

REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE 2
TO CONTINUE TO ENSURE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
AND
TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF SUPPORT
FOR A NAME CHANGE
FOR J.E.B. STUART HIGH SCHOOL

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Subcommittee 2 was tasked with continuing community engagement and measuring support for a name change. Little progress was made in either of these areas initially due to lack of direction and resources and later due to pre-set agendas.

For community engagement -- the Subcommittee conducted a pre-survey of student information needs, inventoried the J.E.B. Stuart Library holdings, and conducted informal focus groups. Based on this information, they supplied resource materials to the library, successfully restored the FCPS-produced video "J.E.B. Stuart -- What's in a Name?" to the FCPS website, and organized a community history tour of the Munson Hill area. An effort to set up an eResource board of primary source materials did not materialize.

Several efforts were made to facilitate community interaction. The Subcommittee held two community meetings and attempted to launch an eForum. The eForum did not materialize.

FCPS must use its own sponsored survey findings as they were the ONLY truly valid methods in determining community engagement.

The divisive nature of this experience has led us all to believe the only way to reach a sustainable long-term solution is through some type of ballot measure at the full Fairfax County level. If agreement is reached that a name change is warranted, then the actual name should be selected by residents of the school area as dictated by current FCPS naming policy.

INTRODUCTION

The teacher-led club [Students for Change](#) boldly advertised a mission statement for a name change at J.E.B. Stuart High School as seeking a new “[N]ame that represents the diversity and open-mindedness towards different races and cultures.” So it was on October 20th, 2015 that this clarion call appeared in the school’s [RAIDERS' DIGEST](#) which strives to “Keep You up to Date on the Stuart Community’s Most Relevant Issues”.

Indeed, it seems the Student’s for Change - fresh off of a Sept 2015 NAACP Presidential Award for their Name Change Campaign - seemed to have picked up on one of the nation’s “*most relevant issues*” by keying on the “Diversity” theme featured 79 times in the book released days earlier by NPR’s Tom Gjelten entitled *A Nation of Nations*. So, while the student’s reflected Gjelten’s theme, he in turn mentioned J.E.B. Stuart High School 17 times, but most notably he made this claim: “**In Fairfax County, the [school board] authorities did not merely refuse to comply with the Supreme Court's order; they defiantly named their next two high schools after Confederate army generals - JEB Stuart and Robert E Lee.**”

Suddenly it seemed everyone wanted name change, the floodgates were opened! One school-made YouTube product captured what seemed like a wave of newly acquired popular opinion. Claiming to “*set out the change the name of the school*” students amplified Gjelten’s claim adding J.E.B… “**He was racist!**” that he “**Hated black people!**” and “**Killed slaves – I know that!**” Another student carried the *Nation of Nation*’s proclamation in claiming the school was named as a tip of the hat to “**White Southern resistance.**” Two teachers also appeared where one opined that if Stuart was alive today, “he would not be supportive of the [diverse] environment we are currently in.”

Heading into 2016 the calls for name change had seemingly reached a fever pitch at J.E.B. and among guests at FCPS meetings so much so the board president declared that the ‘time may be ripe for change’. Soon thereafter, a student survey was developed to capture what seemed enough student-based change sentiment to satisfy a newly created *compelling need* standard. It was with this backdrop and with much anticipation that the spring 2016 FCPS-created survey was launched. While all J.E.B. students could reasonably be assured to have been aware of the “change message” and participation opportunity due to the heavy preliminary marketing, only **11% of (N=223)** of the student body took part in calling for a name change. Undeterred, yet another FCPS sponsored student survey done in the spring of 2017 garnered an even smaller number (**8.9% / N=192**) who were compelled ‘into’ supporting change.

Unfortunately, the heavy presence and influence of a national outside advocacy group within the committee focused on “creating” feedback products so rife with “[Self-selection](#),” “[Participation](#),” and [Response](#) biases (among others) such as to render them not just scientifically worthless, but dangerous to the integrity of the entire measurement process; they are simply unreliable in meeting FCPS’s compelling need standard.

Therefore, let it be known that it is with the strongest convictions that this subcommittee finds that FCPS must use its own sponsored survey findings as they were the ONLY truly valid methods in determining community engagement. These were the only samples that exclusively measure the “J.E.B. Pyramid,” they achieved a high level of message/information saturation, they were well marketed, they provided both pro & con arguments, they provided tailored language variations for J.E.B.’s diverse sample population and allowed 100% of J.E.B. Stuart Community to take part in changing the *name if they were so moved*.



