T.C. Renaming Process Communications and Engagement Plan

Goal

To assess whether a name change has support across the entire student body at T.C. Williams high school and among all key demographic groups in the wider Alexandria community.

Research

Background

T.C. Williams High School is named after Thomas Chambliss Williams, who served as superintendent of schools from the 1930s to 1963 and was a noted segregationist. The conversation around renaming Alexandria's only public high school has been ongoing since the early 1990s and was raised again in 2017, when the idea was raised at the same time protesters called for the removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee in Charlottesville, Virginia. T.C. Williams alumni and members of the community have reignited the conversation in light of the current cultural movement. Various suggestions for the name change have already emerged within the community, including a change.org poll with 2,500+ signatures to name it after a 1971 Titan.

Jan. 10 1962 Board meeting: Consideration Of names for the new high school. The PTAs were asked to put forward names. Board members suggested Charles T. Scott, the first GWHS graduate to die in WWII and Hallowell after the first school in Alexandria. https://mail.acps.k12.va.us/service/home/~/?auth=co&loc=en_US&id=387857&part=2

Feb. 14 1963 Board meeting: A list of new names for the high school was compiled for the Board.

https://mail.acps.k12.va.us/service/home/~/?auth=co&loc=en US&id=387857&part=3

Polls

- Polls in *The Alexandria Times* have consistently shown a 50/50 split in support of changing the name. *The Alex Times* has been calling for a change of name for at least two years, following a spate of stories highlighting ACPS' history in summer 2018.
- An AlxNow poll in July 2020 showed 74% of respondents in favor of changing the name, while 26% were against.
 - https://www.alxnow.com/2020/06/25/poll-should-t-c-williams-high-school-be-renamed/

Fairfax's Engagement Process

FCPS Policy

FCPS Reg

Process used for Jeb Stuart in 2017-18

Process used for Robert E. Lee in 2020 LINK

- Fairfax's process for Jeb Stuart took 18 months. The final name selection, however, required the community to poll on one single day in person at the school.
- The process for Robert E. Lee took six months to complete.

Arlington's Engagement Process

Process used for Washington Lee LINK

• Arlington used a committee, which included the principal, who remained neutral throughout and supported the student body's selection.

FTD Committee Experience

FTD tasked a committee selected by the Board to select a name. Many members came
with a preference or represented a group campaigning for a specific name. The
committee's final selection did not match the Board's preferences and therefore was
overruled at the dais, leaving the committee feeling disempowered.

ACPS Policy FF

ACPS Reg FF-R

Engagement to Date

- A majority of Board members and the superintendent have publicly stated that this is the right time to consider changing the name of T.C. Wlliams. They have approved a process that results in a report to the Board no later than spring 2021.
- Petitioners have complained that the process is too slow.
- Student voices to date appear to have little diverse representation and student voices appear to be managed by community leaders outside of ACPS.
- Many students do not know the history of T.C. Williams the person or the school.

Analysis

The process needs to:

- Be student-led with support of ACPS staff
- Ensure the voices of all students, not just a few, are heard and represented
- Educate students on the history of Alexandria, T.C. Williams the person, and the school
- Incorporate the voices of key groups in the community who believe ACPS has not listened to them fully in the past
- Involve the '71 Titans, other alumni and groups who rely on the support of the alumni such as the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria

- Be sensitive to the timing of the process and more pertinent needs of students during a pandemic
- Tied in with the 2025 Equity for All communication and engagement work
- Aligned with ACPS' internal equity work

Audience

Students from all communities across the high school and middle school

- International Academy students
- Black Student Union
- Ethiopian and students of Middle Eastern origin
- Hispanic student community
- Elementary and middle school students

Alumni

- 1971 Titans
- Coaches Boone and Yoast families
- Alumni who still live in Alexandria
- Scholarship Fund of Alexandria alumni

Key stakeholder communities within Alexandria

- Secret Seven
- FTD family
- Woods Avenue neighbors
- NAACP
- Departmental Progressive Club
- Tenants & Workers
- Parker-Gray Alumni

Objectives

Objective One:

By November 30, 2020, all current students at T.C. Williams High School will be aware of and understand the history of Alexandria, T.C. Williams the person and the high school.

