The High School Project: Inspiring a Future for Alexandria

School Board Work Session: Discover + Engage

November 26, 2018
Agenda

1. Framing the challenge
2. Exploring strategies to expand high school capacity
3. What we are asking you to vote on
4. Next Steps – Conceptual Design and Programming Process
Framing the Challenge

ACPS must expand high school capacity and simultaneously seek to expand learning opportunities and experiences, providing optimal and equitable learning environments for all students.
Strategies to Expand High School Capacity

Three strategies to imagine how High School might grow:

1. Expand the Existing High School Campus
2. Add Additional Comprehensive High School(s)
3. Create Off-site Specialty Programs

How do these options align with our Emerging Educational Vision?

- Community Connected
- Diversity as Strength
- Experiential Learning
Strategies to Expand High School Capacity

Considerations independent of strategy selection:

- Options are not mutually exclusive from one another
- Existing sites will all be reviewed and improved to meet program needs
- Minnie Howard Campus will require a reconfiguration
- 9th grade must be better integrated

How do these options align with our Emerging Educational Vision?

- Community Connected
- Diversity as Strength
- Experiential Learning
1 Expand Existing High School

What this could mean:

- Physical expansion is not possible without significant, time-consuming land acquisition and/or zoning variance
- Addition to T.C. Williams High School King Street Campus
- Minnie Howard Campus also has physical expansion limitations

Does this align with the vision:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Connected</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Size and location are barriers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diversity as Strength</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>Maintains status quo; limits opportunity for diversity to meet potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential Learning</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Maintains status quo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other considerations:

- No districts with similar-sized high schools to T.C. Williams were found to have successfully expanded their current building capacity by 1000 students to beyond 4000 students
- Too large to keep one high school identity
- Sacrifices flexibility to future programmatic demands
2 Add Additional Comprehensive High School

What this could mean:

- Building additional High School(s) on other site(s)

Does this align with the vision:

- Community Connected: No
  - Loses one high school identity, limits opportunity to reach broader community

- Diversity as Strength: No
  - Maintains status quo, could separate students depending on student assignment and different programs existing at each campus

- Experiential Learning: No
  - Maintains status quo, creates more of same learning experience

Other considerations:

- Doesn’t provide as many programmatic experiences as created by distributing specialty programs
- Loses one high school identity
- Not very flexible to future programmatic demands
3 Create Off-site Specialty Programs

What this could mean:

- Purpose-built, shared, or long-term lease buildings creating flexibility in space and implementation and allowing for capacity to be more quickly addressed
- Additional discrete off-site programs established

How this aligns with the vision:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Connected: Yes</th>
<th>Opportunity to maintain Titan identity while creating strong connections within Alexandria community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diversity as Strength: Yes</td>
<td>Increases opportunities for learning experiences and student choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential Learning: Yes</td>
<td>Opportunity to create authentic learning experiences for all students</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Other considerations:

- Provides students options to personalize high school experience
- Addresses expansion by creating more specialized learning experiences
- Allows for flexibility if interests change in the community
Connected High School Network Concept
Expanded with Specialty Learning Centers

**Primary Campus**
Capacity ~2,900

**Specialty Learning Centers**
- Capacity 400-600

*EXAMPLES of Discrete Off-site Programs*
- Shared or leased space
- Pop-up programs (temporary)
- Accommodates demand
- Existing examples include Chance for Change and Satellite Campus

*EXAMPLES of Individual Field Studies*
- Internships
- Professional cadets
- Project-partnerships
- Apprenticeships
- Service learning
- Work study

Specialty Learning Center
Capacity 400-600

Specialty Learning Center
Capacity 400-600

Specialty Learning Center
Capacity 400-600
### Connected High School Network Concept

**Expanded with Specialty Learning Centers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Student Capacity by Facility</strong></th>
<th><strong>Specialty Learning Centers</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Campus</strong></td>
<td><strong>Average at a given time</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range at a given time = 2500 – 2,875</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialty Learning Centers</td>
<td><strong>Approx. Total for (4) Centers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average at a given time = 500</td>
<td>2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Discrete Off-site Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Average at a given time = 150</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Field Studies</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Conceptual Student Capacity</strong> =</td>
<td>5,025</td>
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**Primary Campus**

Capacity ~2,900

- Specialty Learning Center
  - Capacity 400-600
  - Expansion with Specialty Learning Centers

- specialty Learning Center
  - Capacity 400-600
  - Connected High School Network Concept

**Total Conceptual Student Capacity** = 5,025
Recommendation | Pathways
The Student Experience

LEARNING EXPERIENCES
- AP CREDIT
- DUAL ENROLLMENT
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- INTERDISCIPLINARY
- PROJECT-BASED
- TEAM-BASED
- INDEPENDENT STUDY
- MENTORSHIP
- COMMUNITY PROJECT
- INTERNSHIP

SPECIALTY PROGRAMS
- STEM/STEAM/DESIGN
- TECHNOLOGY & CREATIVITY
- GLOBAL STUDIES
- COMMUNITY as a CLASSROOM
- PUBLIC & HUMAN SERVICES
- BIOSCIENCES/BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
- MEDICAL & HEALTH CARE
- BUSINESS/TECHNOLOGY/MEDIA

COLLEGE CAREER ENLISTMENT GAP YEAR

Student A

Student B

Student C

9TH GRADE EXPERIENCE

Recommendation | Pathways
The Student Experience

11 | The High School Project: Inspiring a Future for Alexandria

Alexandria City Public Schools

Stantec

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What we are asking you to vote on:

• An educational vision that will embody community connection, diversity as a strength, and experiential learning.

• A commitment to evolve the current high school curriculum into a connected high school network that incorporates the proposed educational vision.

• A connected high school network to provide optimal learning environments and capacity for all ACPS high school students.
## Next Steps - Conceptual Design and Programming Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
<th>JANUARY</th>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
<th>MARCH</th>
<th>APRIL</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUNE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Direction to Move Forward</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Educational Vision</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Preparation for Design Work</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Evolving High School Curriculum</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Curriculum program and new graduation requirements proposed and adopted for future implementation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Implementing Connected High School Network</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Final sites proposed with administrative and operational plans including proposed acquisition, design and construction, where necessary</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2019

- **Education Vision**
  - Educators use educational vision to develop concepts for specialty learning centers
  - Specialty learning center concepts lead to individual program types and attributes
  - Identify potential partners for conceptual programs
  - Engagement on the three components of vision and program design

- **Function and Capacity of Specialty Learning Centers to be developed**

- **Continue program development and develop plan for onboarding design team in July 2019**

- **Review and adjust graduation requirements as necessary to align with new vision and types of conceptual programs**

- **Sites/models are evaluated and recommended after a comprehensive feasibility study**

- **Begin to gather site options**
  - Create preliminary calculations for capacity and square footage requirements

- **Based on program types, develop site criteria and high school expansion configuration models**
  - Administrative and operational requirements are included in planning

- **Educators use educational vision to develop concepts for specialty learning centers**

- **Function and Capacity of Specialty Learning Centers to be developed**

- **Review and adjust graduation requirements as necessary to align with new vision and types of conceptual programs**

- **Sites/models are evaluated and recommended after a comprehensive feasibility study**

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13 | The High School Project: Inspiring a Future for Alexandria