To JEB Stuart Students & Community – “I urge you not to yield one iota to those who wish to purge history. If they are successful in removing Jeb Stuart’s name from the school, don’t think they will retire their efforts to “purify” our history. They target and seek to rename Lee Highway. Both George Mason and George Washington were slave owners. Maybe they’ll seek to get Washington’s photo off the one dollar bill, change the name of my university. There’s no end in sight. They seek to emulate USSR (history altering) practices as indicated in this link:

http://www.tc.umn.edu/~hick0088/classes/csci_2101/false.html



Keep the faith! *Professor Walter E. Williams*, George Mason University

CONCERNS

Because of the leadership guidelines established for this project, SC2 has experienced ongoing difficulty in following an action plan needed to deliver its findings and report.

One of the greatest challenges addressed was in understanding what the Fairfax County School Board intended by “Community.” After speaking with FCSB members and FCPS staff, it is clear there was no common understanding of this term, and therefore it was interpreted at different times in the process to serve different purposes. For example, the public call for participants on the ad hoc group limited participants to individuals from the J.E.B. Stuart Community. School board members who inquired about placing individuals on the ad hoc group were told it was limited to the J.E.B. Stuart Community; the Interim Superintendent indicated he was not aware of this limit and chose people from any part of Fairfax County (and even Falls Church City). Active participants in the J.E.B. Stuart community were excluded so these nonresidents could participate. All of the individuals residing outside the J.E.B. Stuart community were in favor of a name change.

Failure to define a community also made it difficult to determine whose viewpoints should be assessed. Views differed as to the relevance of students (current and future), alumni, businesses, J.E.B. Stuart Pyramid families, Fairfax County taxpayers, and outside interest groups. No agreement was reached.

Early in the process it was not clear what resources were available to the group. After an April planning meeting with FCPS staff, resources were made available for the public meetings and bus tour. However, it became clear that while FCPS has the ability to design a survey, it does not have an accountable means to conduct one for the full Fairfax County community. Also, multiple requests for technical support to construct and operate an eForum for interactive community engagement and an eResource board for community reference materials floundered.

One of the most compelling concerns was the wide ranging fears by JEB students in engaging fully in this process. Many students opted into discussions with SC2 members but refused to speak at public meetings or wear the JEB Stuart “Fact” shirts provided by the Concerned Citizens of Fairfax. Being called “racist” or otherwise pressured by the “change” faction at JEB were specifically cited.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Public engagement activities include needs assessments and providing information sources so individuals could begin to form their own opinions on the name change discussion.

Assessing Student Needs

SC2 participants agreed it would be useful to survey students in order to ascertain what information they would like in order to participate effectively in the Stuart name discussion. [A pre-survey](#) was conducted with no input from people on SC2 who want to keep the name. Despite nearly two years of campaigning on the name change issues, only 192 students (8.92%) of J.E.B. Stuart High School students chose to participate in the survey. (See Appendix 1 for Survey Methodology and Results.)

The areas of greatest student interest were: the reasons for and against a name change (items 5 and 6, which were identified by 52% and 41% of the respondents, respectively), the period of Massive Resistance (item 4 at 40%), and who J.E.B. Stuart was (item 1 at 33%). The discussion about the Civil War and slavery received some indications of interest, but not at the same level as the previous four areas (22% each).

Of the 57 respondents who elected to answer the qualitative option, 44 students (77.2% of all respondents) provided specific answers while the remaining 13 did not provide an answer. All but 2 of these 44 responses questioned the use of money to fund the change when they are faced daily with other - more pressing school needs.

Another survey/quiz of J.E.B. Stuart students was completed and published by the Concerned Citizens of Fairfax in February 2017 – led by a doctoral candidate in public policy – she demonstrated via the random sample survey that the J.E.B. Stuart students suffer from a significant lack of even the most basic knowledge of the school’s namesake. These findings suggest that the vast majority of students are voting to keep their name based primarily on emotional connections with the school – not on any type of vast knowledge of Stuart’s characteristics, personality or accomplishments. (See: [Story Here](#)) This finding – as has been the case in similar school-name situations – suggests that the more the students come to learn about the namesake’s objective & positive characteristics, the more the atmosphere and appreciation for the school and its traditions will improve exponentially. This simple education-based approach is very low cost alternative to that being suggested by the NAACP and has incredible upside potential considering the true lack of the most basic J.E.B. Stuart knowledge that currently exists. Nearby Washington/Lee H.S. is a good example of an outwardly public and positively associated Confederate General Brand, despite the fact that each of these citizen soldiers held slaves at some point.

