

BOARD MEMO

Date: December 15, 2022
For ACTION
For INFORMATION
Board Agenda: Yes
No

FROM: Dr. Alicia Hart, PMP, Chief of Facilities and Operations
Dr. Clinton Page, Chief of Accountability and Research

THROUGH: 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: Safety Survey Analysis and Focus Group Results

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2022-2023 FOCUS AREA:

Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:

N/A

SUMMARY:

Safety Survey

As part of the School Law Enforcement Partnership (SLEP) process, a survey regarding safety and School Resource Officers (SROs) was opened to students, staff, parents and community members. The survey opened on September 12, 2022 and closed on October 9, 2022. There was a total of 5,238 respondents to the survey:

- Students: 2,561 respondents
- Staff: 780 respondents
- Parents: 1,803 respondents
- Community: 94 respondents

A final copy of the survey analysis is attached to this memo; the SLEP advisory group is in receipt of this same report and is using it as a part of their data review process.

Focus Group Results

During the months of October 2022 and November 2022, Hanover Research conducted a total of 18 focus groups. The focus group process garnered feedback from 142 participants, which included middle and high school students, parents, staff and community members. Focus group makeup is noted below:

- 10 Student Focus Groups; sub-groups included:

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- English Learners
- Students with Disabilities
- Hispanic/Latino
- Black/African-American
- Francis C. Hammond Students
- George Washington Students
- Alexandria City High School Students
- Five Parent Groups
- Two Staff Groups
- One Administrator Group

Key findings from the focus group feedback include:

- External threats are source of anxiety for parents; fighting and drug use are primary sources of concern for students
- Policing and related security work should be integrated with mental health and emotional supports
- Insufficient transparency has negatively impacted buy-in for policing
- Parents and staff seek additional security measures
- Most participants have had limited interaction with SROs

BACKGROUND:

The concept of a SLEP Advisory Group was introduced during an October 2021 update to the School Board on the return of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program to ACPS through June 30, 2022.

On March 10, 2022, the first iteration of the SLEP advisory group proposal was presented to the School Board.

On April 21, 2022, the second iteration of the SLEP advisory group proposal was presented to the School Board. This version of the proposal included 13 revisions based on the feedback received from the School Board on March 10, 2022. Consensus was provided to staff to move forward with this version of the proposal.

On May 27, 2022, a Board Brief update was submitted regarding the status of the advisory group.

On June 14, 2022, the SLEP Advisory Group held its first meeting.

On July 19, 2022, the SLEP Advisory Group held its second meeting.

On September 12, 2022, the SLEP Advisory Group held its third meeting.

On November 14, 2022, the SLEP Advisory Group held its fourth meeting.

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On December 5, 2022, the SLEP Advisory Group held its fifth meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Interim Superintendent recommends that the School Board review all attached materials as it relates to the safety survey and focus group feedback results.

IMPACT:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Final Safety Survey Data
2. Hanover Research Capstone Report
3. Hanover Research Focus Group Feedback Analysis Report

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