

Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #92

My public comments are related to: * General Public Comments

Topic * High school name change

Name * Anna Windmuller

What is your relationship to ACPS? * ACPS Student

To include your comments as part of the Public Comments agenda item at weekly Special Called School Board Meetings, enter your comments here:

Dear School Board,

As I'm sure you've heard before, I'm writing to demand that you change the name of our high school. By putting off this change, the School Board pretends that TC Williams was a kind, honorable man, when in fact he was a segregationist.

But, of course, you already know this. Words like "segregation" and "racism" make you agree that the current situation is horrible, and evoke from you feelings of sympathy for the large number of minority students in ACPS.

But they never make you act, and that is unacceptable.

Stop making excuses. Stop saying that you can't change the name at this time because of COVID-19. It is not difficult to change the name, and other schools in Prince Williams County, Loudon County, and Fairfax have already done so.

Ultimately, that leads me to say that this is not about the School Board's comfort or how they portray themselves as allies. You think that keeping the title TC Williams is just keeping a name, but you are wrong. This is part of a movement for social justice to recognize and stop the history of and ongoing violence, bias, hatred, oppression, and the SILENCING that takes place against minorities, especially Black people. And it is not your place to keep the name and thus deny the suffering which these groups have faced directly under a man who is our school's shameful namesake. By staying passive, you silence the voices of minorities and cherry-pick the racist history of our school even if that is not your intention. You say that it is okay to shut down any actions that make your agenda more complicated and challenge your mindset.

Having said all of this, I would like to address the white members of the School Board directly and say that you have a debt to pay to all minorities that are affected by your decisions. You must be actively anti-racist, you

must recognize that you are part of the problem, and you must act immediately. Change the name now.

Sincerely,
Anna Windmuller
Rising 11th grader
