

Date: December 20, 2018

For ACTION _____X_____

For INFORMATION _____

Board Agenda: Yes X
No _____

FROM: Joseph P. Makolandra, Chief Human Resources Officer

THROUGH: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Ramee A. Gentry, Chair, and Members of the
Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: **2019-2020 Academic Calendars and Draft 2020-2021 Calendars**

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with School Board policy IC/ID - School Year/School Day, “the School Board shall adopt the official school calendar for the following year no later than June 1 upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.” Additionally, in accordance with this policy an advisory committee composed of teachers, parents, and administrators met on two separate dates to recommend a proposed calendar to the Superintendent.

SUMMARY:

Attached are Superintendent’s proposed 2019-2020 ACPS traditional and modified academic calendars. The draft 2019-2020 calendars presented to the School Board last year were used as the starting point for discussions with the Calendar Committee.

- The proposed calendars have the following key points:
- 183 student instructional days
- Kindergarten Prep for students is August 13 through 16, 2019 with a teacher work day for K-Prep only on August 12, 2019.
- The first day of school is September 3, 2019 for traditional calendar schools and August 1, 2019 for the modified calendar. The last day of school on both calendars is June 19, 2020
- The Wednesday before Thanksgiving remains a holiday and the length of Winter Break is two weeks
- Professional Development days are on August 28, 2019, October 14, 2019 and March 3 on the traditional calendar
- Columbus Day is a professional development day on the traditional calendar
- The first 3 snow days will not be made-up. Additional make-up days, if needed, will be as follows:
 - Traditional & Modified Calendars: April 13, June 22 and June 23

If additional make-up days are needed beyond those identified, an analysis and projection of instructional time will be completed to determine if enough instructional time is available to meet the Virginia Department of Education minimum requirement of 990 instructional hours or if minutes need to be added to the instructional day.

At the December 6, 2018 Board meeting, amendments to the traditional and modified calendars were requested and placed in the attached calendars. One of the recommended changes was to switch Veterans Day from a vacation day to a school day. This change in the holiday moves the last day of school on both calendars from Monday, June 22, 2020 to Friday, June 19, 2020. The second request was to ensure three conference days in the fall semester only for elementary and middle schools. The amended traditional calendar provides an additional half-day to elementary and middle school fall parent-teacher conferences on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 for middle schools and Wednesday, November 13, 2019 for the elementary schools. The modified calendar has the additional conference day on Wednesday, October 9, 2019. Finally, to accommodate for the primary election in March, the professional development day was moved from Friday, March 13, 2019 to Tuesday, March 3, 2018 on both calendars.

Detailed information related to the calendars and the development process is included in the following attachments:

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends approval of the 2019 - 2020 ACPS' traditional and modified academic calendars with the amendments as described above.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1: PowerPoint Presentation Summarizing the Process and Recommendations
- Attachment 2: 2019-2020 Traditional Calendar
- Attachment 3: 2019-2020 Modified Calendar
- Attachment 4: Survey Results Summary
- Attachment 5: Survey Comments
- Attachment 6: Previous Calendar Versions from 12/6/18 School Board Meeting for Reference Only

CONTACT PERSON: Joseph P. Makolandra, Chief Human Resources Officer