

Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #255

I would like to provide: * In-Person Virtual Public Comments

Select the meeting date:* * April 8, 2021 5:00 p.m.

My public comments are related to: * School Renaming

Topic * High School name choice

Full Name * Henry E. (Hal) Cardwell

What is your relationship to ACPS? * Alumnus of an ACPS School

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

Thanks to the Board members for their service during this unprecedented time. I cannot imagine the amount of time you all have spent wrestling with tough issues to do the best for our students and our city over the last year. Thank you.

I would like to voice my support for amending the superintendent's recommendation to name the city's sole high school (my alma mater and my kids' alma mater) by adding the words "The City of" in front of his recommended name of "Alexandria High School".

Why?

We are the City of Alexandria. Neighboring parts of Fairfax county (try to) claim the Alexandria name, but we are the City of Alexandria. There is a crew shell in the ACPS boat house at 1 Madison St named "the City of Alexandria". Rowers affectionately refer to it as "The City". By Adding "The City of" to The High School's name, we give ourselves the option of those "in the know" cheering for "The City". Kinda fun, kinda edgy.

And of course, that would allow those "in the know" to continue to affectionately (and passionately refer to our high school, as TC. No one in the know ever called TC "Williams HS", so, with this subtle change. the community would have more choices of how to refer to our unitary high school – Alexandria, The City, TC or the full name. Think of the marketing opportunities? "What's your post-HS CoA (course of action, City of Alexandria)" It would be fun. And of course, it honors the ~50K graduates of TC plus gives a nod to those that didn't want to change the name.

And, plus, what about 25 years from now, when my yet-to be born 3rd generation Titan grandchild asks "why do the old-timers call it The City or TC – that's weird" – now we've got a teachable moment –

to talk about Alexandria, its history, about racism and about change.

Thanks for your time, and, again, thanks for your service.