

BOARD MEMO

Date: March 3, 2021

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION x

Board Agenda: Yes x

No _____

FROM: Erika Gulick, Director of Capital Programs, Planning and Design
Gerald Mann, Ed.D., Executive Director of Instructional Support

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

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

TOPIC: Work Session: Comprehensive Program / Educational Specification Document
Draft

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Facilities Audit Implementation

Outreach to Underserved Communities to Increase Engagement

Improving Customer Relationship Services and Management

SUMMARY:

Comprehensive Program / Educational Specification Presentation:

The Perkins Eastman team has drafted a Comprehensive Program / Educational Specifications (Ed Spec) document that details a plan based on providing flexible spaces to a Connected High School Network. Based on recommendations from the Educational Design Team, School Board Priorities, and programming needs, the Ed Spec document presents a series of overarching themes with key features that have been identified by the EDT and the Perkins Eastman design team as essential to the organization and design of the Connected High School Network.

The document considers both the King Street and Minnie Howard campuses in how they will be organized and function as a connected network, while focusing on the new development requirements at the Minnie Howard campus. The March 3, 2021 work session will include a

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presentation based on comments made by ACPS leadership, staff and students who have reviewed the document.

The School Board is being asked to approve the full Comprehensive Program / Ed Spec document, which includes proposed capacity, an associated list of spaces and budget requirements at its March 4, 2021 Board Meeting.

BACKGROUND:

The High School Project began in the summer of 2018 and has progressed steadily throughout the past two and a half years. On January 24, 2019, the School Board voted to continue The High School Project work with a focus on several priorities and a commitment to a multi-option evaluation process. 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 by building on the fields portion of the Minnie Howard Campus. After over a year of planning work, ACPS hired Perkins Eastman in December 2020, to execute the pre-design and design for the redevelopment of the Minnie Howard Campus.

On January 21, 2021, the project team presented the preliminary analyses/test fits of the school program, fields, and affordable housing to help inform the School Board's decision-making. The preliminary analysis confirmed that it is physically possible to accommodate a school building for a minimum 1,600 students at one time, provide no net loss of fields and public open space, and accommodate all colocated uses currently under consideration including either affordable housing or ACPS/City office use. The work session included a discussion of possible trade offs related to land use and budget.

On February 4, 2021, the School Board voted unanimously to exclude affordable housing as a colocation option on the Minnie Howard campus. Other potential colocation opportunities are being explored.

In February 2021, the project team received the first draft of the Ed Spec document from Perkins Eastman. The EdSpec document includes site-specific recommendations for the Minnie Howard Campus including proposed capacity, an associated list of spaces and budget requirements. A presentation of the main highlights in the EdSpec was presented at the February 18, 2021 School Board meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the presentation and attachments in order to be prepared to make decisions regarding approval of the full Ed Spec document which encompasses proposed capacity, an associated list of spaces and budget requirements.

IMPACT:

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

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School Project, and approval of the Ed Spec document will allow the project to move forward.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 - Presentation

Attachment 2 - Staff and Student Feedback

REFERENCES:

[210219 ATT 1 HSP DRAFT Comprehensive Program Ed Spec v1](#)

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