

BOARD BRIEF

Date: August 21, 2020

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Terri H. Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director of Instructional Support
Dr. Alicia Hart, PMP, Acting Executive Director of Facilities and Operations
Erika Gulick, Director, Capital Programs, Planning & Design

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 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA

Focus Area 3: High School Project

FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY

Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments

SUMMARY

As a part of a complex and collaborative effort to manage The High School Project (THSP), regular meetings of the core team continue during the COVID-19 closures. The items addressed at weekly meetings include site development issues, schedule and budget priorities, educational and building design programming requirements, coordinating with industry experts, and planning future community/stakeholder engagement events. This School Board Brief incorporates the summary of those areas and includes a copy of summaries of weekly meetings held from June 22, 2020, to August 10, 2020.

The team is transitioning from the planning phase to the design phase to maintain an opening date of September 2024 for the T.C. Williams High School expansion campus at Minnie Howard.

Development Planning

Staff and city partners are coordinating all planning and development activities. Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) educational program will remain a priority for all planning and design as colocation is considered on the Minnie Howard Campus.

The colocation options being analyzed to determine feasibility for the Minnie Howard Campus, include:

- *Alexandria City Health Department*
 - Teen Wellness Center
- *Department of Community and Human Services*
 - Outreach for Benefit Programs
 - Workforce Development in Schools
 - Youth Development (YD)
 - Children and Youth Master Plan (CYMP)

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- Early Childhood Learning Center
- Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault
- Child and Family Behavioral Health Services (CFBHS)
- *Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities*
 - Shared use of fields, gymnasium and pool
- *Office of Housing - (Potential Option)*
 - Affordable Housing

Proposals for the Architect and Engineer (A&E) Services for the redevelopment of the Minnie Howard campus were received on August 12, 2020, and are now in the process of being evaluated. The project team anticipates awarding the Architect and Engineer (A&E) Services contract no later than October 31, 2020, after School Board vetting and approval. The current schedule requires the School Board to decide whether to include affordable housing in the architect's design scope by December 15, 2020, in order to deliver a school building for use in September 2024. If the School Board would like to exercise the option to have the architect conduct preliminary test fits of the school program, fields, and affordable housing to inform the December 15, 2020, decision, ACPS needs to know this when we award the A&E contract (no later than October 31, 2020).

Community Engagement on the High School Project

The project team is proposing to host several virtual events this fall to bring the community up to date on the project and inform them of the colocation opportunities being considered for the Minnie Howard site. This engagement will include requests for feedback from the community on colocation.

Educational Design Team (EDT)

The EDT reconvened on August 12, 2020. At this meeting, members received an update on The High School Project's progress since March. Staff has attached the presentation from the EDT meeting with this brief. Beginning in September, the team anticipates EDT to resume the effort to refine the educational programming in an effort to inform the interior and exterior spaces to complete the site-specific educational specifications.

Displaced Fields During Construction

ACPS continues to collaborate with our city partners to develop viable strategies for alternative field usage when the Minnie Howard fields will be temporarily closed when construction begins in Spring 2022 until the Summer of 2025 due to construction of the new school building and the redevelopment of replacement fields. These options will be a part of the FY 2022 budget proposal, and the community will be engaged prior to any final decisions.

BACKGROUND

The High School Project began in the summer of 2018 and has progressed steadily throughout the past two years. 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 an expansion to the T.C. Williams High School at the Minnie Howard Campus.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the attached materials to remain current with project progress.

IMPACT

The aforementioned activities and milestones continue to support the progress of the High School Project.

ATTACHMENT

1. 200821_Att1_HSP_June_22_to_August_10_Meeting_Summaries

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2. 200821_Att2_HSP_EDT_August_12_Meeting_Presentation

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