

BOARD BRIEF

Date: October 25, 2019

For **INFORMATION**: X

Upcoming Board Agenda:

Yes

No X

Agenda Date:

FROM: Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: Updates to the Strategic Planning Process

ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 6: Effective and Efficient Operations

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 1: Educational Equity

Focus Area 5: Strategic Plan

FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Specialized Instruction

English Learner Services

Gap Group Achievements

Academics

Leadership and Professional Development

Retention and Recruitment

Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments

Mental and Social/Emotional Health

SUMMARY:

This Board Brief provides an update to recent and future activities involving the division's current strategic planning process. Board members have worked with FourPoint Education Partners to revise the division's vision, mission, and core values. A final draft of the revised vision, mission, and core values is attached.

FourPoint has also recently conducted a needs assessment across the organization involving a multitude of stakeholders to inform future strategic planning work. At the October 23rd Strategic Planning Committee, initial findings from the needs assessment were discussed. These initial findings are provided in the attached PowerPoint and the final report will be provided to the Board and the committee in the coming weeks.

BOARD BRIEF

BACKGROUND:

The ACPS School Board held two sessions with FourPoint Education Partners to provide feedback on the division's current vision, mission, and core values and on proposed revisions. The initial drafts were also shared with senior leadership, principals, and assistant principals for feedback. Final drafts of the revised vision, mission, and core values are attached. These core tenets will serve as the foundation on which subsequent strategic planning work will be built.

FourPoint conducted a needs assessment consisting of extant data and document analysis, 175 classroom walk-throughs, 15 focus groups with 105 participants, 6 focus groups with 38 secondary students, and interviews with school leaders, division leaders, and city officials, to inform the strategic planning process. Intentional outreach efforts were made in seeking diverse perspectives, especially from historically underrepresented groups. The needs assessment examined six domains: finance, governance, school improvement, instructional delivery, college, career, and life readiness, and community voice.

Preliminary findings, as presented in the attached PowerPoint, were discussed with the Strategic Planning Committee at their third meeting on October 23rd at Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 IB School. The Strategic Planning Committee members had a chance to react to initial findings in discussion groups and provide feedback on recommendations. This information will be used to inform the final needs assessment report as well as serve as a launching point for work groups around key areas. The final needs assessment report will be provided to both the School Board and the Strategic Planning Committee once finalized in the coming weeks.

The next Strategic Planning Committee meeting will take place on December 11th. In advance of the meeting, work groups will be established based on interest and expertise as related to key goal areas. At the meeting, work groups will begin defining high-level objectives, identifying big picture measures, and discussing potential key performance indicators.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review this Brief, along with the included attachments, to remain informed on the current strategic planning work taking place within the division.

IMPACT:

The division remains on target to have a draft strategic plan to be presented to the Board in the spring and finalized by April 2020.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Final Draft - Vision, Mission, and Core Values
2. Strategic Planning Needs Assessment PowerPoint

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