

**FINAL REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE 2
TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF SUPPORT FOR A NAME
CHANGE FOR J.E.B. STUART HIGH SCHOOL**

Submitted on behalf of Sub-Committee 2 by

Rodney D. Green, Liaison

May 23, 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FINAL REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE 2 TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF SUPPORT FOR A NAME CHANGE FOR J.E.B. STUART HIGH SCHOOL

Subcommittee 2 (SC2) has held seven meetings and extensive discussions via email. It sponsored an attempt to learn the views of Stuart students and a successful event where community views were collected. The very brief time line for the work of the committee, its volunteer character, and a variety of obstacles have limited our ability to be definitive. Accordingly, the findings that we present here should be considered with those limitations in mind.

SENTIMENT OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

African Americans are particularly affected by the school's current name; there is strongly-held, virtual unanimity in the African American population about the offensiveness of the name. The forbears of that population suffered the most from the system that the Confederacy represented (i.e., chattel slavery) and J.E.B Stuart's place in history derives from his role as a Confederate general. There are five pieces of evidence to support this conclusion : all African Americans on the Ad Hoc Working Group favor the name change ; African American alumni living near the Bailey's Community Center signed a statement in support of the name change; all of the African American speakers at the May 18th community event passionately supported the name change; Howard University faculty submitted a statement in support of the name change; and the president of the Fairfax County NAACP, Kofi Annan, issued a very strong statement in support of the name change

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE ON THE EXTENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE NAME CHANGE: THE MAY 18TH COMMUNITY MEETING, STUDENT VIDEO/SURVEY, AND LISTINGS OF PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS

- Over 100 community residents attended the May 18th event, over 50 participants spoke, and 57 attendees provided written comments. The majority of the written comments submitted on May 18th favored the name change. Among other things, 27 commenters stated that it was wrong to have a school named after a Confederate general who fought to maintain slavery. Many speakers at the May 23rd meeting expressed similar views.
- A pre-survey, video viewing and a post-survey of Stuart students were not completed due to time constraints
- SC2 compiled a listing of online and other petitions that have been circulating since the possibility of changing the school's name began to receive increased attention in mid-2015.

CONCLUSION

Working within these constraints, SC2 has identified strong support for a name change in the community in general and in particular in the African American community.

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INTRODUCTION

Subcommittee 2 (SC2) has held seven meetings, including two at the Ad Hoc Working Group gatherings, four face-to-face, and one via conference call. It has also held extensive discussions via email. It sponsored an attempt to learn the views of Stuart students and a successful event where community views were collected.

There are three sections to this report and several appendices. First, we provide a general discussion of our work. Second, we focus on the extent of support among African Americans for a name change. Third, we evaluate the remaining evidence that has been gathered by SC2. Appendices include the information contained in various petitions, statements, and compilations of commentary. This report is supported by SC2 members Julia Clark; Rodney Green, Liaison; Ariana Habibi; David Hardison; Stephen Spitz; and Daniel Villegas.

DISCUSSION OF OUR WORK

Assessing the "extent of support" for a name change is perhaps the most labor-intensive activity of the Ad Hoc Working Group. While we believe our efforts to compile information, conduct community engagement activities and secure input from diverse populations in Fairfax County provide the Superintendent and Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) with additional, useful information for their consideration, we cannot provide a comprehensive set of findings. The very brief time line for the work of the committee, its volunteer character, and a variety of obstacles have limited our ability to be definitive. Accordingly, the findings that we present here should be considered with those limitations in mind.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SENTIMENT OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

The extent of support expressed by different members of the overall population varies considerably. One group that is particularly affected by the school's current name is the African American community. Our findings suggest that there is virtual unanimity in the African American population about the offensiveness of the name and that this feeling is held very strongly. This finding is not surprising: the forbears of that population suffered the most from the system that the Confederacy represented (i.e., chattel slavery) and J.E.B Stuart's place in history derives from his role as a Confederate general. Moreover, the legacy of the Confederacy included the racist Jim Crow system of segregation that prevailed from its legitimization in *Plessy v. Ferguson* until its rejection in 1954 by *Brown v. Board of Education*. One might argue that today's continuing racial disparities in most arenas, including educational settings, still reflect that legacy and contribute to the intensity of support for a name change in this population.

The members of Subcommittee 2 submitting this report (three current students, two Stuart alumni, and a local community member who resides within the Stuart attendance area) believe

that FCSB should take this level and intensity of support for the name change into account as it weighs its decision.

The evidence

There are five pieces of evidence that support the conclusion that the African American population in the community strongly supports the name change:

- (1) All the African Americans on the Ad Hoc Working Group favor the name change and have articulated the depth of their support for it at multiple points during the Ad Hoc Working Group's deliberations. While these individuals are not a random sample of African Americans, their strong advocacy for a name change supports the aforementioned conclusion.
- (2) Many African American alumni who live near the Bailey's Community Center near Lacy Boulevard signed a statement in support of the name change (see Appendix 1 for details).
- (3) All the African American speakers at the May 18th community event supported the name change, often quite passionately.
- (4) A significant group of faculty at Howard University, the capstone of African American higher education, submitted a statement in support of the name change (see Appendix 2 for the list).
- (5) The Fairfax County NAACP, a consistent opponent of segregation from 1916 through today, including during the Massive Resistance period of the 1950s and early 1960s, has issued a very strong statement in support of the name change (see Appendix 3 for the letter from Kofi Annan, the President of the Fairfax County NAACP). They joined forces with several other organizations in responding forcefully to the opponents of the name change at an earlier point (see Appendix 3a for the joint statement).

SC2 concludes from these sources of information that the African American community supports the name change.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE ON THE EXTENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE NAME CHANGE

The May 18th Community Meeting

Background

One of the goals that SC2 set for itself at the beginning of the process in February 2017 was to engage the community by using material prepared by SC1 (the pros and cons of a name change) and presenting both the written statements and an oral version in various community settings, followed by the collection of information, mostly qualitative, from those attending such events.

While SC2 members have worked to carry out the subcommittee's charge diligently through this approach, many members have expressed a reservation about the importance of measuring the level of support for changing the name of the school quantitatively as a decisive input into the

decision by the School Board. SC2 members generally accept the proposition that the School Board is ultimately tasked with ensuring that all FCPS students are entitled to a learning environment in which they feel comfortable and respected, as reflected in the “One Fairfax” resolution passed last year. Hence the decision should not be based on a poll of the community at large. For this reason, SC2 has sought to bring a range of qualitative views to the fore in meeting its charge, while still including some quantitative findings as indicative of community attitudes.

The Event

The members of SC2 submitting this report arranged a discussion of the pros and cons of a name change on May 18th, held at J.E.B. Stuart High School. The final plan, worked out at the last SC2 meeting on May 11, was for each side to present their arguments for 15 minutes each, followed by: (1) five minutes each to rebut or respond to the other side; (2) public comment from those participating and wishing to speak; and (3) written reflections from those who wished to submit their views. These reflections would then be summarized and presented in the Final Report. The Superintendent’s office supported this event by providing facilitators, copies and translations (Spanish and Arabic) of the pro and con reports, and language interpreters at the event. In addition, the Superintendent’s office sent emails announcing the event to families in the Stuart pyramid and posted an announcement of the event on FCPS’s website.

Less than three days before the event (on May 15th at 10:04 PM), an SC2 member who had been involved in planning the event informed Marty Smith of FCPS that none of committee members who oppose a name change would be available to present the “con” side on May 18. SC2 decided to proceed with the event by having someone present the “con” statement from SC1. In addition, two Ad Hoc Working Group members who opposed the name change (including one member of SC2) were able to attend, in contrast to their earlier declination, and provided multiple comments at the event against a name change.

Findings from the Community Meeting Held on May 18

Well over 100 community residents attended the May 18th event, the debate proceeded as planned, over 50 participants spoke during the public comment period, and 57 attendees provided written comments. Many community residents also spoke in favor of changing the name at the subsequent May 23rd community meeting.

Due to time constraints, SC2 has not been able to analyze in detail the spoken comments from the May 18 community meeting. However, all the written comments are included in Appendix 4.

The majority of the written comments submitted on May 18th favored the name change, in one way or another. Among other things, 27 commenters stated in several ways that it was wrong to have a school named after a Confederate general who fought to maintain slavery; one commenter sought a name change because Stuart was “a traitor”; six indicated that costs should not be considered as a barrier to changing the name; one expressed an eagerness to participate in a fundraising goal to change the name; and another commenter said that external dollars would be appropriate for financing the change.

In comparison, three commenters said that we should not change history and that we should keep the name; three argued that changing the name would lead to a slippery slope and force the changing of the names of many types of institutions (i.e., names associated with the Confederacy and/or slavery); two argued that it was too costly to change the name; and two more argued that the money prospectively spent on the name change could be used for better purposes. In addition, four commenters criticized the structure of the meeting, including criticisms that inadequate notice had been provided to the community and that the event catered to “no-English” families, and three were critical of the NAACP’s purported role in the event.

Finally, a pro-change advocate who attended the May 18 event circulated a petition in support of the name change and secured 49 signatures of those in attendance (see Appendix 5)

Data from Other Statements, Petitions, and Surveys

The Pre-Survey of Stuart Students

The Plan: At the meeting of SC2 on March 1, 2017, it was decided to begin a process to evaluate the extent of support for the name change among current J.E.B. Stuart High School students in addition to the earlier survey conducted by FCPS and the other one completed by Students for Change. A multi-step process was defined:

- First, a pre-survey was to be conducted to assess what topics would be of interest to the students in an educational video.
- Second, based on these findings, Stuart students, under the leadership of the student members of the Ad Hoc Working Group, were to produce a script for a short video that would be reviewed with SC2 in advance and then played for all Stuart students.
- Third, after the video, some tool would be used to allow students who wished to do so to share their views and provide additional information beyond that previously gathered, on the extent of support for the name change among students.

