

Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #82

My public comments are related to: * General Public Comments

Topic * Request to Rename TC Williams Highschool

Name * Alex Tuttle

What is your relationship to ACPS? * Community Member

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

Alexandria School Board: I am a proud alumni of TC Williams who cherished the diversity of the student body but was privileged as a white student to be completely unaware of the racist segregationist for which our school is named. I am completely baffled by the fact that this is even up for debate in 2020. The name should have changed decades ago if it the school district wanted the school to represent all of its students. Do the right thing and change the name without delay. If Mississippi can change its flag, if NASCAR can change its flag, if Richmond can remove confederate statues that only serve to honor our wretched past, then Alexandria can change the name of its only public high school. Any delays are unacceptable and a slap in the face to people of color and the vast majority of the Alexandria community that support racial justice and equality. I believe that it is well past time to merely consider changing the name. The name must be changed now. Anything less is a disgrace and you all should be ashamed for letting bureaucracy be an excuse for inaction. Those days are gone. I am urging you to amend the motion being considered on July 10 to include the following 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."