Joint Long Range Planning Update: Proposed Student Assignment Process November 7, 2013

Alexandria City Public Schools & City of Alexandria

Purpose

- Understand the proposed approach for studying and developing recommendations for guiding principles, methodology and timing of student assignment

Essential Questions

- Is there buy-in for moving forward with this process?
- Are there any modifications to the proposed approach?
- Any additional stakeholders to include in the subcommittee?
- Any comments on the proposed timing?

Student Assignment History

- 1965-1971 Alexandria City School Board implemented its desegregation plan
- 1971 Alexandria's three 4-year high schools merged into one senior high school (11-12) and 2 junior high schools (9-10)
- 1973- elementary school pairing plan
- 1993- 6th graders incorporated into FCH or GW & 9th graders were assigned to Minnie Howard

Student Assignment Cont.

- June 1999 the School Board voted on its "Re-Districting Plan"
- Plan Goals
  - Addressing capacity
  - Minimizing the number of families affected
  - Establishing both K-5 and focus schools
  - Eliminating cross-town busing except as warranted by a family's choice to attend a focus school

Long Range Educational Facilities Plan

- 19 member Work Group jointly created by ACPS and City Leadership
- 15-18 months timeline

Work Group Overview

Representation From:

- School Board
- City Council
- Campagna Center
- PTA Council
- Regional Demographer
- Park and Recreation Commission
- Alexandria Economic Development Partnership
- Citizens At-Large

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Subcommittee Overview

- Role of the Student Assignment:
  - Goals–
    - Identify priority objectives for student assignment
    - Develop recommendations for a school assignment methodology

Subcommittee Overview

- Approach
  - Establish a Student Assignment Sub-Committee
  - Review student assignment best practices
  - Develop goals and objectives for student assignment
  - Evaluate options that optimize goals
  - Develop recommendations for student assignment methodology
  - Recommend implementation approach, including schedule

Subcommittee Overview

- Timeline
  - March–April 2014
    - Establish a Student Assignment Sub-Committee
  - May–July 2014
    - Review student assignment best practices
    - Develop goals and objectives for student assignment
    - Report to Work Group in July 2014
  - July–October 2014
    - Evaluate options that optimize goals
    - Report to Work Group in October 2014
  - November–December 2014
    - Develop recommendations for student assignment approach
    - Recommend implementation approach, including schedule

Hanover Research Organization

- In December 2012, the Hanover Research organization, of which ACPS is a subscriber/member, published its latest findings on "Enrollment and Student Assignment Planning Practices." This report refers to the importance of using a data-informed approach to the work of student assignment and long-range planning. It stresses the importance of community engagement and school division transparency throughout the planning process. As has been noted in numerous other studies on this topic, educational equity, school choice and neighborhood schools are important guiding principles.

- Student Assignment Subcommittee could provide the venue to study the data and develop and recommend guiding principles.

For more information and to stay in touch…

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Long-Range Educational Facilities Plan

The City of Alexandria and the Alexandria City Public School System (ACPS) are jointly developing a work program for a Long Range Educational Facilities Plan to improve facilities planning, accommodate the growing student population, and enhance educational programs and services.

As part of the program, a 19 member work group was established and is comprised of members from the community, ACPS School Board, City Council, Campagna Center, and the PTA Council, supported by ACPS and City staff. The workgroup meets on a regular basis, generally quarterly, to explore the major issues that will impact public school facilities over the long term and to guide staff in the development of a draft Long Range Educational Facilities Plan for consideration by the School Board and City Council.

The public is invited to all meetings of the work group and is encouraged to stay informed about upcoming meetings through eNews.

- **Work Group Members**
- Joint COA/ACPS Work Program
- LREFP Work Program Supplement
- LREFP Update - October 15, 2012

Convocation, T.C. Williams 2011

For more information, please contact Laurel Hammig, Facilities Planner, Alexandria, 703/7

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