SC2 members agreed that, because 800 students are at ESOL Level 1, it would be desirable to ensure that the instruments used in the process be made available in Spanish or at least with Spanish sub-titles. The Spanish version of the pre-survey was unfortunately never produced.

On Monday, March 13, 2017, the pre-survey described above was conducted of J.E.B. Stuart High School students to understand better what additional information they would like to receive in order to participate effectively in the ongoing discussion of whether to rename their school.

The survey was loaded onto each student’s Google drive so all students had access to it during Raider Time, which is an occasional 35-minute “free” session that occurs approximately every eight academic days and is used for general student-based administrative and school activities. All students have Raider Time at the 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 to participate. At the same time, students were also reminded of other activities, such as participating in the WTOP online vote to raise \$15,000 for the school.

Through this approach, students were given the opportunity to participate in the survey, if they were so inclined, as well as to engage in other activities such as participating in the WTOP online vote.

The Pre-Survey Instrument

The following illustration contains the pre-survey instrument, which was made available only in English:

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 _____

Findings from the Pre-Survey

Students were asked to select four areas from seven possible information area choices. The first six options were a pre-determined list of items (see Table 1). The seventh option was “Other,” where the students had an opportunity to identify a different area of interest, shown in Appendix 6.

Quantitative Findings

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

Table 1		
Questions and number of responses	Number	Percentage of respondents selecting this item
1. I would like to know more about who J.E.B. Stuart was.	63	32.8
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	43	22.4
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.	43	22.4
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).	77	40.1
5. I would like to know the reasons some people want to change the name of our school.	106	55.2
6. I would like to know the reasons some people want to keep the name of our school.	79	41.1
7. Other	57	29.7

Discussion of the Findings

Among those who could participate and chose to do so, there was some interest in all six items from the pre-determined list. 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).

These findings were intended to be helpful to the students who were planning to design the educational video on the name change controversy.

SC 2 member Daniel Villegas noted that he received sample questions from the liaison of SC2, which had been given to him simply as suggestions. He decided to use them, and reported that Principal Penny Gros had also reviewed them as well and found them acceptable. He noted that the pre-survey was on a tight schedule to circulate, given the limited time frame for this activity at Stuart. Daniel Villegas reported that some of the student committee members met after school on Thursday, March 30, to discuss the production of the video. The majority wanted to participate, and began the process of writing a script.

Subsequently, a draft script was developed for the video by a student member of SC2 and circulated to the full SC2 committee. However, there were recommendations from certain Ad Hoc Working Group members (including SC2 members) for multiple edits and the final script and the associated video could not be completed within the time frame provided by FCPS. Accordingly, this initiative by SC2 to gauge the level of support for a name change among Stuart students was not completed, although the pre-survey indicated a significant level of interest in the overall topic.

LISTINGS OF PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS ON THE NAME CHANGE

In addition to the foregoing activities, SC2 compiled a listing of online and other petitions that have been circulating since the possibility of changing the school's name began to receive increased attention in mid-2015. These compilations and listings are included in Appendix 7.

Specifically, through March 10, 2017, SC2 identified four on-line petitions and three other petitions or statements in favor of changing the school's name, with a total of 38,228 signatures, and six on-line petitions against changing the school's name, with a total of 3,025 signatures.

One petition to change the name, which garnered over 35,000 signatures, included approximately 175 Stuart alumni, current students, and parents of students who not only signed the petition, but also provided supplemental written comments of their reasons for doing so (See Appendix 8 for a full listing of their comments in support of the name change. Appendix 9 includes a similar statement from members of the Class of 1966).

Given that most of these petitions were on-line petitions, those signing the petitions included both individuals who live inside the current Stuart attendance zone or Fairfax County, as well as individuals (including alumni) who live in other areas. In addition, some individuals who are recorded as having signed certain of the petitions appear to have done so to express their opposition, rather than support, to those petitions. Nevertheless, the petitions underscore the attention that the potential name change has received in the local and national media (see, for example, the video of a speech at the May 18th community meeting that has gone viral with over 884,000 viewings:

https://www.facebook.com/actdottv/videos/630205757169994/?hc_location=ufi)

In addition, as noted above, the written comments that accompany many of the petitions provide additional, qualitative information that the Superintendent and the School Board may wish to consider in determining whether to change the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School.

CONCLUSION

SC2 has attempted in good faith to carry out activities to compile and assess the extent of support for the name change and provide such information to the Superintendent and School Board. Our efforts have been constrained by the brief time line and other factors discussed above. None of these surveys, petitions, statements, and events that have been undertaken provide a full study of the extent of support for a name change. However, our overall impression from both past surveys and petitions and the main event we sponsored, the May 18th event, is that there is considerable, strong support for a name change in the community. We also concluded that the support from the African American community was virtually unanimous and intense in its support of the name change.

APPENDIX 1

<p style="text-align: center;">LET'S CHANGE THE NAME OF J.E.B. STUART HIGH SCHOOL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">[collected at the Crossroads Family Reunion, September 10, 2016]</p>		
<p>We, the undersigned, believe that the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School should be changed. It is not appropriate for the school to be named for a Confederate general who fought to preserve slavery. We urge the Fairfax County School Board to replace the name J.E.B. Stuart with a more uplifting designation for the school.</p>		
Name	If alum, list class	Current resident of Fairfax County?
Debra Hollins		yes
Paul White	1990	yes
Darnell White	1990	
Maud Boz	1978	
Joe Honesty	1976	
Verelett Pope	1977	
Derrick Clark	1996	yes
Shelia Johnson		yes
James Thompson	1979	yes
Mike Salazar	1977	no
Linda Greenfield		
Robert Jackson	1986	yes
John Hamilton	1994	no
Gary Honesty	1982	no
Linda Prize		no
Charles Goode		
Dana Summers		yes
Inez Mahoney	1966	yes
Dietra Shepherd	1968	no

Michael Puryear		yes
Steve Henderson		no
Diane Somers		yes
Stella Napper		yes
Areheren Reless		no
Nyjah Day		no
Alice Hawkins	1971	yes
Linda Puryear	1971	no
Rita Wiggins	1982	no
Edith Williams	1981	no
Alethea Fields		no
Linda Adams		yes
Ilee Z Leese	1991	yes
Geraldine Reed	1973	yes
Charles C Deen		yes
Lauren Agyameny		yes
Pat Thompson		former
Albert Hawken		no
Donnell Thompson	1985	no
Ajea Tyser	2014	yes
Korinn Alexander		yes
Geraldine Banks		no
Torri Malloy	1982	no
Debbie Roberts	1966	
Orlandia Scott	1979	no

APPENDIX 2

HOWARD UNIVERSITY FACULTY MEMORANDUM SUPPORTING THE NAME CHANGE

July 25, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: The Fairfax County School Board

We are faculty members at Howard University who have followed with some special interest the controversy over the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School in Falls Church, Virginia.

We are encouraged to know that students and other community residents have, at long last, made the case that honoring a man who fought and died to preserve slavery is not now, and never was, appropriate.

The slave system that the Confederacy sought to preserve and extend destroyed the lives of millions of enslaved Africans and their children. Their heritage, not that of those who enslaved them, is what should be honored by replacing the school's name.

We hope that the Fairfax County School Board will move with all deliberate speed to rebrand J.E.B. Stuart High School with an inspiring name that looks towards a promising future rather than backwards to a sordid past.

Sincerely yours,

Terri Adams, Ph.D.	Associate Professor & Associate Dean	Sociology
Ana-Lucia Araujo, Ph.D.	Professor	History
Trisha Bent-Goodley, Ph.D.	Professor	School of Social Work
Charles Betsey, Ph.D.	Professor Emeritus	Economics
Emily Blank, Ph.D.	Associate Professor	Economics
Gregory Carr, Ph.D., J.D.	Associate Professor & Chair	Afro-American Studies
Carrie Cowherd, Ph.D.	Associate Professor & Chair	Classics
Sandra Crewe, Ph.D.	Professor & Dean	School of Social Work
Lisa Crooms-Robinson, Ph.D.	Professor & Associate Dean	School of Law
Gerald Daniels, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor	Economics
Michael Fauntroy, Ph.D.	Associate Professor	Political Science
Haile Gerima, MFA	Professor	Film
Keneshia Grant, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor	Political Science
Rodney Green, Ph.D.	Professor	Economics
Segun Ige, Ph.D.	Professor	Classics
David James, Ph.D.	Professor	Mathematics
Haydar Kurban, Ph.D.	Professor	Economics
Judi Latta, Ph.D.	Professor	Media, Journalism and Film
Edna Medford, Ph.D.	Professor	History
Gaminie Meepagala, Ph.D.	Associate Professor & Chair	Economics

Lorenzo Morris, Ph.D.	Professor	Political Science
Bahiyyah Muhammad, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor	Sociology
Rubin Patterson, Ph.D.	Professor & Chair	Sociology
Tracy Perkins, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor	Sociology
Alton Pollard, Ph.D.	Professor & Dean	School of Divinity
Joseph Reidy, Ph.D.	Professor	History
Bernard Richardson, Ph.D.	Assoc Professor & Dean of the Chapel	School of Divinity
Jacqueline Smith, Ph.D.	Professor	School of Social Work
Cudore Snell, Ph.D.	Professor	School of Social Work
Jennifer Thomas, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor	Media, Journalism and Film
Alvin Thornton, Ph.D.	Professor	Political Science
Dana Williams, Ph.D.	Professor & Chair	English
Zhun Xu, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor	Economics

APPENDIX 3

LETTER FROM KOFI ANNAN, PRESIDENT OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY NAACP, TO ALL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

I am writing to ask you to vote to rename J.E.B. Stuart High School (“Stuart”). The Fairfax NAACP joined the effort to rename Stuart after being urged by Stuart’s own students who were troubled by the school’s name. We want your commitment to support that effort as well.

