

BOARD MEMO

Date: 09/21/2023

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION **X**

FROM: Alexander Duncan, Executive Principal, Alexandria City High School
Carmen Sanders, M.S., Executive Director of Instructional Support

THROUGH: Pierrette Finney, Ed.D, Chief Academic Officer
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Michelle Rief, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: The High School Project Update

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

- Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
- Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support
- Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation
- Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2023-2024 PRIORITY AREA:

- The High School Project
- Student Supports
- Student Connection and Attendance

FY 2024 BUDGET PRIORITY:

- Reduce Class Sizes
- Target Chronic Absenteeism
- Restorative Practices Supports
- Increase Support for Social and Emotional Learning

SUMMARY:

There has been continued work regarding educational programming of the The High School Project (THSP) in collaboration with The Learner-Centered Collaborative as consultants. There have been working groups meeting and recommendations moved forward to the Superintendent and Executive Leadership Cabinet for approval. The approval of these recommendations will shape further planning and support communication and engagement efforts with stakeholders about THSP.

DETAILS:

Since the School Board work session on May 4, 2023, THSP team has engaged with students, staff, families, and school-based and division leadership. Department of Teaching, Learning and Leadership and Department of School and Community Relations accompanied The

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Learner-Centered Collaborative team as they conducted focus groups and listening tours with students, school-based staff, division level staff and leadership, Superintendent's Cabinet, and families during the months of May (16 & 17) and June (12 & 13).

In June, The Learner-Centered Collaborative facilitated the first Guiding Coalition meeting, where the team developed draft versions of the ACPS Learner Profile and Learning Model with competency descriptors. An internal project plan was developed, along with the four working groups: educational programming, student experience, communication and engagement, and operations.

The planning and decision-making process starts with the four working groups. Once the recommendation(s) is developed and the groups reach consensus on the details, they are shared with the Guiding Coalition. The Guiding Coalition provides feedback on the recommendation(s) prior to being shared with the Superintendent and Executive Leadership Cabinet. Additional feedback and approval process comes at level three.

The recommendations that were approved were connected to the educational programming and communications and engagement work groups. The topics of the approved recommendations are: smaller learning communities, Program of Studies, master schedule, ACHS branding kit, and THSP communication plan. Working groups will reconvene and move forward more recommendations the last week of September. There will be more information and updates shared about THSP in subsequent School Board presentations.

BACKGROUND:

The High School Project Team (THSPT) continues to plan for the educational experience of students at Alexandria City High School (ACHS) with core values and drivers of instructional excellence, equity, student achievement and growth, and multiple pathways that prepare students for college, career, and civic life.

The THSPT has contracted with The Learning-Centered Collaborative to continue the work that is needed to prepare for the opening of the new Minnie Howard Campus and the impact on other campuses in the Connected Network. There has been a review of completed work from the Educational Design Team and it will inform the path forward to developing an action plan. The educational programming planning will include:

- Development of Learner Profile & Learning Model aligned with Profile of a Virginia Graduate and Curricular Framework Standards;
- Development of learning pathways;
- Revision of the ACPS Program of Studies;
- Student placement based on learning pathways;
- Master schedule development;
- Staff professional development; and
- Ongoing executive coaching for current administration.

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RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information in this memo and attached presentation about The High School Project.

IMPACT:

Reviewing the status update will align the School Board's understanding of the progress of the High School Project Team and the priority areas of work as planning continues.

ATTACHMENTS: (if there are none, write "None")

1. 230921_Board_Presentation_The_High_School_Project_Update.pptx

REFERENCES:

May 4, 2023- The High School Project Team Update

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