

## BOARD MEMO

Date: September 26, 2019

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

**FROM:** Mignon Anthony, Chief Operating Officer  
Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic 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:** 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:**

After over a year of engagement, analysis and planning, the School Board is being asked to vote on:

- The selection of one high school (connected high school network) or two high school model
- The sites to be pursued based on the selected model

As a reminder, the options for the sites for each model include:

Two High Schools Model

- 1,600 students at Minnie Howard
- 1,600 students at George Washington, fields at Minnie Howard
- 1,600 students at Francis C. Hammond, fields at Minnie Howard

Connected High School Network

- Option 1: King Street 400 Students, Minnie Howard 1200 Students
- Option 2: Minnie Howard 1,600 Students
- Option 3: Minnie Howard 1,200 Students, Potomac Yard 400 Students

The School Board will also provide feedback during an October 24, 2019 worksession on the Educational Design Team's educational programming approaches, and progress to that point as the educational specifications are developed.

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### Community Engagement and Updated Analysis

The High School project team has continued to conduct stakeholder and community engagement activities and to refine the analysis that supports the draft *Alexandria City Public Schools, The High School project Educational Programming and Site Analysis* report that was submitted to the School Board on August 16, 2019. An attachment of the engagement activities that have been conducted since the release of the report, as well as an updated report and analysis requested are attached.

In addition, there were some follow-up items requested in the September 19, 2019 work session. Responses to these requests are also attached.

### **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. On August 22, 2019, the School Board had a work session which focused on the Educational Design Team's models of what a two high schools model or connected high school network could look like, as well as a preliminary discussion on the site analysis. The September 19, 2019 the School Board had a work session focused on the detailed site analysis and cost comparison between two high schools model and connected high school network.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends the School Board review all of the attachments in preparation for the September 26, 2019 vote. As discussed at the September 5th work session, the School Board will not vote on the educational programming; however, the School Board vote at the September 26th meeting will include:

- The selection of one high school (connected high school network) or two high school model
- The sites to be pursued based on the selected model

### **IMPACT:**

The School Board vote will allow the project to progress on both the educational design and facility design and construction side in either model selected. Specifically, the programming work will continue as follows:

- The educational design will progress to incorporate the model selected and inform the development of the educational specifications.
- The Industry Advisory Boards will be on-boarded to give direction to Curriculum and Instruction as well as school-based staff to evolve the programming in either model.

The facility design and construction work will continue as follows:

- Staff anticipates moving towards a design procurement within 3 months of the vote.
- Staff will work with curriculum to evolve the program to develop educational specifications to inform the design of the new facility.

Specific to the work required based on the model selected includes the following:

A vote for two high schools will require the following next steps fairly promptly, most of which will need to be led by the School Board with staff support:

1. A determination on student assignment methodology
2. Pursuing branding of a new high school

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3. Pursuing redistricting and student assignment community process
4. Developing and adopting grandfathering and implementation policies
5. Adoption of two program of studies in implementation year
6. A re-allocation of staff to new space and school for implementation year

A vote for one high school or connected high school network will require the following next steps fairly promptly, most of which can be done by staff or come as a recommendation from staff to the School Board:

1. A determination of how the schedule will work for students
2. A determination of what programming and types of space will be built in the new space
3. A re-allocation of staff to new space for implementation year

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1 – Updated The High School Project: Educational Programming and Site Analysis

Attachment 2 – September 19, 2019 Work Session School Board Questions & Answers

Attachment 3 – August and September Community Engagement Activities

**CONTACT:** Mignon Anthony, [mignon.anthony@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:mignon.anthony@acps.k12.va.us)  
Terri Mozingo, [terri.mozingo@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:terri.mozingo@acps.k12.va.us)