Recently, the Fairfax County School Board voted to formally support and endorse the “Fairfax County Statement on Diversity and Inclusion.” That resolution states unequivocally “Fairfax County is and will continue to be a County that exemplifies values of respect and acceptance.” Unfortunately, the current name of J.E.B. Stuart High School does not live up to that resolution or the values of the county.

J.E.B Stuart was a confederate general who died in the name of white supremacy. Thousands of our students, including boys and girls descended from enslaved American men and women, are obliged to attend a school named in honor of a traitor who fought and died to keep their ancestors enslaved. But even if all students at Stuart were European Americans, the name would still be wrong because it does not reflect the values of our community and sends the wrong message to our students. Moreover, regrettably, not one of Fairfax County’s 26 high schools is named after a woman or person of color. The name of a school, like curricula, pedagogy, books, and visual aids, is an integral part of the educational experience. Appropriate names foster positive environments for learning. These names also reflect on the community at large.

This is a critical issue for the NAACP, its members, and to many of our county’s approximately 100,000 black citizens. Since its founding, in its struggle for racial equality, the NAACP has given education a high priority and has worked diligently to open equal educational opportunities for Americans of color. We supported Barbara Johns in her suit against Prince Edward County in 1950 and Linda Brown in *Brown v. the Topeka Board of Education*, which ultimately culminated in the 1954 Supreme Court decision that found that racially segregated schools were inherently unequal. Unfortunately, however, many of Virginia’s European American leaders responded

with “massive resistance,” a coordinated effort to resist integration of public schools. The naming of Stuart was actually a symbolic nod to that massive resistance.

We have an opportunity to correct that racist, segregationist past. I urge you to vote to change the name and to choose a new name for this school that would inspire our students to learn, to serve, and to honor our true heroes.

Thank you for your service to our community. The Fairfax County NAACP strongly supports efforts by the School Board to provide quality education for all of our students. We closely follow the actions of the School Board and encourage our members to participate actively in the selection of School Board members who support our interests and values.

Yours sincerely,

Kofi Annan

President, Fairfax County NAACP

A Response to Opposition to the J.E.B. Stuart High School Name Change Movement

The group calling themselves “Save Our School” (SOS) wrongly asserts that FCPS should continue to honor J.E.B. Stuart’s service to the Confederacy.

The FCPS school board must rename J.E.B. Stuart High School to denounce the racism it upholds and give all students a school name of which they can be proud.

This document advocates for the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School to be changed on behalf of our supporters, including:

Students for Change
Alumni for Change
Fairfax County NAACP
Virginia State NAACP
J.E.B. Stuart High School Impact Club
J.E.B. Stuart High School Muslim Student Association
Annandale High School Black Cultural Association
Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation
People Demanding Action
Legal Aid Justice Center
National Korean American Service and Education Consortium
Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee
Showing Up for Racial Justice Northern Virginia

The Civil War and Slavery

SOS claims that “Stuart fought for his Virginia, not slavery. He had little or no interest in slavery.”

What did it mean to fight for Virginia, if not to fight for the cause for which Virginia fought? Virginia seceded to join the Confederacy in its war against the United States. Although some prefer to describe Confederate motivations in terms of economics or states rights, **preserving slavery was at the core of the Confederacy’s efforts**. This is **what is taught in FCPS schools** and can be seen clearly in the “Corner Stone” speech given March 21, 1861 by Alexander Stephens, the Vice President of the Confederate States of America:

Our new government... its foundations are laid, its corner-stone rests, upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery subordination to the superior race is his natural and normal condition. ... One of the most striking characteristics of insanity, in many instances, is forming correct conclusions from fancied or erroneous premises; so with the anti-slavery fanatics. Their conclusions are right if their premises were. They assume that the negro is equal, and hence conclude that he is entitled to equal privileges and rights with the white man. If their premises were correct, their conclusions would be logical and just but their premise being wrong, their whole argument fails.... They were attempting to make things equal which the Creator had made unequal.

Furthermore, Stuart’s leadership resonated with these Confederate ideals, as shown when **General Stuart and his Raiders captured eight free black men and boys from Pennsylvania to bring them to the South to be sold into slavery** (Rod Soodalter, New York Times, June 26th, 2013, “[The Invasions of Pennsylvania](#)”).

It is wrong to continue honoring one’s service to the Confederacy through our school’s current name. When one is honored for his contribution to the Confederate army, the ideals of the Confederate army are honored, upheld, and respected. J.E.B. Stuart’s skills, charisma, and achievements should be acknowledged, but we cannot dismiss the context of the cause to which they contributed. Had the efforts for which J.E.B. Stuart is commemorated succeeded, black people would have continued to be enslaved in the South. The name of a school should not show respect to the racism for which the Confederacy stood.

The “Lost Cause” Perspective on History

After the Civil War, a school of history referred to as the “Lost Cause” emerged in the South. This historical perspective sought to redeem southern states by **arguing that slavery was only one of many factors, if not a nonfactor, that led to their secession and portraying Confederate soldiers as honorable heroes**. Other tenets of the Lost Cause included downplaying the cruelty of slavery and presenting the North as aggressive toward the southern lifestyle. These Lost Cause ideologies are demonstrated in historical literature, such as *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government* by Jefferson Davis, and the novels *Gone with the Wind* and *Birth of a Nation*, which were made into popular films in 1939 and 1915, respectively.

The consensus of today’s historians refutes Lost Cause principles, recognizing their attempt to downplay racism throughout American history in order to improve the legacy of the Confederacy and those who fought for it. Although academia has progressed, the influence that this flawed historical perspective has had is evident. J.E.B. Stuart High School is one of many examples of the Lost Cause’s success, along with persisting attachments to the Confederate flag and refusals to recognize the central role of slavery in the Civil War.

SOS has erroneously and ironically labeled supporters of the J.E.B. Stuart High School name change effort as revisionists. In fact, **SOS’s admiration for J.E.B. Stuart’s Confederate leadership is a hallmark example of the revisionism of the Lost Cause school of history**. They further demonstrate the Lost Cause perspective by **downplaying the role of slavery and emphasizing states’ rights without acknowledging that southern states specifically wanted the right to own slaves**, saying: “The Confederate states believed in states’ rights and a loose federation,” while mentioning that “slavery was not addressed in the Constitution of 1878.”

Fortunately, FCPS schools are aligned with today’s historians in teaching the true history of the Civil War, where it is understood that, for both economic and cultural reasons, the Confederacy sought to create a nation where treating African Americans as property would remain legal. **Changing the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School corrects the false narrative that Lost Cause historians wrote, acknowledging the racism in our nation’s past** and showing that FCPS will not allow racially biased revisionism to prevail.

Community Support

On its www.stuartfacts.com website, SOS argues that Ms. Evans's resolution to move forward on the issue of renaming J.E.B. Stuart High School following a community survey indicating that 35% of respondents were supportive means that community input has been "ignored."

First, having one third of students, parents, and community members agree that keeping the name of a school is wrong clearly indicates that there is a problem. Second, Ms. Evans has analyzed survey responses, and **most of the opposing results cite financial concerns**. These concerns were largely inflated in our community in lieu of an official cost estimate, which was not published until the survey had already been released. Furthermore, the proposed workgroup would allow for effective planning and fundraising, with the ability to utilize crowd sourcing through the Change.org petition with over 34,000 signatures and support from influential alumni.

Implications made by "SOS" that survey results accurately represent our racially diverse community are also unfounded, as was evident to those who attended the May 23 community meeting at J.E.B. Stuart High School, where the overwhelming majority of patrons were white. According to Ms. Evans, a neighborhood analysis of community survey responses further illustrated that much of the J.E.B. Stuart High School community has not been heard.

Examining student survey responses further illustrates that the survey reflects only a limited portion of the community. When the 595 student survey responses (37.65% supportive, 52.77% opposed, and 9.58% neutral) are examined in the context of the entire student body (2,007 students), the results are as follows: 11.16% of the student body supported the name change. 15.64% of the student body opposed the name change. 4.58% were neutral. SOS's claims that survey responses indicate that Ms. Evans has violated the need for sufficient community support are clearly unfounded. Survey results do not represent the opinion of the entire community and demonstrate that there is a significant desire for the name to be changed.

We must also remember the full scale impact of this issue. It would be wrong to use only the feelings of the current community members who responded to the survey to make a decision that will affect not only those who did not respond, but the thousands of future students who will someday attend what is presently known as J.E.B. Stuart High School. Changing the name is a moral obligation, not a plebiscite.

