., will all be determined over the upcoming months. The design process phases will include schematic design, final design development and construction documentation.

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The School Board will be engaged during updates along the way with the next vote being the approval of the construction contract based upon the final design. This presentation will review the different characteristics of the “Y” and “Forest” concepts including the pros and cons derived from the community meetings held on January 13th and 15th.

The School Board will be asked to vote on a concept to move forward through design on at this meeting. To clarify, the School Board’s vote and comments will help to inform the following:

- General site placement
- Overall organization of site elements
- General relationship of interior building elements
- Overall approach to the building massing

All other components of the design can change through the spring 2020 including, but not limited to:

- Placement of vehicle access, exterior play and other amenities
- Internal placement of spaces
- Design of exterior façade and materials
- The exact square footage of the building

The City review process, as well as community, school team and advisory group input will inform these elements over the next few months. A booklet that more deeply describes the concepts and engagement activities to date is an attachment to this board memo.

BACKGROUND:

Following a [decision by the School Board on April 4, 2019](#) to use the old Patrick Henry building as swing space to advance the Douglas MacArthur Elementary School modernization, ACPS began pursuing the Douglas MacArthur project and has developed concepts for the new building and shared them with the community. This presentation includes community feedback for School Board consideration of the two concepts.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board vote on one concept in order to stay within the project schedule. The Superintendent and staff are confident that either concept can become a great new learning environment for students and an asset for the community. Should the School Board require additional information prior to the meeting in order to make this decision, staff is available to provide what is requested.

IMPACT:

This project is in pursuit of the SY2019-2020 Focus Area 4: Douglas MacArthur Swing Space.

ATTACHMENTS: 200206_PRESENTATION_DM_Concepts_v3
 200206_ATT_2_DM_Concepts_Booklet_v1
 200206_ATT_3_Joint_Memo_DM_Colocation_v1

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