

Date: September 21, 2017

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION X

Board Agenda: Yes X
No _____

FROM: Michael R. Herbstman, Chief Financial Officer

THROUGH: Lois F. Berlin, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Ramee A. Gentry, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: FY 2019 School Board Budget Priorities

BACKGROUND: Each September, the School Board provides guidance to the Superintendent and staff regarding Combined-Funds and CIP budget priorities for the upcoming school year.

This year, the School Board completed an exercise to help guide priority-development discussions. For the Combined-Funds Budget, each Member was asked to list a maximum of three priorities per ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan Goal. For the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), each Member named up to seven total priorities. Staff then tabulated the results while applying minimal changes to help categorize the priorities.

The Board and Staff also asked the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) to review, analyze and provide recommendations to the Board on budget priorities.

SUMMARY: The results of the FY 2019 School Board Budget Priority Exercise were presented briefly during the September 14, 2017 Regular Board Meeting.

Combined-Funds Budget

Overall, the School Board submitted a wide range of Combined-Funds Priorities. However, there were sixteen topics included at least four times by Board Members, as shown below. Many more items were mentioned at least three times:

Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity

- Specialized Instruction (7 Board Member Mentions)
- English Learner Services (5)
- Gap Group Achievement (5)
- Math (5)
- Literacy (4)
- Writing (4)

Goal 2: Family and Community Engagement

- Communications (5)
 - (Note that additional Board Members included this topic in Goal 6)

Goal 3: An Exemplary Staff

- Leadership and Professional Development (8)
- Recruitment (5)
- Competitive Compensation (4)
- Retention (4)

Goal 4: Facilities and Learning Environment

- Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments (4)

Goal 5: Health and Wellness

- Mental and Social/Emotional Health (6)
- Physical Education/Fitness (5)
- Nutrition Programs (4)

Goal 6: Effective and Efficient Operations

- Communications (7)
 - (Note that additional Board Members included this topic in Goal 2)

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

The CIP results were also wide-ranging. However, there were clear categories that emerged:

- Elementary Capacity/Modernization (12 Board Member Mentions)
- High School Capacity (9)
- Swing Space (8)
- Middle School Capacity (5)
- Processes and Procedures (4)
- Building O&M (4)
- Building Upgrades (3)
- Pre-K Capacity (3)
- Safety, Security and ADA Compliance (3)

The Budget Advisory Committee review is also attached to this memo. The BAC analysis is very thorough and provides recommendations for the work session activity as well as recommendations for further work after the School Board Budget Priorities are adopted on September 28, 2017.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the exercise results and the Budget Advisory Committee recommendations in preparation for the upcoming work session discussion.

IMPACT: Reviewing, finalizing and adopting School Board Budget Priorities will inform the staff and community throughout the budget development process.

CONTACT PERSON: Mike Herbstman, 703-619-8098

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Board Member Priority Exercise Results – Combined Funds
- 2) Board Member Priority Exercise Results – CIP
- 3) Budget Advisory Committee Priority Review and Recommendations
- 4) Combined-Funds Budget Priority Blank Template
- 5) CIP Budget Priority Blank Template