The Financial Cost vs. the Moral Cost

While some community conversations might suggest otherwise, whether or not to change the name is not a discussion of what to do with a check for \$680,000. This is not a debate about which cause is most worthy of funding; it is a discussion of whether or not a school should be named to honor a Confederate general and whether or not it is right to have students express school pride through Confederate symbols, regardless of how these symbols conflict with their personal beliefs. That is why **supporters of the name change are willing and eager to put in however much effort is needed to bring in otherwise unavailable money to our community to finance the name change.**

Close to half of the estimated costs (**\$304,000**) account for sports and band equipment that will be **replaced in upcoming years, regardless of a name change.** Students have determined that at least 14 sports teams purchase new uniforms at least once every four years, and band uniforms (replaced every eight to 10 years) are currently due for replacement. The chart below illustrates this:

Every Year	Every 2 Years	Every 3 Years	Every 4 Years
Golf	Volleyball	Wrestling	Basketball
Cheerleading	Boys Soccer	Track	Girls Soccer
	Field Hockey		Softball
	Lacrosse		Cross Country
			Swim
			Crew

Inconvenience is not a reason to avoid doing what is right. **It is better to spend a few years implementing a name change than to spend potentially hundreds continuing to honor someone's service to the Confederacy and representing students with Confederate symbols.** The name of J.E.B. Stuart High School should be changed because it is the right thing to do, and morality should not be disregarded because it is not free.

The Source of the School Property

SOS has argued that those favoring a name change have falsely claimed that the school property was taken from African American families and attempts to prove this by showing that a white family sold school property to Fairfax County Public Schools. This is one of several instances where the SOS group exaggerates claims attributed to the people supporting the name change in an effort to discredit them. **The facts are that**

some, but not all, of the property used for J.E.B. Stuart High School and the adjacent J.E.B. Stuart Park came from African American families. One of those purchases by the Fairfax County Park Authority, for the property owned by the Denny family, was through a condemnation proceeding.

Fairfax County Resistance to Desegregation

SOS claims that Fairfax County favored school integration using “gradualism,” but **this plan was put forward as an effort to postpone the court ordered integration of the school systems by doing as little as possible for as long as possible.** A broader look at the Fairfax County School Board’s actions during this period shows that the board did nothing to speed the integration of the school system.

The Fairfax County School Board adopted in August 1959 a plan drafted in closed session that would have integrated first grade classes each year to gradually desegregate the school system (*Education Empire*, Daniel L. Duke; SUNY Press 2004, page 19). During this period, Fairfax County School **Superintendent Woodson instructed all county high school principals that the schools could not participate in any athletic competitions with schools that had integrated sports teams** (*Education Empire* at 19).

In September 1960, after a federal court ordered the Fairfax County School Board to immediately admit some of the 26 black students who had sued to stop the plan to phase in desegregation in the first grade each year, **Fairfax County Public Schools resisted by adopting a “freedom of choice” policy that placed the burden on the black students seeking to attend a white school using a process where applications were often denied for technicalities.** Black students whose transfers were approved were also initially required to provide their own transportation (*Education Empire* at 20).

A more in-depth analysis refuting SOS’s revisionist implications that the FCPS school board worked hard to desegregate rapidly can be read in a document by Kristin Cabral.

The Naming of J.E.B. Stuart High School

The school board resolution put forward by Ms. Evans perfectly summarizes our understanding of the naming of JEB Stuart High School.

...few records exist from the time to indicate the rationale of the Fairfax County School Board in naming the school, previously referred to as the Munson Hill High School, after J.E.B. Stuart, other than the decision to name new high schools for “some prominent American, now deceased.”

The resolution then summarizes what we, as well as those opposing the name change, agree made school board members consider J.E.B. Stuart to be a prominent American.

[J.E.B. Stuart was] an individual prominent primarily in Virginia for his role in fighting for the Confederacy and all it stood for, including the despicable institution of slavery...

Historical records concerning the naming of J.E.B. Stuart High School are ambiguous and cannot firmly prove whether or not the naming was an act of defiance to integration. While some supporters of the name change feel that historical context shows that the naming was an act of passive resistance, others feel that the naming may not have been done with this intent. As expressed in the resolution, **what is clear is that the school was named to honor J.E.B. Stuart for his Confederate leadership.** While SOS uses revisionist, Lost Cause history to argue that this leadership is worthy of honor, we firmly disagree.

A school would not be named to honor General Stuart's service to the Confederacy today because it is generally recognized that Confederate efforts were racist. Honoring them would thus be disrespectful to all who stand for racial equality, and particularly to persons of color. This may not have been understood by the school board who chose to honor J.E.B. Stuart, **making the naming of J.E.B. Stuart High School an uninformed, ignorant, and insensitive act, at best.**

Learning from History

We agree with SOS that “we must learn from history,” but we do not agree that learning from history means that our school name must continue to honor a Confederate General. **From what we have learned from history, we know that we don't want our school to be named to honor General Stuart and his Raiders, who raised arms against the United States in support of an effort to keep black people enslaved.** General Stuart's history can be remembered without keeping the name of our school, through other means. The resolution by Ms. Evans provides for ways to acknowledge and preserve history after the name is changed, such as through plaques and other displays.

“Where does it stop?”

SOS asks: “Where does it stop?” suggesting that nothing can be changed without opening the door to an endless chain of other renaming decisions. Those concerns go beyond the goal of **this group, which has always focused on the need to rename J.E.B. Stuart**

High School. The petition analyzed by SOS calling for other schools to be renamed was created by an individual one year ago, without follow up.

There is also an important distinction between General Stuart and other prominent historical figures. Unlike those who are honored for scientific advances that benefit all, establishing our government, or fighting for civil rights, **General Stuart is specifically honored for contributing to an effort to create a country where slavery would be legal.** Our school naming's connection to the Civil War, as SOS recognizes, is made clear through our school's location at Munson Hill, where Stuart led Confederate cavalrymen in battle, and our Raider mascot. General Stuart also died in the Civil War, further clarifying that he is commemorated as a Confederate war hero.

It is important to remember that many prominent historical figures were flawed, perhaps for owning slaves or opposing feminism, but **most historical figures are not upheld and respected for their flaws.** With regard to J.E.B. Stuart High School, that is exactly the problem. General Stuart is not honored for moral contributions to society; his flaws are not secondary components of his legacy. **Our school's current name honors J.E.B. Stuart for contributing to reprehensible efforts to deny African Americans freedom.** The name must be changed.

Origins of the Stuart H.S. Name Change Effort

In May of 2015, five students at J.E.B. Stuart High School united to change the name of their school. Some were motivated after a history lesson about racism in Virginia during the Civil Rights Movement led them to reflect on their school's name, and others were moved by their long-standing feelings of frustration with the Confederate symbols honored through and representing their school.

Students had met with their principal, begun working on a short documentary about the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School, and set up a meeting with their district's school board member by the time of the Charleston Massacre on June 17. This event sparked discussions about the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School and led alumni and other students to speak out about their support. Over the summer, Students for Change united with Alumni for Change, the Fairfax County NAACP, and other community groups to advance their advocacy.

This effort has never been, as some opponents have argued, a movement involving only a few students doing a teacher's "project." There are many students and community members who care deeply that their school does not honor someone's service to the Confederacy and that future students can be represented by figures that do not uphold the legacy of a racist past.

How to Reflect on History

The SOS group says: “It is simplistic and foolish to view history in the context of modern [morals] and values. Only by understanding the struggles of the past can we appreciate how they influenced and shaped the present.”

We agree that without recognizing what people accepted as moral in the past, one cannot understand why people behaved in what we now realize were immoral ways. **That does not mean that we excuse historical immoralities.** That certainly doesn’t mean that we continue to honor and uphold them. Just as past leaders have left their mark on society with their values, we can and should do the same by changing the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School.

If General Stuart’s efforts, along with those of the rest of the Confederate army, were successful, black people would have continued to live as property, without rights, laboring in fields all day for the profit of people who whipped, raped, and belittled them. The diversity that our school is so proud of would not be. There is no justification to continue honoring General Stuart’s service to the Confederacy. **No one should be honored for defending racism, no matter how colorful the character or skilled the cavalryman.** By that logic, we would celebrate the bravery and ingenuity of terrorists and others who applied their abilities to disgraceful causes.

It is wrong and ignorant to uphold and promote racist values. Changing the school name must become a part of this story, and then historical markers, other plaques, and displays can teach about the past as a lesson learned.

Student, Alumni, and Community Voices

“[School] names need to reflect the basis of the intent of what public education is all about, not historical representations that point to some of our worst times as a people.”

- Stuart Alum

“My family just moved into the JEB Stuart Pyramid three weeks ago and my 9 year old son asked me straightway how a high school could be named after a Confederate general who fought to keep slavery.”

- FCPS Parent

“I’m tired of going to a school that won’t change [its] name because it isn’t ‘convenient.’ The name was born with racism... and doesn’t reflect who we are as a school.”

- Stuart Student

“It was always awkward being a minority in a school that was majority minority but was named to honor a man who would law down his life to sanctify slavery and white supremacy... JEB Stuart is a dishonor to the people who attend this school today.”

- Stuart Alum

“I was always frustrated that I had to wear shirts saying ‘J.E.B. Stuart’ and cheer for the Raiders to express pride for my school because those should be symbols of the exact opposite- shame.”

- Stuart Alum

“I believe the name... should represent the beautifully culturally diverse students who attend the high school.”

- Stuart Student

“This proposed change would turn a regrettable name into the source of pride that it should be!”

