



**ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD MOTION:  
REQUEST TO RENAME T.C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL**

**MADAM CHAIR, I MAKE THE FOLLOWING MOTION:**

In recognition of Juneteenth and to reaffirm that Black Lives Matter, the Alexandria City School Board unanimously approved a [Resolution](#) Condemning Systemic Racism and Affirming a Commitment to Educational Equity for All Students, Families and Staff. The Board resolved in that Resolution to foster an inclusive educational environment where every student, staff member, parent and community member is treated with dignity and respect, and reaffirmed its commitment to continue fighting for racial justice.

On June 26, 2020, the School Board adopted the Equity for All 2025 Strategic Plan, which will guide the school division's work from 2020 through 2025. The plan has a forward-looking vision of "empowering all students to thrive in a diverse and ever-changing world," and dictates that "racial equity will be at the center of every decision that the school division will make."

The Strategic Plan references the fact that ACPS resisted desegregation efforts throughout the 1950s, 1960s, and even into the 1970s, well after the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. The Strategic Plan acknowledges that modern day segregation still exists and that the School Board's work to eradicate de facto segregation is not yet done.

**MADAM CHAIR**, on June 15, 2020, the School Board received a request to rename T.C. Williams High School that was accompanied by 100 signatures of Alexandria residents as required by [Regulation FF-R](#). It is well documented that throughout his tenure as Superintendent, Thomas Chambliss Williams exhibited racism, fought to maintain segregation in ACPS, and promoted the school division's massive resistance to desegregation efforts. This is inconsistent with the forward-looking vision and values expressed in the Equity for All 2025 Strategic Plan. The Board condemns Thomas Chambliss Williams' past actions to promote segregation and racism within ACPS, and agrees that this is an appropriate time to examine a name change for Alexandria's only high school.

**I THEREFORE MOVE**, pursuant to Section III.B. of Regulation FF-R, that the School Board officially consider the request to rename T.C. Williams High School. Accordingly, the School Board hereby empowers the Superintendent to initiate the public engagement process, outlined in Section I. of the regulation, to solicit community feedback and possible nominations for renaming T.C. Williams High School.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that at the August 27<sup>th</sup> Work Session, the Superintendent and School Board shall discuss the scope and process involved in a name change. Given the global pandemic and the school reopening planning currently underway, the Superintendent shall initiate the public engagement process in the fall of 2020 and present a report with recommendations to the School Board by the spring of 2021.