Expanding Information Resources

A survey of the J.E.B. Stuart library revealed a dearth of materials on J.E.B. Stuart the man, local history, and the name change discussion. To further illustrate this point, a comparative library survey done at Lee High School, Washington Lee High School and J.E.B. Stuart High School validates this conclusion as comparable biographical checkouts at the other “General

-named”

these generals over the five year period of this study, while J.E.B. Stuart's bios were not checked out even once during the same period. This again suggests the student body is not and has not been assigned lessons which would bring focus upon the man the school is named for – which then again suggests that knowledge of this man is significantly lacking at the school he is named for yet he is routinely defended in surveys.

- SC2 member Rodney Green and a fellow 1966 J.E.B. Stuart alumni compiled information from a variety of sources for their own use in the name change discussion. Dr. Green provided three hard copies of these items to the J.E.B. Stuart library. Electronic copies also were provided to the librarian and Social Studies Department Chair.
- Planning discussions were held to create and maintain an electronic resource board for documents related to the name change debate. Initially this eBoard would be hosted by the J.E.B. Stuart Library, supported by a student and with guidance from the librarian on advanced issues like copyright concerns and access. It was decided to shift the eBoard to a site hosted by FCPS, and the initiative floundered.
- Members of SC2 also were successful in having access to the FCPS video "What's in a Name? J.E.B. Stuart High School" restored to the FCPS website the week of April 3, 2017. This information piece was produced by FCPS in 2013 using taxpayer funds and highlights the reasons the school was named for General Stuart. It was mysteriously removed and then maintained in a private capacity during a period of name debate when it was sorely needed. Notably, every other FCPS video consistently appeared for public viewing during this period with the exception of the J.E.B. Stuart product, thus impacting an ability to have a fair, knowledge-based debate.
- An attempt to have students provide an unbiased pros-cons video did not meet the school-imposed deadline of April 28, so was not produced. While the [student script](#) showed a good deal of work, people in favor of keeping the names had grave concerns about bias and offered an [alternate script](#).
- There was a fairly unique survey done by a librarian who works with prisoners which hit on a demographic not usually surveyed. The responses are probably typical of most adults who are accustomed to being around a multiracial group:

"We met yesterday and spoke at Jeb Stuart. I mentioned that I work part time in the jail here in Fairfax. On Mondays, I lead a book club of 15-20 male inmates. Today there were 14 in class with a fairly diverse makeup of the group. Of the 14, we had 5 whites, 4 blacks, 3 from Middle East 1 from Mexico and 1 from India. I put the same question (how do you feel about roads and buildings named after Confederate leaders)? I got almost the identical response from a previous class. A couple from the area said they never gave it any thought until it hit the news; one black about 25 said he felt it was important to keep the history alive (history of slavery and the Confederacy). A few more thought education was important if we are ever going to get rid of racism. The Asian felt that racism is worse today than 150 years ago and several agreed with him. *He also felt education was important – understanding history, etc.* That was primarily it. You are welcome to use my informal study and mention my name if someone asks my name. You may even give them my contact info if they would like to verify..." Robert Paxton, ADC Librarian

- Informal focus groups at school revealed that most students don't have a problem with the name, image or in wearing J.E.B. gear. The findings supported the 9/10 ratios similar to the student survey participation rates, the majority seem to understand that wearing the gear or attending J.E.B. gear is not and was never an

endorsement of Slavery or Secession. Most seemed happily surprised to have learned about J.E.B.'s Virginia-based history, the proximity and importance of Munson Hill or of the history of the "Raiders" themselves - a title given to JEB's horsemen by [the New York Times in 1863](#) or that Otis Howard (of Howard U. Fame) [was best friends with J.E.B. Stuart](#).



History Tour

Community members were invited on a [45-minute bus tour to four stops in the Munson Hill area](#) to help them begin to understand the strategic importance of this area to both the North and South during the Civil War. Approximately 75 people took the bus tour and others stopped in for the movie viewing area.

The discussion was to be led by local historian Donald Hakenson, but he fell ill and so it was led by Ed Wenzel and Jim Lewis of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. The tour included four stops: Munson's Hill, Upton's Hill, Taylor's Tavern, and Fort Buffalo.

While people were waiting for their tour to begin, they were invited to browse through a 31-page document of "Civil War Incidents and Events Occurring in the Seven Corners, Munson's Hill, and Bailey's Cross Roads areas adjacent to J.E.B. Stuart High School." All entries were extracted from the book [Chronology of the Civil War in Fairfax County, Part I](#) By Edward T. Wenzel.



