

**BOARD MEMO**

Date: May 18, 2023

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

**FROM:** Matt Smith, Policy Services Consultant

**THROUGH:** Melanie Kay-Wyatt Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools

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

**TOPIC:** Discussion of possible staggered terms for Board members

**ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation

Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

**FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Implementation of the 2025 Strategic Plan

**SUMMARY:**

The Board has decided to discuss the possibility of staggering Board member terms and/or increasing the terms to 4 years. The topic was discussed at a Work Session on February 13, 2023, a Public Hearing was conducted on April 20, 2023, and a survey was conducted from April 12-26, 2023.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

There was one public speaker who spoke favorably for staggering terms. The survey results had the following findings and considerations.

**Findings**

- 74% agree or strongly agree that staggering terms would improve continuity of operations
- 67% agree or strongly agree that aligning elections with federal-and state-level elections is beneficial to the community
- 52% agree that both district and at-large members could sufficiently represent Alexandria residents
- No other indicator is over 50% of agreement or disagreement

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### Considerations

- The results may not fully represent the opinions of Alexandria residents and ACPS staff
  - Low response rate (N=450)
  - Response demographics do not represent Alexandria demographics
    - 64% of respondents were White, 7% were Black, and 4% were Hispanic
- The data shows a disproportionate number of Strongly Disagrees for any changes

### BACKGROUND:

This topic was previously discussed at the following meeting, the materials are available on ESB.

- [February 13, 2023](#)
- [December 13, 2022](#)
- [November 14, 2019](#)
- [June 10, 2019](#)
- [June 21, 2018](#)
- [May 31, 2018](#)
- [April 26, 2018](#)

### RECOMMENDATION:

The Interim Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the referenced documents.

### IMPACT:

By periodically reviewing ideas such as staggered terms, the Board ensures they are continuing to function in a manner that best supports the residents of Alexandria.

### ATTACHMENTS:

1. 230518\_Presentation\_Staggered\_Terms.pdf
2. 230518\_Staggered\_Terms\_Survey\_Results.pdf
3. 230518\_2021\_2025CountySchoolBoardRev12\_4\_19.pdf
4. 230518\_CitySB20-24-May-and-November.pdf
5. 230518\_Superintendent Tenure and Election Comparison.pdf

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