- Stuart Alum

“As a former student athlete, I have vivid memories, 35 years later, of how bad I felt about having to go to this facility to compete in student athletics. Having to participate in sporting events in structures honoring these figures resulted in my leaving high school sports.”

- FCPS Alum

Change the Name.

APPENDIX 4

REFLECTIONS ON THE NAME CHANGE ISSUE: WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM MAY 18 DEBATE SPONSORED BY SUBCOMMITTEE 2 OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP

Terry Adams

My name is Terry Adams and I would like to testify today and offer my opinion on the name change. Unfortunately, the School Board/FCPS schedule three (3) events this evening all of which will impact this school and those in similar circumstances.

In the 25 years since I became a parent of a student in FCPS I have never seen more than 2 years in a row where the school system has not needed more money or has declared it did not have enough money. That said we cannot continue to use this as an excuse to right a wrong and to move our larger community forward.

This name change and our decision about our schools should be focused on our children's and our community's future. When possible (as now) we should make sure we represent an inclusive environment that we model the behavior we wish to see. Changing the name of the school is the positive forward thinking modeling.

We do not and should not support the values of Jeb Stuart and his fight against our union. All across the country governments & school boards are removing statues and symbols of racial supremacy. If they can do this in New Orleans & Texas we can do this in Fairfax County.

Nikki Graves Henderson
History Project Director
Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation
(703) 534-4627

I believe it is in the best interest of the JEB Stuart students of the past, present and future to see their parents, school administrators, community and elected officials come together to discuss then correct the name of their school by giving the school a name they can respect! Change the name—give the student leaders the respect they deserve. A name that reflects Honor, humility and morality is what is needed not a slave holder!

When you know better you will do better. Change is needed in 2017. Remove the name of the man who fought for injustice and rename it with a name who fought for justice for all races, especially for equality in the school system.

Listening to our children (Stuart students). They will be out leaders in the future! Money should not be a barrier to f America to be free from our past mistakes.

I am eager to donate as much as I can afford to a fundraising initiative for the name change. It is about preserving white supremacy, not “partisan politics.” I am ashamed of see such a respectful, common sense initiative turn into something controversial. An opportunity for atonement and growth should not even be up for debate. If this involved tax dollars, I could understand the concern. But an independent fundraising initiative completely shuts down and financial or political debate.

Peace Valley High

The process for name change has been very corrupt! This process is not valid and the audience tonight was given talking points as of what to say to satisfy the NAACP. Keep the name – educate better.

--I found the most alarming aspect of the meeting was that 2 of the supporters of keeping the name were, within moments of speaking, rude to Stuart students who spoke their support for changing the name. That is sad statement of the attitude of those who claim the support of history, diversity and openness to all. It really startled and shook me.

__The facilitators were impolite and ineffective.

__Those who spoke in favor of keeping the name have given very few relevant arguments aside from the financial ones, which are admittedly significant. Other arguments centered about questionable historical facts about the Civil War, JEB Stuart, himself; claims that outside political forces were brainwashing the students to take up this cause; and other oddly personal detailed experiences of having gone to JEB Stuart decades ago and liked it and want it to keep the name. Not a lot of reasoning or logic to support their contention that it just “shouldn’t” change.

My son was one of the original student leaders of this movement, and I can say for certain that it was students motivated.

- No notice
 - Biggest difference between the 2 sides is the accuracy of history
 - Before moving w/any decision if you involve the kids provide a fair and equitable view of historical events. Teach the kids so they can make sound decision after looking at a 360 view. Unfortunately, that has not happened during this process. Bad form!
-

The name change people are doing this incorrectly. There was a school wide survey and 80% of the students here do NOT want a name change. This money could be used in a much better way like better computers, better sports equipment & a better learning environment for the students. Stuart is stereotyped for these bad quality, not their mascot/name.
GO RAIDERS

NO NAME CHANGE

Its history, you cannot change history! How do you justify spending the money when this school has the second lowest SAT scores in the county? Spend the money on education. The school board should grow some balls they should have said no at the beginning and no when the survey came back with only 35% for. Waste of time! The kids are No. You should be proud to go to Stuart—60 years it will always be called Stuart. Those were the times!

You can't change what's past go forward It's a shame the school board has allowed this school to become so low it was a highly rated school at one time. Change the education level. Stop catering to the no-English
Long standing Name

Stuart H.S. and Fairfax County Schools should change the name of Stuart HS because it is inappropriate to honor a confederate General and Slaveholder.

We need to take a lesson from Germany. Germany does not have monuments to Nazi Generals, not does it name school after them. Instead of honoring Confederate slaveholders, we should be educating Americans about the sins of the country's past and honoring people who have helped and oppression in order to move on and respect all of our students, especially students of color.

Karla Henthorn

It was inappropriate to name our school after a person who fought to keep black Americans enslaved. It is time to right that historic wrong and change the name of our school.

I wish more discussion was spent on the funding. I do think the name change should be done, and it will be cheaper to do it now vs. in 10 years.

NO name change.

History should not be camouflaged. You teach children history. History took place here. JEB Stuart was a loyal Virginian. His great grandfather was a hero of the Revolutionary War. His father was in the War of 1812. This was a family of patriots. The school should educate its population to the history that took place here.

Bonus test question: What does HEB stand for.

Another point: JEB Stuart led the calvary. Mosby was the Raider. Stuart should be cavaliers.

Where do you draw the line? Lee High School? Thomas Jefferson, Pickett Rd., Lee Highway? Why direct over half-a-million dollars to a name change?

The meals tax didn't pass last November. You need more for education not political PC agendas. You need to pay teachers more not divert money to a name change.

Stuart has a patent for a saber-older. His descendent still is involved with the school.

The community is not being informed about the issue. They should be the deciders.

No mention of JEB Stuart as a Lt. in the US Army from 1850-1860. He delivered the strategy to destroy and deport Native Americans. Known as an Indian fighter greater than Gen Custer credited with 100,000 Indians destroyed. We should not deify and proclaim not only a segregationist but a genocidal murder, who destroyed the Lakota and Sioux Nation (1850-58)

Pam Martinov

pammartinov@gmail.com

I taught history here at J.E.B. Stuart HS for 38 years. I have thought the name should be changed for that amount of time. I have no wish to re-fight the Civil War nor the era of massive resistance. Tonight, I am hearing shouts at speakers – some facts cannot even be agreed to. This saddens me.

Irregardless of the arguments on both sides –confederate names, statues etc. in public places/on public institutions hurt a great number of people now. Confederate symbols/names in/on public places honor them. TOO many, this signals acceptance of racist opinions. The history will always be with us – but times change. FCPS should not be in the position of supporting symbols of oppression and hate.

A digression – in the 1980's, a colleague of mine was approached by a student from Asia. He said, "I want to show you something, but I am afraid to show it to you," my colleague assured the student that he could talk to her. The student then showed her a tattoo on his arm. It was a swastika. In his culture, it was a good luck symbol. OF course, it meant something else to my colleague. The student recounted that another teacher had spoken angry words when she saw the tattoo. My colleague consulted the student's parents and put the student in contact with a dermatologist. Three appointments later, the tattoo was removed from his hand. My point, the student unknowingly carried on his body, a

symbol of hate & racism. To many people in our area & school, the name represents hate and oppression—confederate names & symbols should not be maintained on public institutions.

I am against the changing of the name & am completely opposed to changing the name. We must keep the name because it reflects our history & our heritage. I did not believe in the Confederacy being a Yankee however if we change this name where do we stop? We already had one city taking down Confederate monuments – let's not continue this. Our history is our history like it or not.

Lastly, I vote & I will vote against every schoolboard member if you change the name.

I also think it reminds us of what the Confederacy represented & we hope history does not repeat itself.

Sharon Fay
Parent of current Stuart freshman

Please, please, please change the name of Stuart HS. It is a massive embarrassment to send my children to a school named for someone who dedicated his life to maintaining slavery. The change is long overdue.

No compelling reason to change name. I heard many untruths spoken by the Pro name change. Although slavery was immoral, unfortunately it was legal---Thanks to our Founding Fathers, who were also slave holders. Do we then change TJ, GW, Madison, etc. I think Barbara Rose Johns is a hero and her name should be on the next new school which would make both sides happy.

Change is hard. It takes work. Being stagnant is much easier. When you know better, you do better. A school should not have the name of a white supremacist.

Not necessary. Use the resources & money for more pressing issues that directly affect the students. This is an unnecessary witch hunt against a Famous Virginian.

JoAnn Allen
3204 White Street, Falls Church, VA 22044
202-431-4634

There has been no transparency with this issue. There is an imbalance on this committee—very few women. Regardless of rationale money is a huge issue. Will this impact efforts by band, crew & other boosters? If the County decides to change Stuart's name they should change the names of every other

high school named after segregationists: WT Woodson, Lee, etc. If the count decides to change the name the county should bear the cost.

I am very much pro-name change. I believe that the notion that JEB Stuart was a “moderate” confederate soldier is infuriating. How can a traitor, and a white supremacist, be appropriated by an entire school and school district? Also, this issue was started by students and this shows that students in the school want this change.

I also believe that money, while it’s a large influence, should not take precedence over morals.

--Alicia Gendell

The anti-name change group’s argument seems singularly dependent on semantics and unfounded arguments such as “that’s how it’s always been” and “it was different time”; it is no longer that time, and things change. Further, they’ve focused on aggressively criticizing the other side of the issue rather than showing facts, throwing only semi-connected issues around and saying that the name change is to blame for totally different issues. Further, they’ve talked around the issue repeatedly, there was liberal misinformation; the students are involved, they are informed and it doesn’t matter how nice of a guy Jeb might have been. Appealed too much to emotion.