Evaluation: Survey to check student awareness

Objective Two:

By November 30, 2020, all student voices will have been solicited and their views documented to assess where the current student body stands on a name change.

Evaluation: Survey to assess student stance

Objective Three:

By November 30, 2020, all key groups of alumni and community stakeholders will have opportunities to engage in the process and have the opportunity to formally document their views on the name change.

Evaluation: Summary of outreach work and the views of each group to be documented in a report

Strategies Strategy 1: Student Education Strategy

Student education sessions

Train the trainer model where students learn about the history and share with others Parent education to support/allow for discussion at home

TACTICS FOR THIS STRATEGY

- Kiosks/boards outside T.C. Williams
- Videos and stories of our history (repackaged and new) shared on Canvas and in Titan time
- Titan Time education and discussion sessions
- Social Studies lessons for classroom time
- Leaders in our history sessions where the student council then shares the history lesson on social media with other students

Strategy 2: Student-Led Engagement strategy

Student-led engagement sessions

Train the trainer model where students train others to lead engagement sessions In-class discussions

Parent education to support/allow for discussion at home

TACTICS FOR THIS STRATEGY

- Solicitation of student voices to be recorded and shared with ACPS in a central portal
- Student-led conversations for specific groups
- Survey to assess where students stand designed with input from student leadership
- SST offers ways to start/facilitate a discussion at home
- Student council planning sessions
- Community circles
- Lunchtime chats
- Student-designed and led assemblies/sessions with community voices
- Parent engagement to stimulate student involvement
- IA discussion sessions in Titan Time

Strategy 3: Endorsement Strategy

To include:

1971 team members

Boone and Yoast families

Wood Avenue neighbors

Black community across Alexandria (Parker-Gray Alumni, Secret Seven/Black History Museum reps/FTD family/ NAACP/Departmental Progressive Club)

TACTICS FOR THIS STRATEGY

- Document the stories from these key stakeholders, groups to share out as part of the education strategy
- Document their stance on the name change on video/audio
- Involve this group in student-led assemblies/webinars/townhalls to discuss the name change

Strategy 4: Community Engagement Strategy

Public education campaign on T.C.'s history

Public comment poll on webpage

Engage the community in discussions around the history and possible name change Maintain open channels of communication about the process with the City Council and City's Race and Social Equity Officer

Offer opportunities for the community to share their views in a way that can be documented

TACTICS FOR THIS STRATEGY

- Public comment poll
- Sharing of ACPS history via videos, the VOICES series and interviews
- Sharing of student voices and views
- Community town halls led by students with support of ACPS/T.C. staff
- Webinars with key stakeholders speaking about their experiences
- Webinars with the City's Race and Social Equity Officer and ACPS equity staff

- Conversations/Webinars/Community chats with key stakeholders
- Presentations at City Hall
- Alignment and overlay with 2025 Equity for All community chats
- Communication of ACPS' internal equity work to the community via ACPS Express/Insider
- Community Book Read with Alexandria Libraries on the book, Building the Federal Schoolhouse

Strategy 6: Media Outreach Strategy

Regular information updates regarding the process and engagement opportunities Platform for community education campaign

TACTICS FOR THIS STRATEGY

- Stories from ACPS history
- Features on ACPS' internal equity work
- Op-Eds (supt. and staff)
- Regular updates on opportunities for community engagement
- Public comment poll

Timeline and Deliverables

Leader Identification

Costs (Dominic)
K12 insight- public comment poll (Clinton)
Student engagement (Pete, Greg Baldwin, Kennetra, Marcia)
Family Engagement (FACE)

Community Conversation Moderators

School Board co-hosts community chats with community reps

- NAACP President
- FTD Family
- · Secret Seven
- Departmental Progressive Club

- Parker-Gray Alumni
- Desegregation Activists
- Alexandria City History
- Woods Ave. Neighborhood
- 1971 Titans
- Yoast families
- · Mr. Boone's daughter

