

BOARD BRIEF

Date: June 26, 2020

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Terri H. Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director of Secondary Instruction
Dr. Alicia Hart, 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 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

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, educational and building design programming, coordinating with industry experts, and planning for future community/stakeholder engagement. This board brief incorporates the summary of those areas and includes a copy of summaries of weekly meetings held from May 4, 2020, to June 15, 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

Throughout discussions on the Alexandria City budget reductions, project approach, and the associated timeframes for each, the project team advised the Superintendent that, at this point, a September 2024 opening is still achievable.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for Architect and Engineer (A&E) Services for the redevelopment of the Minnie Howard Campus will be published on June 26, 2020. The design procurement will include an optional pre-proposal conference and a period for questions and answers. Proposals are due by July 31, 2020. It is anticipated that the A&E Services contract will be awarded after School Board vetting and approval. The link to the ACPS Procurement and General Services webpage where the A/E RFP will be published is: <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/495>

The hired design firm will work with Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) to finalize the list of spaces and uses required for the school and any colocated city services, as well as the site-specific Educational Specifications (Ed Specs). The scope of work includes an option to develop a comprehensive feasibility

BOARD BRIEF

study that would include an analysis to inform the viability of collocating affordable housing on the site. A pre-construction partner will be engaged by early 2021 to ensure cost estimates and constructability reviews are incorporated into the design development process.

Displaced Fields During Construction

It is currently assumed that the redevelopment of the Minnie Howard site requires eliminating the current athletic fields during construction. Collaboration continues with our city partners on viable strategies to determine where usage of the fields currently at Minnie Howard will be temporarily moved. Options will be considered and included during the development of the FY 2022 Budget. The community will be engaged before these decisions are finalized.

Industry Advisory Boards (IABs)

The High School Project team held a virtual meeting with the Industry Advisory Boards (IAB) Chairs on June 18, 2020. The current Education and Human Services IAB chair, Ms. Kate Garvey, confirmed that her current duties and increased responsibilities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic would not allow her to continue as IAB chair. Daniel Mekibib, Director of Alexandria Workforce Development Center, has accepted the invitation to serve as her replacement. Ms. Garvey will continue to serve as a member of the Education and Human Services IAB. The HSP Team anticipates ACPS will benefit from the IAB's experiences gained from the workplace and industry approaches spurred by COVID-19.

Educational Design Team (EDT)

Staff is planning for the EDT to reconvene this summer to begin applying innovative approaches for instructional delivery in support of the Connected High School Network model. New and aggressive thinking in instructional delivery spurred on by COVID-19 and technology solutions will certainly be considered along with adaptive spaces to address continued capacity and increased enrollment projections for the school.

Community Engagement on the High School Project

Staff is currently exploring the best ways and the most strategic times to engage the community through virtual means, with an eventual return to in-person meetings when approved.

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 to 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 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

High School Project Meeting Summaries for May 4 through June 15, 2020

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