

BOARD MEMO

Date: March 10, 2022
For ACTION ___
For INFORMATION x
Board Agenda: Yes x
No ___

FROM: Dr. Alicia Hart, PMP, Acting Chief of Facilities and Operations

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

TO: The Honorable Meagan Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: School Law Enforcement Partnership (SLEP) Advisory Group

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment

Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2021-2022 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

SUMMARY:

ACPS is establishing an advisory group, SLEP Advisory Group, to increase internal and external stakeholder involvement with the ACPS and Alexandria Police Department partnership. A summary of the draft plan is noted below; additional information can be found in the full SLEP Advisory Group plan (Attachment 1).

Purpose and Deliverables

The purpose of the SLEP Advisory Group is to provide additional guidance and insight into this school law enforcement partnership, to include the school resource officer (SRO) work program. The advisory group will support reimagining the ACPS/APD partnership in the following ways:

- (1) Supports ACPS's commitment to the safety and security of students and staff through the review of the partnership between ACPS and APD
- (2) Provides recommendations to the School Board (via Superintendent) on innovative approaches, areas for policy changes, or enhancements to reimagine the partnership
- (3) Promotes communication between parents, students, ACPS staff and administration, safety professionals, members of the School Board and City Council, and the community on the partnership with APD

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Composition of SLEP Advisory Group

The SLEP Advisory Group will be a 12-member group (evenly split between ACPS staff and non-ACPS staff), comprised of the following:

- 1) Security and Emergency Services Coordinator
- 2) Director of Safety and Security
- 3) Executive Director of Equity and Alternative Programs
- 4) Secondary Principal Representative
- 5) School Dean
- 6) Teacher Representative
- 7) Parent Partner
- 8) Community Representative
- 9) APD Representative
- 10) City Representative
- 11) Student Representative #1
- 12) Student Representative #2

The group will be led by an **external facilitator** to create an environment of neutrality within the process.

Subcommittees

In order to best organize the advisory group effort, it is recommended that the following subcommittees are formed from the selected advisory group members:

- (1) *Communication and Community Outreach Subcommittee*: The purpose of this subcommittee would be to develop a line of communication with students, staff and community that will promote awareness and education of the ACPS/APD partnership
- (2) *Research Subcommittee*: The purpose of this subcommittee would be to complete research of other nationwide school law enforcement partnerships in an effort to determine best practices and innovation as it relates to SLEP partnerships
- (3) *Memorandum of Understanding Subcommittee*: The purpose of this subcommittee would be to assist ACPS in completing a comprehensive review of the current Memorandum of Understanding between ACPS and APD to then make recommendations that will serve to promote an equitable, welcoming and safe learning environment for ACPS students.

Communication and Engagement with Internal and External Stakeholders

In addition to the SLEP Advisory Group, there will be engagement opportunities with both internal and external stakeholders through the use of focus groups including:

- (1) Internal Stakeholders
 - (a) Focus groups with teachers, staff and students
- (2) External Stakeholders
 - (a) Focus groups to include representatives from community organizations such as

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TWU, NAACP, DPC, and others

Facilitation of the focus groups and analysis will be conducted by an external partner.

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.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the creation of a SLEP Advisory Group.

IMPACT:

The creation of a SLEP Advisory Group will assist in increasing engagement and transparency around the school law enforcement partnership between ACPS and APD.

ATTACHMENTS:

- (1) SLEP Advisory Group Draft Plan
- (2) SLEP Advisory Group Presentation

CONTACT:

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