

Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #86

My public comments are related to: * General Public Comments

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

Name * Elizabeth Cannon

What is your relationship to ACPS? * Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

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

As an alumnus of ACPS (TC Class of 1996), a community member, and the parent of three ACPS students, I write to strongly encourage the School Board not to delay the discussion over renaming T.C. Williams High School to 2021. It is indefensible the system ever named the school for an avowed segregationist; it is unconscionable the name has persisted this long. Any attempt to delay the decision would be a dereliction of your duty to serve the needs of all the city's students.

I understand the extraordinary difficulties of planning for a school year in the midst of a pandemic, responding to crises of management and addressing decades-long facility inadequacies. But I submit current events have shown it's no less a crisis that the city's single high school retains the name of a man who fought to keep its schools divided by race.

I urge amendment of the motion up for consideration July 10 to include the language to DEFINITELY and AFFIRMATIVELY commit to removing the name T.C. Williams from our high school by no later than Dec 31, 2020.

Please vote to amend the motion in the following manner: INSERT: "I FURTHER MOVE, that as of December 31, 2020, T.C. Williams will no longer be the name of Alexandria's high school. As such, T.C. Williams shall not be considered as a name for the high school during the public engagement process outlined in Section 1, Regulation FF-R , nor shall it be included in the Superintendent's recommendations." Also, strike "in the spring of 2021" and insert "no later than December 31, 2020." Also, strike "to examine a name change for" and add "to change the name of."