

Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #93

My public comments are related to: * School Renaming

Topic * Rename T.C. Williams Now

Name * Karla Kaplan

What is your relationship to ACPS? * Staff Member

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

Dear Alexandria Board Members,

As you well know, Thomas Chambliss Williams was a segregationist. He did not believe that black and white students should learn side by side, like they do today at T.C. Williams High School. I believe we need to capitalize on this current moment where the Black Lives Matter movement is forcing us to take a hard look at our choices – and inaction is, of course, also a choice. If ACPS believes that Black lives matter, which I know we do, then we cannot justify sending our community's young people to get their education in a building that honors a man who, to put it mildly, did not believe the same.

While I understand that there may be many challenges involved in changing the high school's name, I think it is crucial that we make this initiative a priority. I am urging you to vote to rename T.C. Williams, and to choose a new name by 2021. I believe this process should be led by and involve students, alumni, and community members of color every step of the way.