J.E.B. Stuart High launches packed bus tours to help decide name

Call it a series of high stakes field trips – where parents peppered historians with questions on board three packed busses. Historical markers grew smaller in the rear...

WUSA9.COM

Even with scant advertising time or reach, the JEB Bus Tours proved to be especially popular with students and families alike. Most riders admitted they "did not know" how important or close the elements of JEB Stuart's command were to his school's location. 'Now the cannon at football games makes sense' said one sophomore.

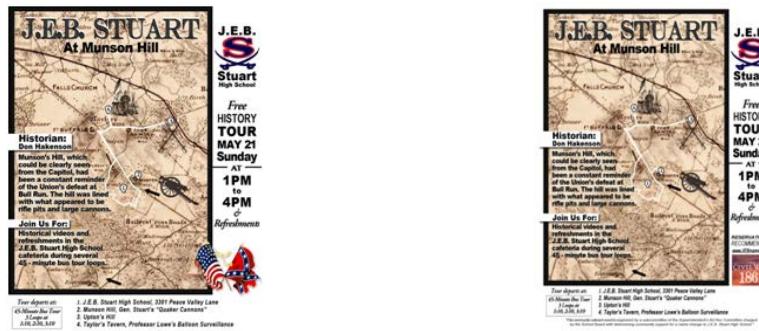
In the same waiting area, three videos played in a continuous loop:

- ["What's in a Name? J.E.B. Stuart High School"](#)

Fairfax County Public Schools

- “[Munson’s Hill: Battlefield Trickery in the Civil War](#)” National Portrait Gallery
- “[J.E.B. Stuart at Munson’s Hill](#)” Mason District Historian Naomi Zeavin

Individuals in favor of a name change, including ad hoc committee members, attempted to cancel the tour when a symbol of crossed Union and Confederate flags with an honor wreath was used on the original brochure. The time period covered by the tour was 1861-1862 and locations covered were held by Union and Confederate forces at different time periods.



At least one J.E.B. Stuart alumna who favors a name change participated in one of the tours and broadcasted it live via Facebook. Her comments and challenges disrupted the tour. Later it was revealed she was communicating live with two NAACP Fairfax officers, an Ad Hoc Committee member who was on the tour, and two other individuals to feed her lines to challenge and throw off the guides. This was particularly disappointing because on that tour were relatives of both the Munson and Stuart families, and people had hoped for some additional insights -- a truly missed opportunity.

Community Interaction

eForum: Members of SC2 requested FCPS technical support in creating and operating an electronic forum. The intent was to provide an opportunity for community members to participate in a fair and open discussion of the name change. This would have been an online opportunity for citizens to interactively exchange views. To promote honesty and substantiation, “no trolls allowed,” and 100% of comments would need to be for attribution. FCPS identified a host platform and authorized creation and administration of the forum. However, due to devolving trust among committee members, it was requested that FCPS launch the platform and then assign administrators. This effort did not come to fruition.

Community Meeting 1, May 18: This meeting on the “Pros and Cons” of a name change was organized by only the Pro name change individuals on SC2. It was announced before any Keep members of the community agreed to participate. Heightened security concerns in the community, shared by Fairfax County Police as evidenced by the large police presence at the event, led eleven members of SC2 to decline to participate. *This also was a way to underscore that the name change discussion needs to be returned to our own community rather than heavily influenced by outsiders.*

Moreover, of specific concern was the level of NAACP ‘Call for Help’ in inviting upwards of 30,000 followers (at a minimum) to take part in the J.E.B. meeting via their Change.Org database. Specifically

disconcerting, was the recommended use of prescribed Change the Name “talking points” given to the attendees in advance. Per media reports the media drew approx 70 guests and of these 7 were active J.E.B. Students (non-committee members). License plate counts revealed that nearly 30 percent of the vehicles outside the meeting were out of state which suggested a high number of out of town “guests” were on scene as would have been expected by the NAACP’S solicitation to a multi-state region.

The following letter was provided from one subcommittee member to another to shed light on some of the documented “Community” feedback concerns and to solicit answers. No answers were provided by the time this report was filed:

Questions: As a communications guy - I'll be very interested to see how closely the "community" feedback you received correlates to the "talking points" you provided in advance to your guests. I guess I was lucky enough as a new member of the Fairfax NAACP to get a copy of them before Thursday's meeting.

