

Date: April 25, 2019
For ACTION: _____
For INFORMATION: X
Board Agenda: Yes X
No _____

FROM: Mignon R. Anthony, Chief Operating Officer
Terri H. Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director of Secondary Instruction
Sarah Whelan, Social Studies Instructional Specialist
Erika Gulick, Senior Planner

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: The High School Project Update

BACKGROUND

On February 21, 2019, staff outlined a work plan to address the comparative analysis of the second comprehensive high school, and identify a program and site approach for the Connected High School Network, while aligning all work with the School Board’s priorities including all elements outlined in the January 24, 2019, motion and amendment as amended on March 21, 2019. As indicated in the meeting on February 21, 2019, this meeting is an update to define the criteria and goals for the programming design and site selection.

SUMMARY

Work on the High School Project going forward will continue with two main focuses – defining the programming and defining the construction/site requirements.

Educational Programming

Recent federal and state guidance indicates that promoting real-world experiences, personalized learning matching student interests, and multiple opportunities should be key elements in redefining the high school experience. Work to date on the High School Project has come to the same conclusions through extensive engagement with students and educational leaders and culminating in the ACPS Educational Vision: Community Connected, Diversity as a Strength, and Experiential Learning.

This guidance will be used to inform the work of the Educational Design Team (EDT) as they analyze the existing and create new programming for the Connected High School Network (CHSN). The EDT will be comprised of 11-15 members from ACPS staff and will be responsible for developing the programming for the CHSN. The EDT will be responsible for identifying a working group of their colleagues to execute this work. Industry Advisory Boards (IABs) will be formed and made up of business, government, higher education, and non-profit leaders. IABs will make recommendations and provide support to the EDT as partners in creating a successful student body.

Capacity/Construction Requirements

Much of the work done by the EDT will inform the space needs for the CHSN. As a starting point, planning assumptions being used to identify capacity needed for both the CHSN and two high school options are outlined in the presentation for a total need to support 5,000 students in the future.

Per the School Board's request to begin analyzing the Minnie Howard site as soon as possible, staff is currently working with the City's Planning & Zoning and Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Department to establish the parameters for modernizing the Minnie Howard campus. ACPS has also engaged Savills to analyze other properties in Alexandria, which could fit a comprehensive high school building and associated athletic fields and/or parts of the Connected High School Network. Staff will use the total student requirement of 5,000 as a planning number for both options.

For more information, please visit the high school project webpage at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/hsproject>.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the attached presentation and provide feedback to staff.

CONTACT PERSON

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