The pro-change group is morally justified and well informed, so forth and so on, it’s mostly negative reviews on the anti-side.

This school was named after a white supremacist traitor during Virginia’s resistance to integrating schools, an obvious middle finger to the United States of America as a whole and to students of color, fellow Virginians, in particular.

It is absolutely unacceptable that any student should be expected to bear – and even wear – the name of a white supremacist who killed Americans for the sake of treating human beings as mere property.

Keeping the name would be an ongoing assertion by the Fairfax County School Board that students are not equally human and do not deserve to be treated with respect. This must not be allowed to continue. **CHANGE THE NAME.**

Honestly, I do not think it matters what the community thinks about the name change. If the name is offensive and doesn’t reflect the values of the school, it must be changed. And it is offensive. So change it!

Doesn't rise to the level of necessary political correctness run amuck. No one changes history. Shall we, down this slippery slope, "trash" George Washington and Thomas Jefferson because they owned slaves? I remember blood shed on this campus in spring 1974 from busing. I vote leave the name alone. My discretion is your interpretation of racism, prejudice, discrimination. I see your "diversity" as anti-Caucasian. We are south of the Mason-Dixon line. I'm not guilt tripped by "white privilege". Jeb's name was mostly irrelevant. I'm a proud honkie and/or cracker.

--Hugh Dobson, class of 1977

I'm paraphrasing Tom Perriello, but at a recent event he said: "I always had a keen sense in Virginia that we were two things. We were the birth place of American democracy and we were the birth place of American slavery. Within each generation we ask the question of which legacy are we going to pursue?"

It's time to change the name!

--Lake Barcroft resident and mother of three children who will attend Stuart starting in 2018.

There is no cost too great to make children feel welcome and safe at school. The name of this school was a direct insult to the desegregation process and a celebration of a confederate slave owner.

While change is hard we must not use that as a reason to stop us from moving forward. I have three children in the pyramid – 2 in Sleepy Hollow; 1 in Belvedere.

I am an active member of my school communities and both PTAs.

As a person in the higher education work field and a proud alumni, I don't think a name change should be done immediately. I agree the funds should come from external sources (for name change and branding). As a minority (Black, Asian, and Hispanic) from Bailey's Crossroad of low-income, the name did not lower my education and pride... instead it made me want to change – off the streets, become an American, get into college and show I can overcome anything. What did hold me back in high school was lack of funding. Scholarship opportunities. I had to raise my own money to be in an athletic team, go on school trips, etc. Today when I meet students... it breaks my heart to hear them say – I can't afford college because lack of money. High school should focus on better college programs for all students. Better scholarships. Better opportunities. I'll only say yes to change if the funds are external.

Great work, very balanced and respectful. Spectacular testimony from the students, alumni and community. I am thoroughly convinced in the need for a name change.

--Matt Levi, J.E.B. Stuart Teacher

1. Last year's meeting to decide if the school name should be changed ended with _____ of 56% not to change the name and 36% voted to change the name.
Would the meeting tonight have been _____ if the result of that vote were reversed? I don't believe so.
2. With the involvement of the NAACP it becomes clear that politics is frightening the school board. I believe their minds are made up to change the name. This event was staged to cover the fact that the name change will go through.
3. Jeb Stuart will be the spear point for change of all monuments, streets, etc. in the country, state and U.S.

--Bill, Sherwood Park

The name should not be hanged. Spend the \$600,000 on the students, not on the cost of changing the name. I taught in Fairfax in a Title I school and I know the money is need for students.

Apparently, word or information about this meeting was not publicized adequately. I spoke to people in three surrounding neighborhoods, and they were not informed of the meeting. This is not a good representation of the community.

I have two daughters who attended this school, and they never had a problem with the school's name. They told me they felt there is no need to change the name. Are we trying to erase history? They feel if it is changed, they will have lost their high school.

This is my neighborhood. I have lived here 40 years, and the school name has never been a problem. If the name needs to be changed, and the money wasted, name it after the location – for example – Peace Valley School, or after one of our founding fathers – Patrick Henry.

This meeting was a waste of time – time allowed for too much clapping and speakers that didn't reach the back of the room.

Waste of money, use the money for the students.

This is our history, don't change it.

There was a civil war and don't try to change history.

Keep the name. Most of the alumni don't want it changed.

The majority of people don't want the name changed

A school name is a very important symbol that should stand for important values. It is like a flag that waves on top of a hill over time. A confederate general is not a good symbol to capture those values we want our students to have.

It is wrong to honor someone's service to the confederacy, someone's effort to create a country where owning black people as slaves could be legal.

Financing the change may be a real challenge. It is right that we should not compromise funding for other areas of need, but we should not let temporary aesthetic imperfections supersede representing a school with symbols that respect all.

A prominent name change for similar reasons at my college will not physically be enacted until next school year, but ever since the renaming was announced, people (students and employees) say the new name with pride and joy. The message is what matters.

I am strongly in favor of the name change, as a resident of Falls Church.

After listening to all of the speakers tonight, I strongly agree that the most important factor is the current impact of the name on students as the confederacy is synonymous with white supremacy and has no place outside of a history book, class, or museum in 2017.

I think the next practical step would be to game out what implementation of the name change will look like, given that all of the money will not be available right away.

I am not at all persuaded that a gradual/partial name change would somehow negatively impact the students. Why would it?

Thank you for inviting the community to this event!!!

- Not a useful debate. Well intentioned, but ...
 - Poorly organized – lopsided in favor of those espousing name change. Should have ensured better balance.
 - Heckling of one speaker against name change not corrected/challenged promptly.
 - The few students who spoke should be commended for standing up for their beliefs.
 - Names matter – individual comments were most useful in fostering better understanding of this issue. They pointed out that institution names should inspire.
-

As a symbol of bravery, loyalty and audacity, J.E.B. Stuart should be taught as one whose character should be evaluated, even while the cause for which he fought should be taught as indefensible.

DON'T CHANGE.

Three surveys have been taken of the students and the community. Each time it was overwhelmingly NOT to change the name.

People outside the community have infiltrated the ADHOC Committee.

NAACP has used this agenda to push its own attempts to change all names related to the confederacy.

J.E.B. Stuart was not a dishonorable man. Students are not even taught about who he was. The speaker did not back up his comments with resources.

Teachers are not teaching history, they are ignoring history by teaching the truth.

The cost is not compelling need to change.

George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Fairfax, Lee, Madison are next to be changed.

The process to change even though the survey went against changing, appears to be moving to change.

Money can be used in a better way to improve educational opportunities.

FOIA requests show the school board pushing the issue off the public record.

We as citizens need the process to be in the open.

Funds can be raised to change a sign, but to change uniforms, spirit wear fall to students and their families.

J.E.B. Stuart is an unacceptable name, as it glorifies a leader who fought to own people.

--Current Stuart student

To me this is a no-brainer. I grew up in Alexandria and attended a segregated elementary school until 1998! Fourteen years after Brown vs. Board of Education! For shame. I agree that Stuart was given this name for the wrong reasons. I am old enough to remember these times. My son fought me because he didn't want to attend a high school named after a "traitor". My daughter worked on the name change committee. We live in this district and are ashamed of the name. Please let the community change the name to reflect our values today.

Please change the name, and reflect Stuart in a history textbook, not in the name of a school. I have had the experience of having to explain (or attempting to) how it is possible that in this century, we are honoring the confederacy. This is not who our community is now, and we should have a name that reflects us.

This is a moral issue.

Honoring repression is never appropriate. Glorifying those who defended repression is never appropriate.

White supremacy is a real thing in today's society. Witness Richard spencer's torch-lit rally in Charlottesville last weekend and the brutal assassination of nine churchgoers in Charleston in 2015. To preserve the name is an endorsement of supremacy.

Change the name!

I went to Thomas Jefferson High School, it should be changed too.

Money is not an issue, it is an excuse.

Monetary motivation: losing money with spirit gear.

"The Civil War is not about slavery", but the argument that it is about the economy neglects the fact that it is about a slave economy – Black Americans were so dehumanized that they were considered money, not people.

"No compelling need to change the name." I think the mental health of students is compelling. The disregard for students of color now parallel the disregard of enslaved people back then.

You don't tolerate people, I tolerate back pain. The name is racist.

"He was a man of his time." But are we?

Shout out to the students who worked to change the name. Sixteen year olds should not need to be doing this in addition to learning. Maybe that's why their scores are changing and they will continue until it's changed because it's right "for the children." So, telling children it's ok to own people is not terrible?

Let us honor enslaved Virginians and their descendants. That is also Virginia history.

This is uncomfortable for all FCPS students who also have sports games here.

This is not respectful to people of color.

Compelling need: I believe there is a compelling need to change the name. The issue is so hotly contested that those opposed to changing the name felt threatened due to internal trolling. If the school were named to something agreeable to the students and modern community, we would not have this ongoing conflict in the area. With the continuation and spread of “sovereign citizens” and anti-government members of the alt-right celebrating a confederate secessionist sends a message that endangers social harmony.

The funds for this change reflect our investment to not hold our children to the segregation of the 50’s or the tear in our country in the 19th Century. If possible increase state funding for schools all over Virginia

I did not see many students saying that they wanted to keep the name as-is.