That said, I'm truly interested in the specific feedback, trends, or other mention of what we would call "circular talking points" you collected. I mention this as one of my old DHS PAO buddies, John Philbin, was actually fired back in 2007 for providing talking points to an audience and then presenting those in the audience "prepared with talking points" as a "real" news conference who would ask "real questions". You can imagine how embarrassing it was to the department but it did open up new promotion slots.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/30/washington/30fema.html>

Data Analysis:

George, I'm specifically interested in your "BOLD" Talking Point you provided to the guests regarding your functional take on "Massive Resistance" and JEB Stuart HS. I'm guessing that one alone would be the easiest to tabulate in a qualitative measure as there's really shouldn't be much confusion if/when someone submits it as a reason - after all - it was the first one (at first) that compelled me to really consider changing the

name last year! I would also be very interested to see how your tabulation methodology qualifies a submission as falling into your "massive resistance" theme. For instance, would any negative mention

of the 1958 school board qualify as a tally under this topic?

Finally, how can you tell who, among your guests, who may have already submitted material to the FCPS on your talking point topics? As far as collecting unique individuals as a true measure of "Community Input", it's probably important that we would be able to parse out repeat authors from those who were moved to write for the first time. Along these lines, it was amazing that every adult (that I could see - less the police) in the auditorium raised their hand when I asked if they were actually part of the immediate neighborhood or Stuart Pyramid."

Going into our reporting phase, I think David from SC2 hit the nail on the head today while reporting on WMAL. He discussed how important social science methodology needed to be with such an important and expensive process as we all face. I thought he did a commendable job explaining data validity as part of our process to the listeners



During this community discussion, student participants on the panel sat comfortably in front of a placard with multiple pictures of the Confederate flag on display, including the offensive Munson Hill tour flyer. The double-standard inherent in this display was not lost.

Community Engagement / Requesting Input for Crafting a “Keep the Name” Win/Win Solution 2, May 23:

Loud outbursts mark JEB Stuart High School name change meeting



Despite setting up a community format designed to educate the community on many of our findings and to solicit feedback in line with keeping the name, a large number of activists became involved with the meeting.

As the media report showcases, many of these visitors had no intention of participating in assisting the “Keep” side add value to this report. Instead, they were argumentative, loud, boisterous and generally hostile and repeated the same messages heard during the May 18th meeting.

Specifically, the Win/Win comments from the audience, in line with the stated goals of the meeting, are reflected in nearly every aspect of this report. Written cards, notes and/or emails can be collected and made available but it was

However, vocal the activists made up only a small group of the 132 (approximate) guests, which nearly doubled the attendance from the “Change” group despite the short notice, lack of aggressive marketing or ability to rely on a ‘ready to show up crowd’. By title alone “Keep the Name” it seems that the community would really be very interested in finding a formal, peaceful discussion of options and a review of how

money is prioritized at FCPS so as to manage expectations. While some of these themes were touched on it seems that at good faith attempt would serve to quell at least some concerns.

MEASURING SUPPORT

As indicated in this document's "Introduction" the only valid measure of the true J.E.B. Pyramid community was completed in the Spring 2016 along with the student survey. After a full year has passed, and the true costs of the change endeavor have become clearer and the process missteps [have been exposed](#), it's fair to say that another community survey would probably yield worse numbers for those wishing for change - just as we saw a dwindling of support among students to even participate in the process any longer from 2016 to 2017.

Moreover, when the process of a name change starts, support among students and parents can and does drop off among those who did not wish for change. Tensions, loss of funds and division can do quite a bit of damage to once tight communities. A report on this phenomena, and an assessment on how the students are reacting (*Academically, Physically and Behaviorally*) to the name change campaign [may be viewed here](#).

Notably, no parent groups at J.E.B. Stuart have endorsed the name change. No community business partner has endorsed the name change. Minorities were severely under-represented on the Committee and even some who were invited failed to attend.

Even a Senior Senator from Va. - based on the school board's apparent needs - [has written a letter](#) endorsing a formal approach on name change prioritizing a community based or ballot approach.

CONCLUSIONS

SC2 Keep has attempted in good faith to carry out activities to assess the extent of support for the name change and provide such information to FCPS. It's important to review that only **11% of (N=223)** of the student body took part in calling for a name change in 2016. In 2017, the amount of students even willing to participate in a name-change measurement fell even more (**8.9% / N=192**). Unfortunately, the heavy presence and influence of advocacy groups and the use of pre-delivered "talking points" may have produced "feedback", but the utilization of these sources in a meaningful way must be approached with *extreme caution*. A "Compelling Need" standard can not be based on input with such obvious reliability issues. It's notable the the history tours and a meeting themed "Win/Win" did attract many visitors with little advertising giving us some hint at what the community might respond to in the future.

