

**BOARD MEMO**

Date: December 19, 2019

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

**FROM:** Mignon R. Anthony, Chief Operating Officer  
Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer  
Gerald R. Mann, Jr. Ed.D., Executive Director of Secondary Instruction

**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:**

Since the last School Board meeting, the Educational Design Team held its second meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Minnie Howard Campus. The meeting focused on highlighting the spaces and educational methodologies used by various school districts to redesign their high schools.

***Education Research Panel:***

The staff is currently finalizing plans to host two major events with esteemed educational research professionals on January 8, 2020, at T.C. Williams High School. These experts in education have experience and first-hand knowledge of the best ways to redesign high school programs. The research professionals will work with the Educational Design Team (EDT) and meet with ACPS staff and our larger community. These events will provide an opportunity for ACPS to be inspired by and learn from experts on evidence-based practices that will advance our thinking on what is possible when developing an educational programming model to meet the needs of our diverse learners. In addition, each researcher's specialty aligns with the

## BOARD MEMO

Virginia Profile of a Graduate. The research panel will engage the EDT in a workshop setting; the experts will also participate in a 90-minute panel that will be held for ACPS staff and the wider Alexandria community.

During the workshop and panel these educational researchers will:

- Share their deep understanding of evidence-based practices to support success for all students
- Enhance EDT's thinking and understanding of innovative high school programs

After January 8, 2020, these experts will:

- Be available to answer EDT's questions throughout the design process
- Review the final programming and provide recommendations

The panel will help the EDT develop a vision of how we educate our students. This vision, created by the EDT, will inform the development of site-specific educational specifications that extend and connect the programs of T.C. Williams High School with the Minnie Howard site.

### **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 The 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 that focused on the EDT'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 School Board Work Session on September 19, 2019, focused on the detailed site analysis and cost comparison between two high schools model and Connected High School Network. 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 a high school building (and associated site amenities) on the Minnie Howard campus for 1,600 students.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends the School Board attend the January 8 panel discussion to stay current with project progress. The project team will respond to and accommodate inquiries from the Board on an as-needed basis.

### **IMPACT:**

Advances The High School Project 2019-2020 significant activities and milestones.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

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