

**Public Hearing on Renaming of Schools
October 29, 2020 School Board Meeting
Greg Hittelman**

Every ACPS school board member knows, and has known for a painfully long time, that T.C. Williams High School is named in honor of a racist. Board members also know that he was an ardent segregationist who, despite *Brown v. Board of Education*, refused to integrate our public schools for years. It is a fact that his most notable legacy is thousands of kids who suffered under his vicious leadership.

Now that ACPS has spent so much time (decades!) avoiding and belaboring the decision to remove the despicable name from our one public high school — most recently, bungling its reputation management and public communications, alternately treating community and student calls for change as annoyances or threats to evade or control, unleashing a season of bureaucratic hoops around the renaming process in the midst of already stressful and difficult times, and shamefully dragging its heels at every step in what should have been a no-brainer, unanimous vote — isn't it about time for the board to finally, finally, finally just do the right thing?

Generations of brave voices of all races and hues have called for this change, coming together again in this year of pain and chaos with a message to the future — we can work together and, piece by piece, step by step, make our community, our nation, and our world a better place for all.

You're going to do it at this point — it's impossible to imagine otherwise. So stop fiddling around. Vote to remove the name now. And we'll celebrate. And we'll come up with a new name together.

Then onward to the many other issues we need to address in our schools, from widespread systemic inequity to incompetent, rudderless leadership.

- Greg Hittelman

Submitted for School Board Public Hearing on Renaming Schools
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