

BOARD BRIEF

Date: May 21, 2021

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: John Contreras, Director of Safety and Security Services
Dr. Alicia Hart, PMP, Executive Director of Facilities and Operations

THROUGH: Stephen M. Wilkins, Ed. D., Chief of Staff
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: Environmental Safety Programs Update

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation
Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Facilities Audit Implementation
Improving Customer Relationship Services and Management
Communications and Customer Service for Internal Stakeholders

SUMMARY:

This board brief provides an update on the various environmental safety programs within Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS).

Water Quality Management

In compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (SWDA), the Office of Safety & Security Services tests drinking water annually for lead and copper contaminants. Given the mitigation work that has been completed since initial testing in December 2019 in all school buildings, ACPS has qualified for a three-year re-sampling schedule. This means ACPS will target at least eight (8) buildings per year for water sampling, while also conducting random sampling throughout ACPS' other buildings. This year's water sampling will begin in early June, allowing for any remediation steps to occur by August 2021.

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Legionella Management

In advance of the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) recommendation for prevention of Legionnaires' disease, ACPS is planning to begin the necessary testing to create baseline information for each facility. The testing will be completed by our environmental consultant. Once testing is completed, the baseline information will be used to identify any potential sources of excessive legionella growth and/or potential distribution points of legionella within our facilities. Additionally, the baseline information will allow us to monitor any significant changes in legionella activity within schools. This multi-step water management program will require continuous review and participation from several Facilities and Operations offices to include Safety and Security Services, Educational Facilities and Maintenance and Custodial Services. The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is expected to release recommendations for schools on July 1, 2021.

Legionella Management may include:

- Identification of areas where Legionella could grow and spread
- Decisions regarding what areas require control measures and monitoring frequency
- Prevention of water stagnation
- Ensuring building systems are operating as designed, and intervene when control limits are not met
- Documentation and communication of all activities

Indoor Air Quality Management

The Department of Facilities and Operations (F&O) is taking steps to standardize and strengthen its Indoor Air Quality Management (IAQ) program. The Office of Safety and Security Services is currently working with F&O departmental stakeholders and our environmental contractor to update existing processes and procedures, encourage a proactive approach to IAQ management and reiterate guidance when problem areas are suspected/found. Preventative measures will also be outlined, to include how actions of building stakeholders help contribute to a negative or positive IAQ environment.

Indoor Air Quality Management (IAQ) may include:

- Identification and mitigation of identified sources contributing to unfavorable air quality
- Proactive and frequent sharing of information between operational offices, building leadership and the community
- Creation of reporting and tracking methodologies in multiple areas (including Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), Radon and Water Quality).
- Develop and update existing policies as applicable
- Information, education and training on how building occupants can directly assist with IAQ improvement

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)

The Office of Safety and Security Services is currently working with F&O departmental stakeholders and our environmental contractor to complete the three-year AHERA re-inspection and update for the AHERA Management Plan. Based on initial review, six buildings

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will require an initial AHERA survey, and the remaining buildings will have re-inspections completed.

AHERA surveys/inspections include:

- Collection of bulk samples of friable and non-friable materials for laboratory testing
- Sample testing of thermals system and surfacing materials (e.g., pipe insulation, wall plaster, fireproofing, textured coatings, etc.)
- Individual reports for each building

Next steps include updates to all respective stakeholders as programs are implemented. Results of all associated testing will be shared with stakeholders, as well as any mitigation measures that are recommended based on test results.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Facilities and Operations, specifically the Office of Safety and Security Services, is responsible for the management, oversight and implementation of specific environmental compliance programs for the school division.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the Environmental Safety Program Update.

IMPACT:

Proactive management of environmental safety programs helps ensure safe facility environments for students, staff and community members.

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A

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