--Sean Moore

I think that J.E.B. Stuart should change the name because it is not fair that because J.E.B. Stuart treated people bad a long time ago, some people (today) that go to this school from 2015 – 2017 have to be embarrassed when they have to say the name of their school to someone, or out loud, it just makes them feel worse about their school, if the person that they tell that to does something rude like laugh.

--Sierra Clements

It is important to recognize that we teach our students, by the decisions we make about what and who to honor. The community is upset and polarized about this issue because it is important, upsetting and polarizing: the discussion opens wounds that are fresh, from our still-recent history; wounds that are regularly being reopened by adult public and political debate. It is wrong to continue to honor a figure who is so polarizing and upsetting, regardless of their background. But it is doubly wrong to continue to honor a symbol of the confederacy, with the current political connotations of the confederate legacy, of slavery, racism and social oppression.

There is an ongoing cost to the social unity and emotional integrity of the full face of our community, if we keep the current school name; and that far outweighs the immediate financial cost of a name change.

Please change the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School.

I think that it’s not right to keep the name of a person who was racist and a confederate.

The name should change. It does not reflect the culture of our community. The cost can be dealt with by a phase-in of changes, private funding and school board authorization. We should not continue to condone the celebration of a segregationist on the front of this school.

--Holly Hazard

I am an alumni of the school, class of 1970. I disliked the name J.E.B. Stuart as a student. I still dislike the name, as it was given the name to honor a man who fought to perpetuate slavery, white supremacy, and renounced his oath to the United States. It does not reflect the values of equality, patriotism, and fairness. It honors a person who violently opposed these values, who died while fighting the United States Army.

I would hope we can move to create a name that honors everyone – and that is not controversial to a large number of our citizens. I favor a name that all our citizens can look up to as an honorable role model.

I recall the racism of some of the administrators in my time at school. I fought it then. I have numerous stories from the time (including some anti-Semitism _____ at me by some students). I was in an integrated Boy Scout Troop (664 in Culmore). My black fellow troop members opened my eyes wider. They despised the name than, for good reason. I still do.

Please change the name. Do not honor a violent bigot with the name of a school.

Stop glorifying this mistake made in 1959. Thank you.

I'm a strong supporter of changing the name of the school for reasons well expressed in the handout.

A lot of the discussion on whether or not to change seems to focus on cost. In this regard, some clarification would be helpful.

If most of the cost reflects athletic and other uniforms, wouldn't those costs be incurred irrespective of whether the name of the school is changed? Moreover, aren't the costs funded already from private sources like the boosters? If so, the cost of the name change is significantly, if not completely overstated and this point needs to be well understood.

Name needs to be changed.

Please see Yale University principles for governing name changes. The report was published in December 2016. Especially important to change names that require students to identify with them – such as schools.

Needs to be welcoming to all races.

I am concerned at the expense of making a change to the name at a time when Fairfax Public Schools are facing such severe budget constraints. Under these circumstances, priorities need to be placed on

expenditures that enhance the education of the students. This is not the time to use money to change the name.

I first came to J.E.B. Stuart High School in 1964. My oldest brothers were on the varsity football team at J.E.B. Stuart. My father was a colonel in the U.S. Army and a “Yankee”. My mother worked for the U.S. Army and was a descendant of confederates. My father took us to the “Pageant of Peace” at Ft. Meyer. This was the U.S. Army’s annual show given for the Cherry Blossom Princess. Each year I saw the story of the U.S. Army with soldiers in historic uniforms. The revolution, the War of 1812, the French and Indian War, and finally, the War Between the States! The civil war, then on to the Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Aside from Vietnam – which was still in progress, the U.S. won all of these wars!

How confused I was when as a child at J.E.B. Stuart football games, that J.E.B. Stuart, on horseback rode around the track with a confederate flag flying in a victory loop at each J.E.B. Stuart touchdown! (Also accompanied by a cannon shot). It seems that at J.E.B. Stuart High School, the confederacy has won the civil war. Ten years later, I was a freshman in 1974. I learned much later that NONE of the Black residents of the Lacy Boulevard J.E.B. Stuart neighborhood were permitted to VOTE on the name J.E.B. Stuart. They were not represented on the school board. It was a difficult process for Black families to register to attend Stuart.

Once they came to Stuart, I NEVER SAW A BLACK STUDENT IN ANY OF MY CLASSES. They were still shunned after 15, 16 years (20 years since Brown vs. Board of Education) to VOCATIONAL CLASSES despite many Black teachers such as Mr. Dillard and English teachers such as Mrs. Holt.

So by 1974, Black kids were frustrated. At our homecoming football game there was a RACE RIOT where I was hit over the head by a BLACK friend of mine (with a mannequin art from a float). She was so blinded by rage that she did not know what or whom she was lashing out at. We spent the next FOUR YEARS in group therapy. The school improved its openness. The talent show was suddenly inter-cultural. Drama programs took off (hence Julie Ann Moore).

On June 17, 2015, Jeff Parker (’75) and I were inspired by the Charleston massacre. We are both descended from confederate families. Alumni started Change the Name. We joined Five J.E.B. Stuart students and People Demanding Action. All three groups joined the NAACP Fairfax Chapter because we admired their non-violent stance when inspired Martin Luther King.

Change the name!

--Belle E. “Lisa” McQuail
bmcquail@gmail.com
703/386-6384

**APPENDIX 5: PETITION TO CHANGE THE NAME SIGNED AT
MAY 18 COMMUNITY MEETING**

LET'S CHANGE THE NAME OF J.E.B. STUART HIGH SCHOOL

We, the undersigned, believe that the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School should be changed. It is not appropriate for the school to be named for a Confederate general who fought to preserve slavery. We urge the Fairfax County School Board to replace the name J.E.B. Stuart with a more uplifting designation for the school.

NAME	IF STUDENT OR ALUMNUS/A, LIST CLASS
Samuel Stotts	
Kim Cook	
Nikki Graves Henderson	
Belle E "Lisa" McQuail	
Eric Ratliff	2018
Bill Ratliff	2020
Alicia Gendell	2019
Cayce Utley	
Jessie Whitten	
Whitten Rutledge	2016
Sean Barnett	
Michael Knight	
Kimberly Wilkins	
David Rutledge	2019
Michael Palermo	
Holly Hazard	
L. Chris Hager	
Mary and Carl Novak	parents of two grads

Jose Ruebner	
Marley Finley	2016
Steve Finley	parent
Roseanne Rubin	2016
Haley Southee	
Helen Li	
Cathi Geeslin	
Jessica Moore	
Deborah Danker	parent of alums
Robert Feldman	parent of alums
Daniel Lower-Basch	
Mike Sternad	
Cat Clark	
Kelly Fischbein	
Anthony Lower-Basch	
Daniel M. Press	
Jessica Swanson	
Kayler L.	2020
Aleyssa Medina	2016
Thiago Linck	2017
Frank	
Rosebelle Llosa	
Susan Woolsey	
Rebecca Stotts	

**APPENDIX 6: STUDENT WRITTEN RESPONSES TO PRE-SURVEY,
THE "OTHER" CATEGORY**

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 dont 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 boys 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 actually and 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 something we can't change.
12. Why are we still trying to change the name? There are really more 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 altnet options to spend the money
15. Dividers in boys bathroom
16. why do people want to change the name of the school. Its part of us history and it will always be. We should learn about our past instead of try to delete it.
17. I would like to know the cost of the school name change, 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 now.
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?

41. why this school is kind of small

42. I don't care why should we let a name define who we are, people need to actually start 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 everyday. Nobody even cares who he was we are one of the most diverse schools in fairfax county, it's never affected anyone. Take a 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.

APPENDIX 7: PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS RELATED TO THE NAME CHANGE ISSUE

Petition Title	Sponsor(s)	For/Against	Open/Closed	Signatures	Web Address
“Rename J.E.B. Stuart High School after Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall”	Julianne Moore Bruce Cohen	For	Open	35,143 (as of 3/10/17)	https://www.change.org/p/rename-j-e-b-stuart-high-school-after-supreme-court-justice-thurgood-marshall
“Rename J.E.B Stuart High School To Thurgood Marshall High School”	Andrea Miller	For	Open	1,489 (as of 3/10/17)	https://diy.rootsaction.org/petitions/rename-j-e-b-stuart-high-school-to-thurgood-marshall-high-school
“Rename Confederate and Segregation themed public schools in Fairfax County, Virginia”	Lisa McQuail	For	Closed	1,285	https://www.change.org/p/sandy-evans-mason-district-fairfax-county-school-board-rename-confederate-and-segregation-themed-public-schools-in-fairfax-county-virginia
“Rename J.E.B. Stuart High School to Thurgood Marshall High School”	Andrea Miller	For	Open	214 (as of 3/10/17)	https://www.credomobilize.com/petitions/rename-jeb-stuart-high-school-thurgood-marshall-high-school

Petition Title	Sponsor(s)	For/Against	Open/Closed	Signatures	Web Address
“Do not change School names due to other petition to change school names”	David Chagnon	Against	Closed	2,030	https://www.change.org/p/fairfax-county-board-of-education-do-not-change-school-names-due-to-other-petition-to-change-school-names
“Sign the petition to preserve our school's name J.E.B Stuart HS and history”	Clint Walker	Against	Closed	595	https://www.change.org/p/keep-the-name-j-e-b-stuart-hs-in-falls-church-va-sign-the-petition-to-preserve-our-school-name-and-history
“Stop Julianne Moore and Ignorant Cohen from changing the name of Jeb Stuart High School!!”	Gilchrist Graham	Against	Closed	177	https://www.change.org/p/fairfax-county-school-board-stop-julianne-moore-and-ignorant-cohen-from-changing-the-name-of-jeb-stuart-high-school
“Do not change the name of J.E.B Stuart High School”	Curtis Lee Old	Against	Closed	123	https://www.change.org/p/fairfax-county-school-board-do-not-change-the-name-of-j-e-b-stuart-high-school
“Keep the name J.E.B Stuart High School”	Chris Bogert	Against	Closed	75	https://www.change.org/p/fcps-fairfax-county-public-schools-keep-the-name-j-e-b-stuart-high-school-2

