FROM: Sheri James, Coordinator, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
Margaret Walsh, Ed. D., Chief Student Services Officer

THROUGH: Tammy Ignacio, Chief of Staff
Alvin Crawley, Ed. D., Superintendent

TO: The Honorable Karen Graf, Chair and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Update on Implementation of Restorative Justice at the High School

BACKGROUND: For several years ACPS has been studying the value of adopting Restorative Justice and Restorative Practices to improve school climate and to provide a vehicle for students to give voice to their concerns. Restorative Justice is “a way of thinking and responding to those that have been harmed by conflict and wrongdoing and those that have harmed others.”

This effort to implement Restorative Justice and Restorative Practices has been championed by Tenants and Workers United and has been discussed in such venues as the School Board’s Academic Advisory Committee and specific school PBIS development meetings. This past summer members of the high school staff as well as division level Student Services and Equity Office staffs attended training in Restorative Justice and Restorative Practices.

CURRENT STATUS: In partnership with experienced trainers from the Fairfax County Public Schools and under the implementation leadership of PBIS Coordinator Sheri James, the staff and students at T. C. Williams High School have begun implementing Restorative Justice and Restorative Practices within the International Academy and the Minnie Howard Campus. The implementation is well received at this time at both locations.

RECOMMENDATION: Continued School Board support for implementation of Restorative Justice and Restorative Practices throughout grades 6-12 in the coming year.

For further information please contact Sheri James, 703 619 8034 sherijames@acps.k12.va.us or Margaret Walsh, 703 619 8034 mwalsh@acps.k12.va.us