

# Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #43

**My public comments are related to: \*** General Public Comments

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

**Name \*** Lara Jakes-Jason

**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:**

Dear Alexandria School Board:

While we can always be proud of our city's high school, the person it was named for was a fierce segregationist. It was bad enough that T.C. Williams High School was named as such during Alexandria's integration, and as its students and residents were already dealing with those tensions and years-long challenges. But to keep it in this era, when we know better and demand equality for all of our kids is unacceptable – especially as we see other prestigious schools across the country change their names for the exact same reason.

While I applaud the board's steps to begin considering a rename of T.C. 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.”

My daughter currently is a student at Helen Day Academy, where at least some of her teachers are T.C. alumni. We live in a neighborhood where the vast majority of kids will go to T.C. We are excited to be T.C. parents in about 10 years. Let's please remember the Titans and forget the segregationist.

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Best regards and many thanks for all the work you do on behalf of all of our children.

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