

Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #66

My public comments are related to: * General Public Comments

Topic * Request to Rename T.C. Williams High School

Name * David Lord

What is your relationship to ACPS? * Community Member

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

I am writing today to strongly ask the School Board not to delay the discussion over renaming T.C. Williams High School to 2021. Our community and nation are in a transitional moment of history. We are coming to terms in our public discussion about the legacy that slavery, discrimination and segregation have left in our community and what steps we can take to rectify the wrongs of the past and be a community that is welcoming to all. To delay that discussion would be to ignore the fact that we are experiencing an inflection point in our history about how we will deal with race as we move forward. The discussion of whether our high school should continue to be named after a man whose chief legacy appears to be acting as a roadblock to integration should be had at the same time that our society is discussing the broader movement of Black Lives Matter. These two issues go hand in hand. And to put the discussion off for another year dismisses the portion of our community that grieves over injustice. It sidelines their complaint and tells them they can live with the travesty for one more year. Justice delayed is justice denied. Every single one of us has likely asked ourselves what we would have done if we had lived through a particular moral crisis in history. That question is no longer theoretical. We are living through that moment right now and each of us, including our elected leaders on this Board must ask themselves what part they can play in this moral moment in time. I hope that each of you chooses to side with justice and not to allow a delay to this needed debate.