The divisive nature of this experience has led us all to believe the only way to reach a sustainable long-term solution is through a ballot measure at the full Fairfax County level. If agreement is reached that a name change is warranted, then the actual name should be selected by students and pyramid residents.

APPENDIX 1: The Pre-Survey of Stuart Students

SC2 participants agreed it would be useful to survey students in order to ascertain what information they would like in order to participate effectively in the Stuart name discussion. Despite nearly two years of

campaigning on the name change issues, only 192 students (8.92%) of J.E.B. Stuart High School students chose to participate.

Development of the Survey Questions and Technique

The survey used was notably problematic. Controversy currently exists within the SC2 regarding the development and distribution of a subcommittee “survey” which was designed solely by the SC2 liaison and a student participant of SC2. Specifically, the liaison is ardently against keeping the name and completed this task despite other members of SC2 offering to provide their professional survey knowledge through crafting, testing and approving (per FCPS policy) the survey tool BEFORE delivery to the sample population – which is standard operating procedure in the social psychological sciences.

The school principal was asked to implement the survey as developed and believed it had been approved by the SC2. The survey was not shared with at least four of the adult SC2 members until after it was administered and the results were already gathered.

The wording of the questions was biased, misleading, and did not adequately capture the full range of potential student inquiry. (This concern apparently also shared by student participants, as one noted in his/her response “I wanna know why this survey is clearly a way to trigger people for one side only. Very unfair from the white Principle to only shows one side of this topic.”)

The top issue cited by individuals pushing for the name change – the school was named by a racist school board to intimidate minority children – was not covered in the questions. There was no question about a high priority concern -- costs. There was no question about how school lands were acquired.

Administration of the Survey

On Monday March 13, 2017, the non-approved SC2 survey was conducted of J.E.B. Stuart High School students to understand better what information they would like to receive in order to participate effectively in the ongoing discussion of whether or not to rename their school.

The survey was loaded onto Google drive so all students had access to it during Raider Time. Raider Time is a 35-minute session that occurs approximately every eight academic days and is used for general administrative and school activities. All students have Raider Time at the exact same time.

At the beginning of Raider Time, Principal Penny Gros announced to students via the school P.A. system that the survey was available and encouraged them all to participate.

Using this approach, students were given the time and computer access to participate in the survey, if they were so inclined. Limiting access to the window of Raider Time avoided the need for students to login using their student identification numbers, which would have complicated access to the results and processing responses because of privacy concerns.

Students were asked to select four areas from seven possible information area choices. The first six options were a pre-determined list of areas. The seventh option was “other,” where the students had an opportunity to identify a different area of interest.

There were 192 Stuart students who participated in the survey collection effort, and each was allowed four answers. If each student had responded fully, a total of 768 choices selected was possible. The total selected was 547 or 71.2%.

The Pre - Survey Instrument

PRE

-SURVEY INSTRUMENT

The Fairfax County School Board is considering changing the name of our high school, J.E.B. Stuart High School. We want to prepare some information for you about this issue. We would like to know what types of information you would find useful.

Please check 4 top categories of information you would like to receive:

1. I would like to know more about who J.E.B. Stuart was.
 2. Since J.E.B. Stuart was a general in the Confederate Army during the U.S. Civil War, I would like to learn more about what that war was all about and what happened during and after the war.
 3. I would like to learn more about the enslavement of millions of African Americans by southern plantation owners before the U.S. Civil War and how they resisted.
 4. Since our school got its name in 1958, I would like to learn more about Virginia's "Massive Resistance" in the 1950s to the desegregation of the public schools (desegregation meant allowing Black students to attend schools that were previously white -only).
 5. I would like to know the reasons some people want to change the name of our school.
 6. I would like to know the reasons some people want to keep the name of our school.
 7. Other: Here is what else I would like to know

Quantitative Findings

The quantitative results of the pre-survey are reported in Table 1.

