

Date: December 6, 2018

For ACTION: _____

For INFORMATION: X

Board Agenda: Yes X
No _____

FROM: Mignon R. Anthony, Chief Operating Officer
Erika Gulick, Senior Planner

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: The High School Project: Update to Discover and Engage Phase

BACKGROUND: Our total high school enrollment currently exceeds the TC Williams main campus design capacity by over one third with expected growth projected to continue. The School Board allocated \$100,000 in the FY 2018 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget to engage the community on solutions for needed high school capacity. In the following FY2019 fiscal year, with the Ad-Hoc Joint City-Schools Facilities Investment Task Force acknowledgement, the City included \$5.15M to initiate immediate planning efforts and to begin design.

Work began in earnest in July 2018. During the November 8, 2018 board meeting and the November 26, 2018 work session, ACPS staff and project consultants Stantec Architecture and Fielding Nair International (FNI), Inc., presented the first two phases of the planning work including: Discover – research of related national high school models and future workforce studies that align with the feedback and objectives related to ACPS, and Engage – an emerging educational vision based upon an online survey with 421 responses, over 40 in person meetings, including 22 student class discussions, 4 town hall work sessions, 2 business/community leader focus groups and TC Williams staff meetings. The Educational Vision includes the following pillars: Community Connected; Diversity as a Strength; Experiential Learning.

The research models and proposed educational vision resulted in the consultant's recommendation that ACPS adopt a 'connected high school network concept' or multiple campuses for meeting the expansion needs of Alexandria's high school of the future.

The Board determined that time for additional understanding of the recommendations, comparative cost models and more staff and community engagement was needed. The Board also adjusted the vote to January 24th to allow the newly elected Board Members to participate in this milestone decision.

SUMMARY:

Since the November 26 work session, the Superintendent and administrative staff have held two TC Williams staff conversations to obtain feedback and provide an update on

the project status. Also, the administrative staff has conducted an evening community workshop, and met with students at Francis C. Hammond Middle School. Numerous community and school engagements at every level are being scheduled through January 2019.

The project team is working with the Curriculum and Instruction Department to develop coordination parameters for the program design and upcoming project-specific educational specification efforts as planning continues. Staff is accelerating cost examples of the recommended concept for Board review in an upcoming work session.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board continue to review the recommendation materials.

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