Outreach to Sarah Whelan - lessons
THIS IS WHERE WE ARE COLLATING CONTENT TO BE CRAFTED INTO STUDENT
LESSONS- NOTE: This will also be repurposed for the community
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KjAlQkEeHXrMLV8YoN0B5qHYIVBXbFnty_Bpci0lC4U/edit

Outreach to Pete/Jesse/Pierrette/Ingrid/John McCain

READ INS with Doug Reed

September 17 Read-in #1 6-7. Doug Reed will read and discuss Superintendent T.C. Williams. (Notes: T.C.'s firing of the cafeteria worker, his stubborn fight against integration, his resistance to special education and use of it to further desegregation.) We discussed an introduction, Doug reading and speaking and then a Q and A for final 15 minutes. Total - Zoom event is one hour.

October 1 Read-in #2 6pm-7pm Doug Reed will read from his book and discuss: Desegregation, The Big Story. (Notes: How was Alexandria compliant with those fighting integration (hiring lawyers after they lose their suit to fight integration, etc), what role did others in the city play and what was it like for students in these days.)

October 8 Read-in #3 6 pm-7pm Doug Reed will read from his book and discuss: The Real Story Behind Remember the Titans. (Notes; Reed will set the stage discussing riots, protests, civil rights crisis, systemic injustice in Alexandria and the solution. The real un-disney-fied story behind the Titans and the merger of the high schools.)

++When they were naming the school there was a list of other names they were considering. GW Archives. Valerie Myers. Adams elementary school behind the gym in an old converted locker room, 1963 minutes, Folder.

Week of Oct. 19 Community Session #1

 Community Session #2 '- WED OCTOBER 21 - 5:30 - 6:30 pm Ericka Miller and Gwen Day Fuller speak about the Secret Seven;

Week of Oct. 26 Community Session #3

Week of Nov. 2 Community Session #4
Community Session #5
Community Session #6
Community Session #7
Community Session 8
Week of Nov. 16 Community Session #9

September 23 (week) Student Conversation #1 with Woods Ave neighbors JASON WOOD, willing to share his memory and history of life on Woods Place before 1965/ No date/time selected yet.

October 7 (week) Student Conversation #2 '71 Titans -

Week of October 19 Student Conversation #3 Secret Seven Members - ERICKA MILLER Thursday, October 22 11-12:30 or 2-6 or Friday,, 23 11 to 12:30

Week of October 26 Student Conversation #4 FTD Daughter Gwen Day Fuller BOOKED - Awaiting date and time.

Week of November 2 Student Conversation #5 Equity staff from ACPS and the City/Call to Craig, Emails sent 8/17.

Implementation Tasks:

Time	Action	Target Audience	Who / Status
	Week of August 10, 2020		
	 Identify leaders for each area Costs (Dominic) K12 insight- public comment poll (Clinton) Student engagement (Pete, Greg Baldwin, Kennetra, Marcia, student leaders) Family Engagement (FACE) Community read-ins (Kennetra/co-host Doug Reed) 		Julia Helen Kurt
	Finalize dates of all engagement sessions		Helen Taneika

	Connect with Social Studies Instructional Specialist re lesson planning for Middle School and High School student education sessions	Helen
	Detail outline of content needed and timeline for community education materials	Susan Julie
	Week of August 17, 2020	
	Y	
	Week of August 24, 2020	
Aug. 25	PPT for Board Work Session finalized and posted	Julia
Aug. 25	ACPS Express and ACPS Insider to include details about Board Work Session on Aug. 27	Julie
Aug. 26	Update website with Work Sessions ppt and materials Engagement dates Outline of the engagement process/overview	Aaron
Aug. 26	Outreach to media re Board Work session	Julie
Aug. 27	Board Work Session	Julia
Aug. 27 (following Board meeting)	ACPS Express and ACPS Insider Special Edition News release	Helen Delaina