Table 1

Questions and number of responses	Percentage of respondents selecting this item	Percentage of student body N=2153
1. I would like to know more about who J.E.B. Stuart was.	32.8% (63)	2.9%
2. Since J.E.B. Stuart was a general in the Confederate Army during the U.S. Civil War, I would like to learn more about what that war was all about and what happened during and after the war.	22.4% (43)	2.0%
3. I would like to learn more about the enslavement of millions of African Americans by southern plantation owners before the U.S. Civil War and how they resisted.	22.4% (43)	2.0%
4. Since our school got its name in 1958, I would like to learn more about Virginia's "Massive Resistance" in the 1950s to the desegregation of the public schools (desegregation meant allowing Black students to attend schools that were previously white-only).	40.2% (77)	3.6%
5. I would like to know the reasons some people want to change the name of our school.	55.2% (106)	4.9%
6. I would like to know the reasons some people want to keep the name of our school.	41.1% (79)	2.0%
7. Other	29.7% (57)	3.7%

Qualitative Findings (Answers to question #7 “Here is what else I want to know”)

Of the 57 respondents who selected this option, 44 students (77.2% of respondents) provided

specific answers. The remaining 13 did not provide answers. All answers are captured in Table 2 exactly as entered by the students.

Table 2
1. Don't change the name of the school; it's a waste of time and money
2. I would like to know more about how the name may be changed (who decides, the process, how the name will be picked, the process, etc.)
3. Couldn't the money being used for the name change go towards something else, i.e. like getting out of a land lock or making our school bigger
4. i want to know why they want us to waste money on changing the name although at least 70% of people don't know who jeb stuart was or care....
5. I do not need to learn more about the history of a name when our community is diverse. We need to focus on getting better resources for our school over a name. Talk about identification when all we do is focus on what others think about us.
6. don't really care
7. I would like to know how we plan on financing the name change without slowly phasing things in/out and having a tacky looking "two name" school.
8. the opinions of minority groups who might be affected by the name more than white people, do they care about the name?
9. I want to know why there aren't any dividers in the <u>boys</u> bathrooms?
10. What's the real purpose of changing the name when an overwhelming majority don't care or don't want to change the name?
11. The change of the school name is useless, people will find offense in anything nowadays and history is already written. Stuart should teach students the importance of Cultural Marxism and its dangers, no I'm not white, I'm a minority <u>actually and</u> I know multiple minorities who don't give two damns about the name change, it'd be better to get better bathrooms rather than changing the school name because some individuals are offended. It's baseless non-sense, history happens, racism happens, evil happens, changing the school name won't change anything, teaching kids to grow up and not be so sensitive about
12. Why are we still trying to change the name? There are <u>really more</u> pressing matters like the lack of dividers in the boy's bathroom but we decide to use our time to debate about a name change that honestly wouldn't make a big difference
13. I would like for the school name to remain the same because of history.
14. I would like to know the costs that are needed to change the name and <u>alternet</u> options to spend the money
15. Dividers in <u>boys</u> bathroom
16. why do people want to change the name of the school. <u>Its</u> part of us history and it will always be. We should learn about our past instead of <u>try</u> to delete it.
17. I would like to know the cost of the school name <u>change</u> , how much will the cost affect the school. The whole idea of the name change is just blasphemy to me, people aren't truly offended by this name because we've evolved passed the years of segregation. We're the most diverse school in this state, and changing the name would just make us look foolish.
18. No. The name is fine. Forgetting history doesn't eliminate it
19. I know the reasons behind the name and its history and know why people support it and why people don't
20. What are the options of names the school provides? Why do u want to change that <u>now</u> .
(continued)

Table 2 (continued)

21. What is the cost of changing the school name? Are there other things we could spend the money on (such as improving the school infrastructure, college visits, field trips to enrich classroom learning, increase funding for extra-curricular activities, or providing supplies to those who can't afford them)?
22. I would like to know about the costs and difficulties that would occur if the name was changed.
23. JEB Stuart's beliefs on slavery and the Confederacy
24. Don't support name change
25. I'd like to know who actually feels offended by the name
26. I ~~wanna~~ know why this survey is clearly a way to trigger people for one side ~~only~~. Very unfair from the white Principle to only shows one side of this topic.
27. why they believe it is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to change a name.
28. If we change our name what will it do? Then we will have to tear down everything for George Washington, he had slaves. If we get rid of ever monument for a person who did bad things in their lives we wouldn't have any monuments left. We aren't saying that slavery is good by keeping the name, we are ensuring that the arrangement that schools in the south would be named after some southern Generals. Plus it would cost the school money we don't have
29. How much this would cost realistically considering all the new uniforms that the school just purchased, and please do not sell that dream of "Oh it wont cost that much because we'll re-use these things and keep the same colors blah ~~blah~~" no one believes that.
30. I just cant see a reason why you would want the name
31. what did J. E. B. Stuart do and what role he played in the civil war?
32. Don't change the name of the school. The name is fine how it is.
33. Don't change the name, history must be remembered in order to not be repeated. Keep JEB Stuart his only crime was fighting on the wrong side in the civil war
34. A name change would cost a lot of money. The school would have to redo everything with the current school name and logo on it. I would like to know where the money for the name change will come from, and which programs or departments at this school will receive less money because of it.
35. God is dead and we killed him
36. anything but "peace valley"
37. I would like to know why people are so ignorant as to hold a grudge on history. It's history, let it go. The name of our school isn't harming anyone. If you don't like the name switch schools. History was the past, lets not waste money on a name change when we need it for academics and athletics.
38. This is not a smart move economically
39. I would like to not only hear reasons, but hear actual arguments between two people on both side to see which side would be better towards me.
40. we know this man has killed and enslaved a lot of African Americans so I wonder why changing this name is even under a matter of debate as long as we are claiming that Gettysburg address and emancipation of proclamation were both valid and ~~respectable~~?

