

BOARD BRIEF

Date: June 4, 2021

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Stephen M. Wilkins, Ed.D., Chief of Staff
Terri Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning and Leadership
Anthony Sims, Ph.D., Executive Director of School Improvement
P. Sheril Waldron, HR Director of Compensation and Benefits

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Deferral of Board approval of the 2022-2024 Academic Calendars from June 2021 to
November 2021

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

- Goal 1: Systemic Alignment
- Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
- Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support
- Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation
- Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

SUMMARY: The Academic Calendar Planning Committee would like to inform the School Board of its recommendation to defer the calendar approval process from June 2021 to November 2021. This deferral will provide more time for the Committee to assess public feedback of the 2022 – 2024 draft calendars. The Calendar Committee will convene in September 2021 and make its recommendation to the Superintendent in October 2021. Board approval would be subsequently scheduled no later than November 2021.

The Calendar Committee needs more time to assess the calendars for the following reasons:

- Assess public feedback given extended survey from May 17, 2021 to May 23, 2021
- Increase parent-diversity membership on the Calendar Committee
- Assess the equity of religious holidays in the calendars
- Review professional development days in context of post-COVID school operations
- Confirm conference days as half-day or whole-day events
- Consider the impact of the pre-Labor Day start on school operations

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The revised timeline to approve the 2022-2024 academic calendars is as follows:

- June 4, 2021- Board information memo notifying of deferral of planning process
- September 15, 2021 - 1st meeting of Calendar Committee
- September 29, 2021 – 2nd meeting of Calendar Committee
- October 13, 2021 – Recommendation sent to Superintendent of Schools
- October 21, 2021 – Recommendation sent to Board for first reading
- November 11, 2021 – Board approval vote of 2022-2024 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 may be convened to recommend a proposed calendar to the Superintendent.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the revised timeline for approval of the 2022-2024 academic calendars.

IMPACT: Deferral of the approval of the 2022 – 2024 Academic Calendar from June 2021 to November 2021 will support a deliberative calendar recommendation that includes diverse parent representation and aligns appropriately with community feedback and neighboring school districts.

ATTACHMENTS: None.

REFERENCE: None.

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