	Week of August 31, 2020	
Aug. 31	Social media scheduled	Delaina
Sept. 2	 ACPS Express and ACPS Insider with: Summary of upcoming engagement opportunities Overview of the history of ACPS and where to find it Our stance on Equity History of the name change process for new parents 	Julie
Sept. 3.	Outreach to media re Parker Gray 100th anniversary	Julie Susan
	Week of September 7, 2020	
	 100th anniversary of Parker Gray celebration Social media Video Program from class reunion posted to website Web page 	
Sept. 9	ACPS Express and ACPS Insider with: Summary of upcoming engagement opportunities 100th anniversary of Parker Gray celebration 	Julie Susan Marcia Darrell
Sept. 10	Social Media sharing content from Express	Delaina
Sept. 10/11	Meet with student leaders to plan outline of student engagement process	Pete Marcia Greg B.
	Establish portal where students can drop video content sharing their opinions	Susan IT

Week of September 14, 2020				
Sept. 14	Meet with student groups to plan their engagement process		Pete Marcia Greg B.	
	Publicize student voices portal		Delaina Pete, Diane Loomis	
Sept. 16	ACPS Express and ACPS Insider with: • Summary of upcoming engagement opportunities • Video/VOICES clip/ historic interview • Share our student portal		Julie Susan	
Sept. 16	Outreach to media re Community Read-ins		Julie	
Sept. 17	Social Media sharing content from Express		Delaina	
Sept. 17 6pm to 7pm	Community Read-in #1: Doug Reed on T.C. Williams the Superintendent. • History lessons • Links to systemic racism		Kennetra Doug Reed	
	Week of September 21, 2020			
	Publicize student voices portal		Pete Delaina Diane Loomis	
Sept. 23	ACPS Express and ACPS Insider with:		Julie Nathan	

	 Summary of upcoming engagement opportunities Community Read-in #1 clips and video SST offers ways to start/facilitate a discussion at home 	
	Student Conversation #1 (with Woods Ave neighbors)	
	Week of September 28, 2020	
Sept. 30	 ACPS Express and ACPS Insider with: Summary of upcoming engagement opportunities Video/VOICES clip/ historic interview Reminder about student voices portal 	Susan Julie
Oct. 1 6pm-7pm	Community Read-in #2: Doug Reed on Alexandria's Role in Segregation and Massive Resistance • History lessons • Links to systemic racism	Kennetra Doug
	Week of October 5, 2020	
	Principal sessions on Titan Time Education Sessions and Elementary and Middle School Education Sessions	
Oct. 7	ACPS Express and ACPS Insider with: • Summary of upcoming engagement opportunities • Community Read-in #2 clips and video	Julie Nathan

	Student Conversation #2 (c)			
	Week of October 12, 2020			
	Titan Time Education Session prep with inschool staff			
	Middle School Education Session prep with in- school staff Elementary School Education Session prep with in-school staff			
Oct. 14	 ACPS Express and ACPS Insider with: Summary of upcoming engagement opportunities Video/VOICES clip/ historic interview Reminder of student voices portal and student engagement process starting at T.C. Middle schools the following week 		Julie Susan	
Oct. 8 6pm-7pm	Community Read-in #3: Doug Reed on The Real Story Behind: Remember the Titans • History lessons • Links to systemic racism		Kennetra Doug	
	Week of October 19, 2020			
	Titan Time Education Sessions start			
	Middle School Education Sessions start Elementary School Education Sessions start			
	Promote student voices portal		Pete Delaina MS principals	
Oct. 21	 ACPS Express and ACPS Insider with: Summary of upcoming engagement opportunities Community Read-in #3 clips and video 		Julie Nathan	
Oct. 22			Julie	

	Outreach to media re Lessons (invitation to watch live)/Student Conversation #1 (send clip) and #2 (invitation to watch live)	
	Student Conversation #3 (with Secret Seven members)	
	Community Conversation #1 (Moderated by a Board Member plus Key Community Stakeholder)	
October 21 5:30- 6:30pm	Community Conversation #2: Secret Seven (Moderated by a Board Member plus Key Community Stakeholder)	Ericka Miller Gwen Day Fuller
	Week of October 26, 2020	
	Titan Time Education Sessions	
	Middle School Education Sessions	
Oct. 28	ACPS Express and ACPS Insider with: Summary of upcoming engagement opportunities Video/ VOICES clip/ historic interview Links to recordings of Community Conversations 	Julie Susan Nathan
	Community Conversation #3 (Moderated by a Board Member plus Key Community Stakeholder)	
	Community Conversation #4 (Moderated by a Board Member plus Key Community Stakeholder)	
	Student Conversation #4 (with Ferdinand T. Day's daughter Gwen Day Lewis)	

