

Date: May 24, 2018

For ACTION: X

For INFORMATION: X

Board Agenda: Yes X
No

FROM: Erika Gulick, Facilities Planner/GIS Specialist

THROUGH: Lois F. Berlin, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools
Mignon Anthony, Chief Operating Officer

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

TOPIC: Long Range Educational Facilities Plan: Phase II

BACKGROUND: The LREFP reviews current capacity, projected growth and the effectiveness of current facilities in meeting the need throughout ACPS. The first phase of the LREFP, which determined needs and potential solutions for the elementary and middle school levels, was finalized in the summer of 2015 and adopted and endorsed by the School Board and City Council, respectively. ACPS and the City of Alexandria intend to go through a similar process with the School Board and City Council this spring to adopt the second phase of the LREFP beginning with this presentation to the School Board. The final addendums for the LREFP were presented to the School Board on April 26, 2018, and again on May 10, 2018.

SUMMARY: The Long Range Educational Facilities Plan (LREFP) Work Group recently made final recommendations to address high school and pre-K capacity through its completion of the second phase of the LREFP. During the April 26, 2018, meeting and the May 10, 2018, meeting, the clarifications and changes were proposed.

The following clarifications are offered for the School Board:

The following changes are proposed for the final document.

1. In alignment with the Ad-Hoc Joint City-Schools Facilities Investment Task Force recommendations and the FY 2019-2028 CIP proposed for adoption by the School Board on June 7, 2018, move the following recommendation for high school from the Intermediate Term Recommendations (6-10 years) to the Short Term Recommendations (0-5 years):

“Build additional capacity for T.C. Williams High School at the King Street Campus, at the King Street Campus, at the Minnie Howard Campus, and/or at another location within the City.”
2. In an effort to express commitment to pre-K and explore the potential for additional pre-K capacity in projects proposed in the ten-year CIP, move the following recommendation for early childhood from the Long Term

Recommendations (11-30 years) to the Intermediate Term Recommendations (6-10 years):

“Configure spaces within existing elementary schools to meet Ed Specs for early childhood and/or incorporate into design for future capital projects.”

3. To avoid making assumptions about grade level configurations, remove the example for grade level pairings from the Required Planning section of the high school recommendations:

“Conduct an analysis of adjusting grade-level pairings throughout the Division (~~i.e. K-6, 7-9, 10-12~~)”

4. The School Board wishes to convey a more explicit commitment to pre-K in this document. Chapter 4.8, from “Pre-K within Existing Elementary Schools” to the end of the page is proposed to now read:

“Future Pre-K Space

Currently, ACPS elementary schools have limited capacity within existing space to accommodate K-5 capacity, let alone additional pre-K. As additional elementary capacity is added and as enrollments are updated based on boundary changes, ACPS should explore additional opportunities to provide pre-K spaces within existing, modernized or new elementary schools, or elsewhere. ACPS is committed to work with pre-K partners, the City, and organizations which are active in the community to increase pre-K capacity as much and as quickly as possible to align with available funding. Possible solutions to be explored should include:

- ACPS should work with the City to re-analyze future elementary school projects within the FY 2019-2028 CIP to determine if pre-K capacity could physically and affordably be added to projects.
- ACPS, the City and partners should establish a plan for addressing the gap in pre-K capacity within the City. This plan should consider the timing of available CIP funding and offer alternatives to address the pre-K capacity gap promptly, if additional pre-K capacity is not able to be achieved through the CIP.
- ACPS, the City and partners should make every effort to solicit space from external organizations and partners to add pre-K capacity.
- Timelines and goals need to be established and agreed upon by ACPS, the City and partners to meet the pre-K capacity need city-wide and draw down on all available pre-K funding sources (i.e. Virginia Preschool Initiative).

The Ed Specs, developed jointly by ACPS and pre-K partners, should be used to determine the adequacy and proposed use of space for future solutions. Any solution pursued should promote joint professional development and collaboration of ACPS and partner staff and support the Early Care in Education Workgroup’s mission of seamless points of entry for parents seeking services. Solutions should also promote joint program development and delivery within VPI, ECSE, HeadStart and other programs while maintaining critical funding streams and other policy requirements needed for state and federal funding.”

A redlined version of the addendums is included in the attachments for review.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the School Board reviews and approves the LREFP Phase II Addendums with the proposed changes outlined herein. If approved, the LREFP will be presented to the Planning Commission on June 5, 2018, for information and the City Council on June 13, 2018, for endorsement.

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ATTACHMENTS: Attachment 1 – Final Draft Addendums