

BOARD BRIEF

Date: December 4, 2020

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Stephen M. Wilkins, Ed.D., Chief of Staff
Terri H. Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning and Leadership
Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director of Instructional Support
Sandra Hardeman, HR Director of Recruitment and Retention

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: Academic Calendars Update: Progress Report on 2022-2023 Academic Calendars with
Pre-Labor Day Start

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment
Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support
Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation
Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Improving Customer Relationship Services and Management

SUMMARY:

This memorandum updates the School Board on the calendar planning process. The Calendar Committee convened in October and November 2020 to develop options for the 2022-23 academic calendars. A community survey is planned for the early 2021. A final recommendation will be made to the School Board at that time. The goal of this process is to complete a two-year calendar planning cycle to improve long-range strategic and operational planning. The calendar dates are subject to change given the pandemic health situation.

BACKGROUND:

- 1. Committee membership.** The Calendar Committee included teacher representatives, principal-nominated parents, EAA (Employee Association of Alexandria) members and PTAC (Parent-Teacher Advisory Council) members. The committee of 13 was led by Sandra Hardeman, Director of Recruitment and Retention, who served as Chair, and Dr. Gerald Mann, Jr., Executive Director of Instructional Support, who served as Co-chair.

BOARD BRIEF

2. Committee process. The committee considered multiple factors to develop the academic calendars including:

- Maintaining the framework established in the 2021-2022 calendar
- Using a pre-Labor Day start date, and using hours to exceed the state minimum of 990 hours
- The first day for students is August 24, 2022 for traditional calendar schools
- The first day for the modified calendar is July 26, 2022
- The last day of school on both calendars is June 13, 2023
- The Wednesday before Thanksgiving remains a holiday
- The length of Winter Break includes 10 weekdays
- There are 7 days designated for Teacher Professional Development
- Potential impact of snow days
- Full-day or half-day conference days
- Review same or different dates for high school and middle school parent/student conferences

3. Preliminary draft calendars will be published for public feedback next year. As done in the past, a survey for community feedback of the calendars will be scheduled for early 2021.

a. Traditional Calendar (for all schools except Samuel Tucker Elementary School). The three calendar options are almost identical with the following variations:

Version 1 –February 8th and 9th are Conference days and students are off. Friday February 10th is a ½ day for students and teachers

Version 2 –February 2nd and 9th are Conference days and students are off. Friday February 10th is a ½ day for students and teachers.

Version 3- February 1st and 2nd are Conference days for Elementary students. February 3rd is ½ day for Elementary Teachers and students. February 8 and 9th are Conference Days for Middle and High School. Friday February 10th is a ½ day for Middle/High students and teachers.

b. Modified Calendar. The Modified Calendar for Samuel Tucker Elementary School maintains the same calendar framework as the previously approved 2021-22 calendar.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the information. It is emphasized that calendars are subject to change due to impacts of the pandemic health situation.

IMPACT:

A two-year calendar allows the staff to make long-range plans for school programs, facilities projects and operational services. Likewise, families will be able to better schedule their family activities.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Working Draft of 2022-2023 Traditional Calendar—Version 1
2. Working Draft of 2022-2023 Traditional Calendar—Version 2

BOARD BRIEF

3. Working Draft of 2022-2023 Traditional Calendar—Version 3
4. Working Draft of 2022-2023 Modified Calendar

REFERENCE: None.

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