

BOARD BRIEF

Date: May 21, 2021

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: John Contreras, Director of Safety & Security Services

THROUGH: Dr. Alicia Hart, PMP, Executive Director of Facilities and Operations
Stephen M. Wilkins, Ed. D., Chief of Staff
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: Update - Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant Utilization

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation
Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Facilities Audit Implementation
Improving Customer Relationship Services and Management
Communications and Customer Service for Internal Stakeholders

SUMMARY:

This board brief provides an update on the use of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant funding awarded to Alexandria City Public Schools, by the Department of Justice. ACPS received the maximum COPS Office School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) award of \$500,000. Funds are available for use through Fall 2023 and will be utilized in the following project areas:

Visitor Management/Emergency Management Upgrades

The current visitor management system (VMS) is not ACPS owned. Safety & Security Services will replace the current visitor management system; after replacement the platform will be managed by Safety & Security Services. The more modern platform includes Visitor Management, Emergency Management, Volunteer Management, and provides new scanning hardware at each building location. The Visitor Management and Volunteer Management

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platforms provide much needed upgrades for each school location and for the Family and Community Engagement Center (FACE) team. Start-up costs are \$86,000 and annual recurring expenses are approximately \$55,000/year.

Security Camera Upgrades

Safety & Security Services will continue its security camera modernization strategy at several schools. The plan is outlined below:

- F.C. Hammond Security Camera Upgrades - Approximately \$134,000
- W. Ramsay - Approximately \$75,000
- Cora Kelly - Approximately \$75,000
- Lyles-Crouch - Approximately \$75,000

Next steps include follow-up updates as school projects are completed.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the COPS Grant utilization update.

IMPACT:

There will be a positive impact to overall safety and security operations with the implementation of this plan. The award of the COPS Grant funding allows Safety & Security Services to expand security management efforts. Additionally, Safety and Security Services can continue to utilize CIP funding for ACPS access control and other security camera upgrades for schools. Remaining schools that require camera modernization are Charles Barrett Elementary School, George Mason Elementary School, Mount Vernon Community School, and Samuel Tucker Elementary School.

In moving forward with the utilization of this grant funding, there are future budget implications to be considered. The matching funds requirement for this grant is \$125,000. Additionally, future-year funding and maintenance costs for the out-years of the VMS platforms and additional camera maintenance will need to be included in the Safety & Security Services operational budget to maintain the new infrastructure and progress made by these upgrades.

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A

CONTACT:

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