

**BOARD MEMO**

Date: November 7, 2019

For ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

For INFORMATION  x

Board Agenda: Yes  x

No \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** Mignon R. Anthony, Chief Operating Officer  
Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer  
Gerald R. Mann, Jr. Ed.D., Executive Director of Secondary Instruction

**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:** The High School Project: Update

**ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 4: Facilities and the Learning Environment

Goal 6: Effective and Efficient Operations

**SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:**

Focus Area 3: High School Project

**FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments

**SUMMARY:**

**Guidance Exercise Results:**

On October 24, 2019, the School Board engaged in a guidance exercise to explore and expand educational programming in the connected high school model. Below are the results of this exercise:

Expand:

- i. Alternative Education
- ii. Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- iii. STEAM and Humanities Interdisciplinary Approaches

Explore:

- i. Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- ii. Project-Based and Work-Based Learning

Abandon:

- i. International Baccalaureate (IB)

**Community Engagement Next Steps:**

Since the September 26, 2019, School Board vote, the High School project team held a community meeting on October 17, 2019, on the next steps, new high school building designing and constructing a timeline, and collecting community members' concerns.

During the current fiscal year, the project team will continue to engage ACPS students, teachers, community members, and business partners.

**BACKGROUND:**

The High School Project began in the summer of 2018 and has progressed steadily throughout the past year. On January 24, 2019, the School Board voted to continue high school project work with a focus on several priorities and a commitment to a multi-option evaluation process. The School Board Work Session on August 22, 2019, focused on the EDT's models of what a two high schools model or Connected High School Network could look like, and preliminary site analysis discussion. The School Board Work Session on September 19, 2019, focused on the detailed site analysis and cost comparison between two high schools model and Connected High School Network. On September 26, 2019, the School Board voted in favor of a Connected High School Network strategy to address Alexandria's future high school capacity needs that included the construction of a high school building (and associated site amenities) on the Minnie Howard campus for 1,600 students. On October 24, 2019, the School Board had a work session which listed Board members' priorities for exploring and expanding educational programming in the connected model.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review this memo as a means to stay current with project progress. The project team will respond to and accommodate inquiries from the Board on an as-needed basis.

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