

Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #78

My public comments are related to: * General Public Comments

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

Name * John Windmuller

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:

Alexandria School Board:

I've already written to you regarding my father's narrow escape from Nazi Germany at age 15, and the ridiculousness of his grandchildren attending a school that is named for a person who kept schools segregated based on students' ethnicity.

Prince William, Fairfax, and Loudon Counties have all managed to make school name changes during this pandemic. You can't? Give me a break. Prince William County did it in a month.

If the name is not changed before school starts in the fall, the national media will have a field day. "City of Alexandria, home of TC Williams high school, inspiration for the movie 'Remember the Titans', now insists on continuing to honor a segregationist." You have the opportunity to deal with this now and look like decent human beings, or later and look like a bunch of racists on the national stage.

While I applaud taking steps to begin considering a rename of TC Williams High School, I believe that it is well past time to merely consider. The name must be changed. 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"