(continued)

Table 2 (continued)

41. why this school is kind of small
42. I <u>don't</u> care why should we let a name define who we are, people need to <u>actually start</u> being the futurists they say they are and not let this name define who we are as a community of educators
43. i would like to know where you're gonna pull the money from to change the name, if the name gets change i will wear JEB Stuart spirit wear <u>everyday</u> . Nobody even cares who he was we are one of the most diverse schools in <u>fairfax</u> county, it's never <u>a</u> effected anyone. <u>Take a</u> look at Robert E. Lee instead.
44. I would like to know why there are people uneducated on who Jeb Stuart was, advocating for a name change just because they can.

Discussion of the Findings

The areas of greatest interest were: the reasons for and against a name change (items 5 and 6, which were identified by 52% and 41% of the respondents, respectively), the period of Massive Resistance (item 4 at 40%), and who J.E.B. Stuart was (item 1 at 33%). The discussion about the Civil War and slavery received some indications of interest, but not at the same level as the previous four areas (22% each).

Among the qualitative answers (Question 7, 29%), the most frequent category of interest was the prospective cost to make the change (14 people, or 31.8% of the 44 students who elected to give a narrative answer).

Among the qualitative answers (Question 7, 29%), the most frequent category of interest was the negative assessment of the prospective cost to make the change (14 people, or 31.8% of the 44 students who elected to give a narrative answer). One answer, number #40, provides a very important response in understanding the impact of prior negative campaigning against the name. Not only is this student's answer factually inaccurate, it more importantly parallels the anti-JEB Stuart narrative provided within a sensational video produced by Students for Change – to include the appearance of two J.E.B. Teachers – which was immediately removed by the principal in May 2016 after its presence - and circulation of nearly 4,000 views - was made public at a School Board meeting in May 2016. Thus, we can discern that the video – even though it had been removed – continues to hold a surprising level of negative influence among some students. However, the vast majority of students at J.E.B. may be seen to have clearly dismissed these negative / “change”-centric messages and continue to either vote no on the several surveys completed to date or simply not voting for change.

Some members of SC2 argued that the main result of the pre-survey was that students were not really interested in the name change issue because of the low participation in the pre-survey. They noted that, as of February 18, 2017, there were 2,153 students at J.E.B. Stuart High School and that only 192 (8.92%) of J.E.B. Stuart High School students participated in this information collection effort; this meant, in turn, that only 2-5% of the student body showed an interest in any of the topics in the pre-determined list on the pre-survey instrument. SC2 discussed the variety of reasons for the participation rate, including the level of interest in the issue, the competing activities during Raider Time, and the brief time that the pre-survey was available. As noted earlier, the pre-survey was available only in English.

However, this lack of student participation for opting “in” for change has routinely occurred over portions of three years despite the high levels of marketing by internal and external forces to do so (both in 2015/16 & 2017) where previous efforts – to include direct appeals to classes of students to vote against the name by at least one teacher who also heads up Students for Change – (documentation available upon request) netted a majority “no” change vote while garnering only 12.5% positive change vote from the total student body.

Columbia University’s Chiara Superti – a political scientist - opines that those who do not vote are often participating in “...a form of popular political protest: relatively new, sometimes mobilized, growing everywhere, and increasingly attracting the attention of political elites.” As such, the inability for the change advocates to muster an active vote on several occasions – despite the internal and external pressure faction – must be seen as a legitimate voice in this matter. (see: http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/csuperti/files/blankasprotest_final.pdf?m=1455298855)