

BOARD MEMO

Date: December 5, 2019
For ACTION _____
For INFORMATION X
Board Agenda: Yes X
No _____

FROM: Stephen M. Wilkins, Ed.D., Chief Human Resources Officer

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: SY 2020-2021 Academic Calendars and Deferral of Draft SY 2021-2022 Calendars

ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

- Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity
- Goal 2: Family and Community Engagement
- Goal 3: An Exemplary Staff
- Goal 6: Effective and Efficient Operations

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:

- Focus Area 1: Educational Equity
- Focus Area 5: Strategic Plan

FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:

- Academics
- Communications and Customer Service for External Stakeholders
- Leadership and Professional Development
- Competitive Compensation
- Retention and Recruitment
- Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments
- Communications and Customer Service for Internal Stakeholders

SUMMARY: There are three proposals in this board session. First, the Superintendent recommends approval of the proposed 2020-2021 ACPS traditional and modified academic calendars. Second, the Superintendent proposes to study the draft of the 2021-2022 calendars in order to gather more information about a possible pre-Labor Day start in August 2021. The board will be presented with a recommended start date for approval in February 2020. Third, the staff proposes that the Board adopt a 2-year, calendar planning cycle.

BACKGROUND: In accordance with School Board policy IC/ID - School Year/School Day, “the School Board shall adopt the official school calendar for the following year no later than June 1 upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.” Additionally, in accordance with this policy an advisory committee composed of teachers, parents, and administrators will met on two separate dates to recommend a proposed calendar to the Superintendent.

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review and approve the SY 2020-2021 Academic Calendars.
2. The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the Calendar Committee to study the question of a pre-Labor Day start in August 2021 and develop a recommended start date. Present this recommendation to the Board in February 2020.
3. The Superintendent recommends that the School Board adjust policy to allow for a two-year calendar planning cycle to ease staff workload and provide long-term calendar planning for students and parents.

IMPACT: N/A

ATTACHMENTS (5):

- Attachment 1: PowerPoint Briefing
- Attachment 2: Calendar Survey Comments
- Attachment 3: 2020-2021 Traditional Calendar
- Attachment 4: 2020-2021 Modified Calendar

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