CHRONOLOGY OF THE HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT

Summer 2018:
- New Superintendent: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings Jr. joins ACPS.
- Launch of the High School Project (HSP)
- Capital Improvement Project Budget FY 2020-2029 allocates $124 million toward HSP.
- At the end of the summer of 2018, an educational vision for the High School Project emerged around three core values:
  - This vision was based on:
    ⇒ research into the future of high school learning;
    ⇒ global and regional studies;
    ⇒ what makes Alexandria unique; and
    ⇒ student focus groups, business community input and community engagement.

  - Business voices
  - Appendix A of report
  - Appendix B of report

Fall of 2018:
- Four community-wide listening sessions held to gather input on Alexandria’s vision for the skills needed for a future high school graduate.
- ACPS opens doors to Virginia Governor’s Health Sciences Academy at T.C. Williams.
- Connected High School Network (CHSN) – a multiple campus approach emerges as a way forward.
  ⇒ November 8 presentation to School Board.

  - Staff concerns with approach when introduced:
    ◊ maintaining diversity in future academic programming;
    ◊ separate campuses may cause alienation; and
    ◊ want T.C. to continue to offer the same variety of courses and opportunities. (T.C. Williams currently offers more than 400 courses, including AP, DE and CTE.)
  ⇒ Recognition for AP
  ⇒ Improvements to AP

November 2018:
- Election of five new members to the nine member School Board.
- Announcement of Virginia Tech, ACPS Innovation Campus.

December 2018:
- Initial information on building cost assumptions provided to the School Board.
- School Board expected to vote on CHSN concept, but vote is postponed until after lame duck members leave the Board.
January 2019:

- Dr. Hutchings recommends CHSN.
- School Board votes to allow ACPS to continue to explore the CHSN concept, but also to provide a study of the viability of building a second traditional high school in Alexandria to deal with capacity.

February 2019:

- Early College partnership with NOVA announced.

Summer 2019:

- ACPS convenes an Educational Design Team (EDT) to show how we could provide educational programming for two high school in Alexandria or for a CHSN.

Educational Programming Framework

This represents Virginia Department of Education and ACPS graduation requirements, 17 Career and Technical Education (CTE) career clusters and includes program options for Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment (DE), Specialised Instruction (SPED), English Learners (EL), and General Education (GE).

STEM
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Architecture and Construction
- Transportation, Distribution and Logistics
- Health Science
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing
- Energy (August 2020)

Business and Government
- Business Management and Administration
- Finance
- Government and Public Administration
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Marketing
- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (TFSS)

Education and Human Services
- Health Science
- Human Services
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

The Arts
- Arts, Audio Visual (AV) Technology, and Communication

- At the same time, real estate consultants try to find land for a second high school or additional campuses for CHSN.
- In late August, results are released in a report describing educational programming for four different options. The report also acknowledges there is no land available other than that already owned and operated on by ACPS.
- Consultants provide possible massing options for either a second comprehensive high school or a CHSN.

⇒ The Draft Report
⇒ Presentation to the School Board
⇒ HSP Project Draft Report Summary

September 2019:

- The School Board votes 7-3 for the CHSN concept over building a second comprehensive high school. Their charge includes putting a new building that can house 1600 students on the Minnie Howard campus (currently, a former elementary school building that is being used for a 9th grade year).

⇒ Updated Project Overview Factsheet

- Media coverage on School Board vote:
  ⇒ Alexandria Times
  ⇒ Patch
  ⇒ Education Dive
  ⇒ Alexandria Gazette
October 2019:
- School Board sets four core values for programming for a CHSN:
  - Equity
  - Relationships/Community
  - Achievement
  - Student Choice/Multiple Pathways
- Board members emphasized the importance of student preparation for post-secondary education and career pathways. They highlighted: Career and Technical Education, workforce training, and project-based learning as important program design drivers. Another educational programming goal will be to create equal access for students to more experiential, hands-on learning that engages all learners in their education and helps them to understand its connection to the world beyond the classroom.

November 2019:
- A new, larger Educational Design Team reconvened to take a deeper dive; develop educational programming for the CHSN and provide enough information for specifications for the new high school building.
- Industry Advisory Board made up of local Industry leaders will join with the Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee to provide input to the EDT that will enhance course work and the student experience.
- The Chairs/Co-chairs of Industry Advisory Boards were appointed and met.

Near Future Dates:
- ACPS anticipates commencing the procurements for Construction Manager and Design Architect in January 2020.
- The ACPS Facilities Team will work with Curriculum Team and Consultants to inform the development of educational specifications for a new building and fields at the Minnie Howard campus by March 2020.
- The Educational Design Team will draft educational programming for a CHSN.