

BOARD MEMO

Date: January 9, 2020
For ACTION _____
For INFORMATION x
Board Agenda: Yes x
No _____

FROM: Erika Gulick, Senior Planner

THROUGH: Mignon Anthony, Chief Operating Officer
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Douglas MacArthur Project and Taney Avenue Swing Space Update

ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 4: Facilities and the Learning Environment

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 4: Douglas MacArthur Swing Space

FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Safe Schools for Students and Faculty
Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments

SUMMARY:

This is an update on the Douglas MacArthur at Taney Avenue (Swing Space) discussion as well as the Douglas MacArthur new build projects. Both projects are currently on schedule; please see the below timeline for key milestones.

Douglas MacArthur at Taney Ave

Interior Renovation: Expected Completion: May 2020

Following the School Board's approval of the interior renovation contract for the swing space on December 19, ACPS is beginning work in the building over Winter Break and will continue through the spring.

Exterior Renovation: Expected Completion – June 2020

ACPS is working through the final site plan approval process with City staff. Following Final Site Plan approval, ACPS will procure the site upgrades, including the parking, playgrounds and site access upgrades. The School Board will likely need to approve this contract in late winter.

At the earliest available time, staff will be coordinating a tour in the spring for Douglas MacArthur staff to visit the swing space as well as the Advisory Group and, eventually, an open house for Douglas MacArthur families.

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New Douglas MacArthur

Concept Design: Current

DLR Group has developed 5 preliminary concepts for the Douglas MacArthur site and has had one Advisory Group Meeting and one community meeting thus far to receive feedback on the concepts. To see the latest project updates including the presentation with concepts, please visit the webpage [here](#). The architects are currently refining the concepts with comments received and will be having another Advisory Group meeting on January 13, 2020, and community meeting, on January 15, 2020. Both meetings will be held in the Douglas MacArthur library.

On January 23, 2020, the School Board will be presented the concept option(s), between 1-3 total, with feedback from the community, staff and advisory group, to consider.

The School Board will be asked to vote on a concept to move forward through design on February 6, 2020. The decision will impact the general layout of the site; however, design will continue to be developed and refined through the spring and finalized before summer break.

ACPS plans to take the final design to City Council for approval in early fall 2020.

Skanska has been brought on as the construction management firm for pre-construction services and will be developing cost and constructability evaluations for the design.

BACKGROUND:

Following a decision by the School Board on April 4, 2019 to use the old Patrick Henry building as swing space to advance the Douglas MacArthur Elementary School modernization, ACPS began pursuing the Douglas MacArthur project and has developed concepts for the new building and shared them with the community.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board stay informed about the project.

IMPACT:

This project is in pursuit of the SY2019-2020 Focus Area 4: Douglas MacArthur Swing Space.

ATTACHMENTS: None

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