

BOARD MEMO

Date: January 9, 2020

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

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

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

ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 4: Facilities and the Learning Environment

Goal 6: Effective and Efficient Operations

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 3: High School Project

FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments

SUMMARY:

Since the last School Board meeting, staff finalized the logistics for the Educational Research Panel planned for on January 8, 2020. The research panel will engage the Educational Design Team (EDT) in a workshop setting. The experts will also participate in a 90-minute panel that will be held for ACPS staff and the wider Alexandria community.

The EDT held a meeting on December 18, 2019, at the T.C. Williams High School King Street Campus. This meeting focused on the existing conditions in current spaces and T.C. Williams' educational programming needs. During the meeting, EDT members collected questions for the research experts to answer during the panel discussion.

Consistent with the School Board's direction for the project, during the workshop and panel the educational researchers will:

- Share their deep understanding of evidence-based practices to support success for all

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students; and

- Enhance EDT's thinking and understanding of innovative high school programs.

The research experts will be available to answer EDT's questions throughout the design process, review EDT's final programming, and provide recommendations. The panel will help the EDT develop a vision of how we educate our students. This vision, created by the EDT, will inform the development of site-specific educational specifications that extend and connect the programs of T.C. Williams High School with the Minnie Howard site. Further information about the panelists is located on the website: <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/2738>

Industry Advisory Boards (IAB):

The project team continues to support and work the IAB chairs and co-chairs as they continue their recruitment efforts.

BACKGROUND:

The High School Project began in the summer of 2018 and has progressed steadily throughout the past year. On January 24, 2019, the School Board voted to continue The High School Project work with a focus on several priorities and a commitment to a multi-option evaluation process. On August 22, 2019, the School Board had a work session that focused on the EDT's models of what a two high schools model or Connected High School Network could look like, as well as a preliminary discussion on the site analysis. The School Board Work Session on September 19, 2019, focused on the detailed site analysis and cost comparison between two high schools model and Connected High School Network. On September 26, 2019, the School Board voted in favor of a Connected High School Network strategy to address Alexandria's future high school capacity needs that included the construction of a high school building (and associated site amenities) on the Minnie Howard campus for 1,600 students.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the School Board attend the January 8 panel discussion to stay current with project progress. The project team will respond to and accommodate inquiries from the Board on an as-needed basis.

IMPACT:

Advances The High School Project 2019-2020 significant activities and milestones.

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