

Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #150

I would like to provide: * Written Public Comments

Select the meeting date:* * October 1, 2020

My public comments are related to: * School Renaming

Topic * Alexandria High School

Full Name * Matt Quan

What is your relationship to ACPS? * Community Member

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

ACPS School Board,

I am writing to advocate the renaming of “T.C. Williams High School” to only “Alexandria [City] High School”.

Since 1971, in a decision to integrate ACPS, T.C. Williams is officially the only public high school in Alexandria. The community has repeatedly affirmed this over the decades, including a decision last year to not open a second full campus, despite capacity issues. Therefore the single city high school should reflect the name of the community, Alexandria.

No other name should be selected. The impetus for renaming T.C. Williams is that it’s namesake was a segregationist and honorifics such as this were used by the majority to assert dominance over the minority; to re-litigate the past and remind people who “won”. Any other name besides “Alexandria [City] High School”, however seemingly well intended, would be the same malicious mistake and will continually divide the community.

The City of Alexandria recently renamed Jefferson Davis Highway, former President of the Confederate States of America, to “merely” Richmond Highway, in conformation with neighboring Fairfax County and was followed by Arlington County. This was the correct and neutral course of action by these communities.

If the community and board desire to honor individuals of various accomplishments, they may elect to with a building or field. Not the entire flagship and singular campus.

The only appropriate name for the only high school in Alexandria for almost a half century is “Alexandria [City] High School”.

Respectfully,

Matt Quan
Alexandria, VA
