

Date: February 28, 2019
For ACTION _____
For INFORMATION x
Board Agenda: Yes x
No _____

FROM: Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer

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: Draft Strategic Planning Timeline

SUMMARY:

The division's current strategic plan, "ACPS 2020", was adopted June 11, 2015 and established six goal areas developed through a stakeholder-driven process guided by a steering committee. A larger stakeholder committee was convened to review the needs of the school division, the educational landscape, and the aspirations of the Alexandria community. Community input was gathered throughout the process through a number of forums as well as a survey of the Alexandria community. The Board conducted public hearings and held work sessions before finalizing the current strategic plan guiding the work of ACPS through 2020.

ACPS intends to convene a similar process, including refinements, in developing the next strategic plan through 2025. The existing strategic plan will serve as the foundation for building a plan with the focus on equity. In terms of process, an external vendor will be selected to facilitate and manage the creation of an updated five year strategic plan that reflects current areas of focus for the division. The attached PowerPoint, *Draft Strategic Planning Timeline*, lays out an initial draft of the schedule of activities.

The intended activities will begin with the selection of a vendor and identification of the strategic plan steering committee and larger stakeholder committee to be completed by May 2019. The steering committee will include stakeholders with representation from student, teacher, parent, community member, higher education institution, business, administration, support staff, and School Board. A larger strategic planning committee will then be identified with a focus on diversity in stakeholders (i.e. race/ethnicity, gender, socioeconomics), as well as representation (i.e. geographic location, expertise, experiences). A kick-off meeting will be planned for June 2019. The strategic planning committee will then use the summer to review existing data and literature to inform their work moving forward.

Strategic planning and community engagement will begin in fall 2019; input garnered will inform creation of a draft plan to be presented to the Board for review in early 2020. A public hearing along with updates with the School Board will be held to discuss and solicit feedback on the draft strategic plan. Revisions will be incorporated into the plan in spring 2020 with the final plan being submitted to the Board by June for approval. Implementation will begin July 1, 2020.

The Board will receive updates throughout the strategic planning process to ensure awareness, transparency, and effective two-way communication throughout the process.

BACKGROUND:

The Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:6 provides that each local school board shall adopt a division-wide comprehensive, unified, long-range plan based on data collection, an analysis of the data, and how the data will be utilized to improve classroom instruction and student achievement. The plan is to be developed with staff and community involvement and is to include, or be consistent with, all other division-wide plans required by state and federal laws and regulations. Each local school board shall review the plan biennially and adopt any necessary revisions. ACPS Board policy, AF - Comprehensive Plan, implements the Code of Virginia's requirement.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the attached materials for possible planning, procedural, programmatic, and/or budgetary changes.

IMPACT:

The strategic plan will serve as the guidepost to the development of all other vital division plans and actions, including but not limited to: annual budgets (CIP and combined funds), School Board policies, superintendent evaluation criteria, school improvement plans, and department improvement plans.

As the division undergoes the process of developing an updated strategic plan to reach 2025, confirming the division's mission, vision and principles will help guide the plan's development and set the platform for establishing an equitable system of public education that effectively narrows gaps in opportunity and achievement within Alexandria's student population.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. *PowerPoint Draft Strategic Planning Timeline*
2. *Board Policy AF*

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