

W.T. Woodson High School

Renaming Community Meeting

October 4, 2023

fcps.edu/renaming-woodson

Tonight's Agenda

Welcome & Introductions

Goal for the meeting

About the renaming process

Renaming process timeline

Why initiate the renaming process?

About Carter G. Woodson

Small Group Discussion

Next Steps

Fairfax County School Board

Elaine Tholen, Chair and Dranesville District Representative **Karl Frisch**, Vice Chair and Providence District Representative Megan McLaughlin, Braddock District Representative **Tamara Derenak Kaufax**, Franconia District Representative Melanie K. Meren, Hunter Mill District Representative **Ricardy Anderson**, Mason District Representative Karen Corbett Sanders, Mount Vernon District Representative Laura Jane Cohen, Springfield District Representative **Stella Pekarsky**, Sully District Representative Karen Keys-Gamarra, Member-at-Large Abrar Omeish, Member-at-Large Rachna Sizemore Heizer, Member-at-Large **Rida Karim**, Student Representative



Rebecca Baenig, Assistant Superintendent, Region 5
Kevin Greata, Interim Principal, Woodson HS
Helen Lloyd, Executive Director, Office of Communications
Christie Scott, Director, Community Relations

Tonight's Goals

- To give information about the renaming process and why it has been initiated for W.T. Woodson High School
- To gather feedback about renaming the school and input on new name options

About the Renaming Process

- A School Board authority
- Governed by <u>Policy 8170.7- Naming School Facilities</u> and <u>Regulation 8170.8</u>
- Per Policy 8170, The School Board may "consider a change in the name of an existing school or facility to ensure an inclusive, respectful learning environment as outlined in our adopted One Fairfax Policy or when the Board deems it appropriate..."

About the Renaming Process

- Costs depend on a variety of factors (turf field, gym floor, sports and band uniforms, signage, fixtures to be replaced, etc.).
- Funded from various departments/offices (e.g. facilities, student activities).
- Not funded from instructional budgets or school budget.

★ Mascots and logos are a school decision and not part of the renaming process.

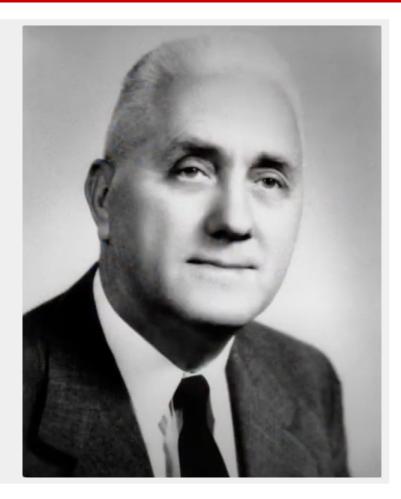
Renaming Process Timeline

September 12	Request initiated by at least 1 School Board Member and 1 At-Large Membe	r
September 15–October 12	Online feedback form open 😧	
October 4	Community Meeting 💽	
October 10	Public Hearing 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School (register online to speak)	\odot
October 12	 School Board Meeting: Vote to move forward with the name change process New business - Superintendent presents recommendations for name 	
A second round of public engagement will take place if the School Board votes to move forward with the change process.		name
• Indicates opportunity for public input and feedback		

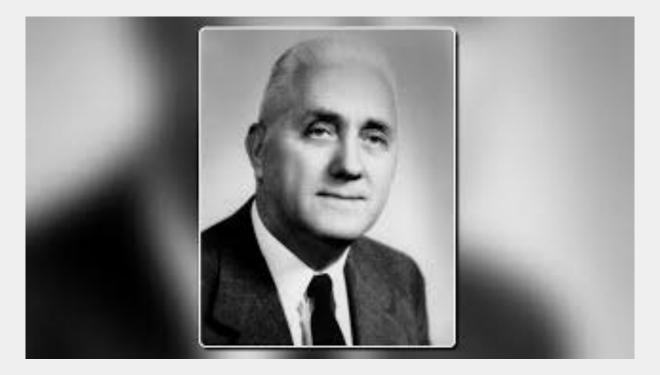
• Indicates opportunity for public input and feedback.

About W.T. Woodson

- FCPS Superintendent 1929-1961
- Second longest-serving superintendent
- Led FCPS through consolidation era, Great Depression, WWII, and first 15 years of the post-war Baby Boom



Video Biography



Woodson's Views on Segregation

- Revealed in historical documents
- Initiating requests from community members to rename the school

"The order to desegregate schools is highly improper and infringes on human rights. To force integration of schools is to force social mixing, since attendance in public schools is usually compulsory."

—W.T. Woodson, July 6, 1959

About Carter G. Woodson

- Father of Black History
- Son of former slaves
- Native Virginian
- Founder of Association for the Study of African American Life and History
- Started Journal of African American History
- Launched Negro History Week (became Black History Month)
- UVA's Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies



Questions to Consider

- How likely are you to support renaming W.T. Woodson High School?
- 2. What are your concerns about renaming W.T. Woodson High School?
- 3. Do you support renaming the school for Carter G. Woodson?
- 4. Do you have other suggestions for a new name?



Next Steps

- October 12 Online feedback form closes
- October 10 Public Hearing 5:30 7:30 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School (register online to speak)
- October 12 Online feedback form closes
- October 12- School Board Meeting
 - Vote Whether or not to proceed with renaming the school
 - New Business Superintendent presents recommendations for name
- If the School Board votes to proceed a second round of public engagement begins

Questions and Feedback

- Will be shared with staff and the School Board
- Visit the webpage for continued information
 - Search: "Woodson High School Renaming"
 - Sign up for mailing list to stay informed
 - Feedback form open through October 12

Visit the Woodson Renaming Webpage for: Updates Engagement Opportunities Sign Up for Mailing List Feedback Form



fcps.edu/renaming-woodson