



# W.T. Woodson High School

**Renaming Community  
Meeting**

October 4, 2023

[fcps.edu/renaming-woodson](https://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*

## **FCPS Staff**

**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 [Policy 8170.7- Naming School Facilities](#) and [Regulation 8170.8](#)
- 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

<b>September 12</b>	Request initiated by at least 1 School Board Member and 1 At-Large Member	
<b>September 15–October 12</b>	Online feedback form open ☺	
<b>October 4</b>	Community Meeting ☺	
<b>October 10</b>	Public Hearing 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School ( <a href="#">register online to speak</a> )	☺
<b>October 12</b>	School Board Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vote to move forward with the name change process</li><li>• New business - Superintendent presents recommendations for name</li></ul>	
A second round of public engagement will take place if the School Board votes to move forward with the name change process.		☺
☺	<i>Indicates opportunity for public input and feedback.</i>	



## 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

1. 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](https://fcps.edu/renaming-woodson)