

BOARD BRIEF

February 4, 2022

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Kathy Mimberg, Executive Director of Communications
Claire Going, Media Relations Specialist

THROUGH: Julia Burgos, Chief of School and Community Relations
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: Superintendent's Podcast - *Unapologetic Talk with the Supe*

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

SY 2021-2022 FOCUS AREA:

Strategic Plan Implementation

SUMMARY:

The Office of Communications is preparing to launch a podcast hosted by Superintendent Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., titled *Unapologetic Talk With the Supe*. The podcast will launch the week of Feb. 7, 2022. The podcast is part of the new activities outlined in the [2021-25 ACPS Strategic Communications & Community Engagement Plan](#), as shared in a Dec. 17, 2021 Board Brief.

The podcast will provide the opportunity for the superintendent's voice to be heard on issues related to ACPS' anti-racist journey to fulfill the mission of the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) 2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All. It also serves as a platform to bring to the ACPS community thought leaders on antiracism and educational equity for all via engaging and compelling discussions with diverse voices and current issues.

Each month, a new episode of the podcast will be posted on a [new ACPS web page](#), with each roughly half-hour episode featuring a guest being interviewed by Dr. Hutchings. The podcast can be easily accessed via our website and listened to at no cost on the Soundcloud platform.

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BACKGROUND:

The 2021-25 ACPS Strategic Communications & Community Engagement Plan identifies as a core opportunity the facilitation for stakeholders—especially our historically underrepresented populations—to engage with ACPS on division-wide issues that are important for all students and the future of the school division. With racial equity at the center of every decision our school division makes, this podcast aims to explore the underlying issues in education that play a role in the social, emotional and academic learning of ACPS' most vulnerable students.

Unapologetic Talk with the Supe will center on conversations addressing the barriers to learning that come from systemic racism as well as ideas for how educators can work to empower all students to thrive in a diverse and ever-changing world. Dr. Hutchings will host leading advocates for racial equity including recent guests such as thought leader and author Mary-Frances Winters and civil rights activist Joan Trumpauer Mulholland. Together, the superintendent and his guests will unpack the history, challenges and opportunities that guide us towards an antiracist society and racial equity in education.

A new episode of the podcast will be posted online during the third week of each month and will be shared via outreach on established communication channels including the *ACPS Express* and *Insider* newsletters, and social media to help further the dialogue on racial equity within the ACPS community. Target audiences include families, staff, community members, educational leaders, students and aspiring educators.

RECOMMENDATION:

The superintendent recommends that the School Board review this brief to become familiar with the plan for the podcast that aligns with the school division's goals and contributes to the ACPS Strategic Plan 2025. [Please view the podcast webpage on the ACPS website](#) to listen to the first episode, recorded on Jan. 10, 2022 with guest Mary-Frances Winters.

IMPACT:

The podcast will serve to address timely issues of racial equity in education as part of our ongoing anti-racism conversations and work within our school community, helping to foster understanding of learning barriers and furthering community engagement goals as outlined in the Department of School and Community Relations plan: ensuring staff, families, students and the community have timely access to information and engagement opportunities, feel welcome and supported, and have confidence in ACPS so that students are empowered to thrive in a diverse and ever-changing world.

CONTACT:

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