

Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #42

My public comments are related to: *	General Public Comments
Topic *	Request to Rename T.C. Williams High School
Name *	Marisa Cagnoli
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:

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 immediately. 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.

As a white woman who grew up within the ACPS system, and was a graduate of TC Williams in 2009, the anti-racism/pro-desegregation film, "Remember the Titans", had a very influential impact on me. The film painted a false narrative inside my brain, and the brains of many of my peers, that TC Williams was a safe space for all races, sexes, genders, religions, and bodies. If this school really is such an intersectional, safe space for its students, how dare you fail to recognize the harmful significance of its own name? Your ignorance and neglect is a manipulative and oppressive power play against your own city's inspiring youth, and against so many of us who hold a special place in our hearts for this school.

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".

I trust in my hometown community to do the right thing.

In solidarity,

Marisa A. Cagnoli
