

Date: June 21, 2018

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

FROM: Jennifer Abbruzzese, Clerk of the Board & Policy Liaison

THROUGH: Lois F. Berlin, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: Resolution to Explore School Board Election Cycle and Composition Adjustments

SUMMARY:

Any changes to the School Board's term, election cycle, and/or composition would necessitate the Virginia General Assembly's approval of an amendment to the Alexandria City Charter. As the Code of Virginia requires that the School Board's and City Council's terms of office and election cycles must coincide, such amendments would affect both of Alexandria's elected bodies. This would necessitate embarking on a community engagement and public comment process that would likely include such feedback instruments as surveys, public hearings, and a citywide referendum. To open a dialogue with Council and the public on the benefits and impacts of various transition options, the School Board requested a resolution be drafted to serve as a starting point for consideration of the matter.

BACKGROUND:

At its April 26, 2018 Board Meeting, the School Board discussed the background, current status, legal authority, process and timing for potentially transitioning:

- From concurrent to staggered Board Member terms of office, and therefore;
- From holding concurrent elections every three years to holding staggered elections more frequently;
- From three-year terms to four-year terms;
- From a nine-Member Board to a lesser number; and
- From representation based solely on Alexandria's three voting districts, to the addition of one at-large Board Member.

At its May 31, 2018 Work Session, the School Board reviewed the legislative process and community engagement involved in its 1994 transition from an appointed to elected Board, staff responses to follow-up information requests from April 26th, staggered election implementation scenarios, and a draft resolution requesting City Council and community engagement on potential adjustments to its election cycle, term and composition.

IMPACT: By reviewing current requirements and procedures for operational effectiveness and efficiency, the Board ensures its practices align with ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan goals to support excellence and continuous improvement.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution to Explore School Board Election Cycle and Composition Adjustments

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the School Board adopt the Resolution to Explore School Board Election Cycle and Composition Adjustments.

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