Week of November 2, 2020			
	Titan Time Education Sessions		
	Middle School Education Sessions Elementary School Education Sessions		
Nov. 4	ACPS Express and ACPS Insider with: Summary of upcoming engagement opportunities Video/ VOICES clip/ historic interview LInks to recordings of Community Conversations		Julie Susan Nathan
	Community Conversation #5 (Moderated by a Board Member plus Key Community Stakeholder)		
	Community Conversation #6 (Moderated by a Board Member plus Key Community Stakeholder)		
	Student Conversation #5 (with equity staff from ACPS and the City)		
	Week of November 9, 2020		
	Titan Time Education Sessions: Record your voices via the student voices portal session		
	Middle School Education Sessions: record your voices session		
	Elementary School Education Sessions: record your voices session		
Nov 11	ACPS Express and ACPS Insider with: Summary of upcoming engagement opportunities Video/VOICES clip/ historic interview 		Julie Susan Nathan

	LInks to recordings of Community Conversations	
	Student Conversation #6 (with alumni)	
	Community Conversation #7 (Moderated by a Board Member plus Key Community Stakeholder)	
	Community Conversation #8 (Moderated by a Board Member plus Key Community Stakeholder)	
	Week of November 16, 2020	
Nov. 16	Conduct student survey to gauge: Understanding about the history of T.C. Stance on the name change 	Clint Julia Pete Marcia Greg B.
Nov. 16	Conduct community survey to gauge: Understanding about the history of T.C. Stance on the name change 	Clint Julia Delaina
Nov. 18	 ACPS Express and ACPS Insider with: Summary of upcoming engagement opportunities Links to recordings of Community Conversations Take the survey link Summary of student voices from the portal with a call to take the survey and make your voice heard 	Julie Susan Nathan Delaina
	Community Conversation #9 (Moderated by a Board Member plus Key Community Stakeholder)	

Week of November 23, 2020 (Week of Thanksgiving)			
	Week of November 30, 2020		
Nov. 30	Analyze data from the student survey to gauge: Understanding about the history of T.C. Stance on the name change 		Clint
Nov. 30	Analyze data from the student survey to gauge: Understanding about the history of T.C. Stance on the name change 		Clint
Dec. 2	 ACPS Express and ACPS Insider with: Summary of upcoming Board meetings, public hearings Summary of student voices from the portal 		Julie Susan
	Board Public Hearing #1		Jennifer
	Week of December 7, 2020		
Dec. 7	Presentation of findings n the lobby at City Hall (video/slideshow/images/audio)		Susan Nathan
Dec. 7	Finalize PPPT and Board materials including • Feedback from engagement sessions • Results of student survey • Results of community poll		Julia

Dec. 8	Post content to the T.C. Name web page from ESB		Aaron
Dec. 9	ACPS Express and ACPS Insider with: • Summary of upcoming Board meetings, public hearings • Survey feedback (student and community)		Julie Clint
Dec. 11	Board presentation: • Feedback from engagement sessions • Results of student survey • Results of community poll • Summary of student voices from the portal		Julia
	Week of December 14, 2020		
Dec. 16	ACPS Express and ACPS Insider with information about Board vote		Julie
Dec. 18	Board Vote		Julia
Dec. 18 (following Board meeting	News release ACPS Express Special edition ACPS Insider Special edition		Julie
Week of December 21, 2020			

	Week of December 28, 2020		
	Week of January 4, 2021		
	Week of January 11, 2021		
Week of January 18, 2021			

CONTENT

Link to Google doc with Susan's content

Contact Information for Leaders

