

**BOARD MEMO**

Date: August 27, 2020

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

**FROM:** Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Clinton Page, Ed.S., Chief Accountability and Research Officer  
Julia Burgos, Chief of School and Community Relations

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

**TOPIC:** ACPS 2020-21 Areas of Focus

**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

**FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITIES:**

K-2 Literacy Programming, Implementation of SPED audit, Outreach to Hispanic families to improve graduation and chronic absenteeism, Outreach to underserved communities to increase engagement, Increase staff retention, Implementation of Human Resources audit, ALICE training, Cultural Competency for all staff, Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) including Restorative Practices and Positive Behavior Interventions (PBIS), Chronic absenteeism among Hispanic students at the secondary level, Improving customer relationship services and management, Implementation of Facilities audit.

**SUMMARY:**

The attached presentation presents the ACPS Areas of Focus for the 2020-2021 school year. The areas of focus are updated annually based on current and historical data and to ensure organizational alignment and prioritization of work efforts across the system. The areas of focus are created to align with and support the new strategic plan, FY 2021 Board Budget Priorities, and to continue areas of focus from last year that are multi-year efforts. Furthermore, the School Board charged the superintendent to provide a timeline for the robust public community engagement process to consider the renaming of T.C. Williams High School. A part of the presentation will be to share the communications and engagement plan to ensure all stakeholders are educated about the former ACPS Superintendent, Thomas Chambliss Williams, who served ACPS for more than 30 years and is a known segregationist who opposed integration in ACPS as well as a proposed timeframe for the School Board to determine whether to change the name of T.C. Williams High School.

**BACKGROUND:**

The ACPS Areas of Focus highlight specific areas for intentional prioritization and aligned efforts during the course of the current school year. The 2020-21 Areas of Focus were arrived upon through the utilization of data-informed decision making within this specific process as well as within other key governance structure processes such as strategic planning and budget

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prioritization. The ACPS Equity for All 2025 strategic plan serves as the overall roadmap for the areas of focus over the next five years by setting the organizational vision, mission, core values, goals, and strategies. Likewise, the Board Budget Priorities set last fall and last year's areas of focus inform areas of key focus for the current year.

Along with alignment to the overall guiding documents of the strategic plan and budget priorities, the Areas of Focus must also attend to our current dual pandemic context of systemic racism and COVID-19. ACPS must focus and prioritize the social-emotional needs of students, families, and staff experiencing trauma first to then be able to engage in high-quality teaching and learning experiences.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The superintendent recommends that the School Board review the 2020-21 Areas of Focus for future budget and programmatic implications.

### **IMPACT:**

The 2020-21 Areas of Focus provide the organization with a clear set of priorities for the current school year to advance the division forward in reaching the ultimate goal of empowering all students to thrive in a diverse and ever-changing world.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. PowerPoint – ACPS 2020-21 Areas of Focus
2. ACPS Data Workbook
3. Spring 2020 COVID-19 Measurement Summary
4. VDOE Student With Disabilities Audit
5. Comprehensive Review of Special Education – Executive Summary
6. Talented and Gifted Evaluation – Executive Summary
7. Family Engagement Evaluation – Executive Summary
8. Human Resources Audit
9. Communications Audit – Executive Summary
10. Facilities Audit
11. Draft Communications and Engagement Plan for Renaming T.C. Williams High School

### **CONTACT:**

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