Date: December 20, 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 Ramee A. Gentry, 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 by
with expected 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 FY2019 fiscal year, 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.

Work began in earnest in July 2018. 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 concept’ or multiple
campuses for meeting the expansion needs of Alexandria’s high school of the future.
The Board determined that time for additional understanding of the recommendations,
comparative cost models 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:
At the December 6th regularly scheduled School Board meeting, additional information
regarding potential cost implications was requested. Staff has conducted additional
analyses although the process is very early. The information in this update represents
preliminary information regarding capital and operating costs considerations and site implications.

The project team is working with the Curriculum and Instruction Department to develop coordination parameters for the program design and upcoming project-specific educational specification efforts as planning continues. Staff is also working with its consultants to ensure all requirements of this critical project are being met and will updated the School Board on next steps.

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

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