

Date: January 10, 2018

For ACTION: _____

For INFORMATION: X

Board Agenda: Yes X
No _____

FROM: Mignon R. Anthony, Chief Operating Officer
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: Discover and Engage phase

BACKGROUND:

Our total high school enrollment currently exceeds the TC Williams design capacity with growth projected to continue. The School Board allocated \$100,000 in the FY 2018 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget to engage the community on solutions for needed high school capacity. In the following FY 2019 budget, with the Ad-Hoc Joint City-Schools Facilities Investment Task Force acknowledgement, the City included \$5.15M to initiate immediate planning efforts and to begin design.

Multiple years of prior work identified the need for this significant planning effort, including the High School Educational Specifications, Long Range Educational Facilities Plan (Phases I and II), and Grade Level Feasibility Study. Work began in July 2018 and has been an on-going effort since. During the November 8, 2018 board meeting and the November 26, 2018 work session, ACPS staff and project consultants Stantec Architecture and Fielding Nair International (FNI), Inc., presented the first two phases of the planning work including: Discover – research of related national high school models and future workforce studies that align with the feedback and objectives related to ACPS, and Engage – an emerging educational vision based upon an online survey with 421 responses, over 40 in person meetings, including 22 student class discussions, 4 town hall work sessions, 2 business/community leader focus groups and TC Williams staff meetings. The Educational Vision includes the following pillars: Community Connected; Diversity as a Strength; Experiential Learning.

The research models and proposed educational vision resulted in the consultant’s recommendation that ACPS adopt a ‘connected high school network’ as its strategy for meeting the expansion needs of Alexandria’s high school of the future.

The Board determined that time for additional understanding of the recommendations, preliminary cost analysis and more staff and community engagement was needed. The Board also adjusted the vote to January 24th to allow the newly elected Board Members to participate in this milestone decision.

SUMMARY:

This presentation is a summary of the efforts to date leading to the strategy recommendation of a connected high school network. Staff will walk through the formulation of the strategy recommendation and the support found in the research, engagement and vision for this strategy. The presentation also discusses support found in the subsequent requests from the School Board to consider the strategy as it relates to cost, flexibility, time to implement and pre-K - 12 alignment.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board continue to review the recommendation materials.

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