Petition Title	Sponsor(s)	For/Against	Open/Closed	Signatures	Web Address
"Keep the name J.E.B. Stuart High School"	N A	Against	Closed	25	https://www.change.org/p/fairfax-county-school-board-keep-the-name-j-e-b-stuart-high-school
"Let's change the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School" -- Crossroads Family Reunion	Rod Green	For	Open	45	See attached transcription
Alumni of Class of 1966 Statement	Rod Green	For	Closed	20	See attached transcription
Faculty of Howard University Memorandum	Rod Green	For	Closed	33	See attached transcription

APPENDIX 8
COMMENTS MADE ON THE CHANGE.ORG PETITION FROM
STUART ALUMNI AND STUDENTS

I am a Stuart graduate and my daughter may one day attend. I would rather her go to a school that celebrates our former neighbor Thurgood Marshall

Jessica Hall, Falls Church, VA

I'm signing because I graduated from JEB Stuart in 1981. I tired of explaining why my school was named after a confederate general.

Viola Vaughan-Eden, Williamsburg, VA

i was a Student at Stuart HS and its diversity should be seen just by hearing its name .

Wendy medrano, Falls Church, VA

I graduated from JEB Stuart in 1985 and have felt embarrassed when talking about the name and mascot of my school and wished it were different.

Heather Steinberg, Boulder, CO

I'm signing the petition because I also graduated from Stuart HS (1982) and have (sadly) joke about the awful name for years.

I couldn't agree more with Julianne and Bruce's positions (Bruce is a childhood/high school friend of mine) and I'm thrilled that these two high profile alumni would take the time to shepherd the effort.

Jane Urbanczyk-Love, Fairfax, VA

I am an alumni of stuart and always thought it was a shameful name.

Erica Yaffe, Charlotte, NC

I went (and graduated from Stuart). I've always thought the name was inappropriate.

Ian Rhoad, Falls Church, VA

I'm signing because as a J.E.B. Stuart High School student, I feel embarrassed to say I go to a school named after someone who wouldn't support our diverse student body. This change is long over due and future students should not have to endure honoring someone they do not support.

Anna Rowan, Falls Church, VA

It's the right thing to do.... Class of 95

Freddy Fonseca, Annandale, VA

I am a rising senior at J.E.B. Stuart who believes that the name doesn't represent our student body. As you walk the halls of Stuart, you see students from many different countries and ethnic backgrounds; I being one of these many students. Our student body deserves a name more fitting to uplift the name of our school.

Abigail Conde, Falls Church, VA

I'm signing because the wonderful memories I have of times spent in the halls of my high school have more to do with the people I knew and laughed with than the name on the top of the building. I'd prefer that a name be chosen that provokes inspiration and admiration rather than division and separation.

Harold Mintz, Malibu, CA

I am a 1975 alumnus of JEB Stuart High School. The school was named in 1958 as a way to raise a Confederate flag over a new school in a white neighborhood. It has nothing to do with the "heritage" of the old south. Now is the time to mute this school's name that speaks to each new generation with the savage vocabulary of ancient prejudice using the syntax of white supremacy. This is an important and symbolic way to help current and future students escape the oppressive name and legacy of a man who fought and died to keep slavery and segregation while honoring Thurgood Marshall who worked for justice and equality. I proudly join this effort.

Jeff Parker, San Francisco, CA

because I graduated from stuart and its time to buried the idea that this is good name and it represents a noble cause

greg Martinez, Prior Lake, MN

I'm a Stuart alum from the class of 1979, and this is the right thing to do.

Brenda Earner Craig, Suffolk, VA

I went to Stuart, and I agree it's time to change the name.

Alice Donlan, Medford, MA

Attended Stuart

Beruk Workneh, Falls Church, VA

I went to this high school and feel that it would give the institution an air of equality and acceptance and acknowledgement of racial sensitivity and a safe place, in all aspects. Stuart could use this change.

Alessandra Belmonte, Falls Church, VA

As a 1973 grad I have always felt the name was inappropriate and offensive.

Susan Berger, Reston, VA

I'm an alumni and the name has always been foul

Benjamin Lawson, Falls Church, VA

I am signing because I am a student at J.E.B. Stuart High School who has always been bothered by my school's name, mascot, and colors. It is difficult to express the pride I feel for my school through the Confederate symbols that currently represent it-- symbols whose message I disagree with and am embarrassed by. Furthermore, it is unfair that simply attending my designated public school puts me in this position. Future students shouldn't have to feel the shame I do and should be able to attend a school without a name intended to discriminate and exclude.

Marley Finley, Falls Church, VA

I attended J.E.B. Stuart High School also (class of 1991).

Matthew Kory, Portland, OR

I'm an '85 grad and believe it's time to change the name. Attending Stuart was an incredibly eye-opening experience, and I made a great many friends of all races there.

It should not be named in protest of progress, and it should not be named after J.E.B. Stuart.

It's time.

Bill Litzenberg, Rockville, MD

I graduating from here -- it was a great school, and the students of today should have a say in the learning environment that makes the m the most comfortable and supported.

Daniel Lawson, Falls Church, VA

JEB Stuart class of 1976

Thurgood Marshall was a hero who improved the United States, Stuart was a traitor who tried to destroy it.

Adam Zlotnick, Bloomington, IN

As a former student at J.E.B. Stuart High School (Class of 1970), I fully support this action to re-name the school after Justice Marshall. We should no longer be "glorifying" a man who fought to continue a practice (slavery) that is this nation's greatest shame.

Kevin Kenyon, Palm Desert, CA

Class of 82.... It's time

Enrique Navarrete, Springfield, VA

I've always been embarrassed by the name of my high school, though I didn't know how it came about. Now that I do, I would be doubly proud to say I went to the school now known as Thurgood Marshall (and formerly known as JEB Stuart). What an amazing gesture of goodwill and positive change.

Jeanne Duncan, Portland, OR

I went to J.E.B. Stuart H.S. in 1965 & 1966 until I was expelled for flipping off the vice principal. It was supposedly integrated but there were really no more than a handful of black students. Bad memories for me!

Benjamin Sippel, Santa Rosa, CA

I go to this school and I want to see the name changed before I graduate.

Julia C, Falls Church, VA

Jeb Stuart may have been a great soldier but he did fight for the Confederate. The name Jeb Stuart was set for the high school in order to intimidate the minorities. Keeping the name Jeb Stuart is the exact equivalent of waving a Confederate flag in the faces of these students.

Personally I believe the name of the school should represent the beautiful culturally diverse students who attend the high school.

Kiran Zaidi, Alexandria, VA

I attend to JEB stuart.

Julia Sanchez, Falls Church, VA

Graduated 1968. Name should be changed.

mary vardi, Tucson, AZ

To not sign this, would be to do nothing in the face of a blatant celebration of ignorance. We can do better.

Tom Shadyac, Beverly Hills, CA

The sudden appearance of Confederate names and motifs across the south in the late 1950s was not just a surge of nostalgia. It was a conscious effort to send reminders that the Confederate states were willing to take up arms against their own countrymen, to defy the laws of their country, in order to preserve a racist ideology. And the timing was no coincidence. The naming of this school sent a loud message that non-white students were not welcome. It was inappropriate then, and a change is long overdue. Thurgood Marshall was a distinguished

member of the local community and a role model to all. I strongly support changing the name to honor him. I would be proud to say that my high school had been renamed for him.

Andrew Rowan, Trenton, NJ

I am signing because I was shocked by the recent shooting that claimed nine distinguished Black lives at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina--a horrid crime perpetrated by a person who admired Confederates such as JEB Stuart. The Civil War has been over for more than 150 years, and the Confederate States of America surrendered-- or so we thought-- until Segregationists and White Supremacists started their Neo-Confederate hate fest following the 1954 Brown vs. the Board of Education decision to integrate our public schools. As a graduate of JEB Stuart High School (Class of 1978) and co-founder, with Jeff Parker, of Alumni for Change, I was moved to help Bruce Cohen and Julianne Moore, current students, many of our fellow Alumni, the NAACP and People Demanding Action, to undertake this mission to change the name of JEB Stuart High School to Thurgood Marshall High School. Thurgood Marshall was a beacon of justice in a time of hate and unfairness and we can share his positive life and legacy from this day forward with Fairfax County's most diverse student body.

Lisa McQuail, Springfield, VA

I went to this HS too, was and am embarrassed by the name, change is overdue.

erica Randall, Capitol Heights, MD

I graduated from Stuart HS in 1976. It's time to change the name.

James Breslin, Baltimore, MD

Renaming of the school should have been done a long time ago. I truly regret that when I attended (1975-78) my class did not initiate this change. I admire the current students and community for taking this. I support the renaming of the school to represent

Grace Boivin, Manassas, VA

I graduated from JEB Stuart, and while I'm all for changing the name. I prefer Peace Valley High, as it is the name of the street it's on and it sets forth message for a new era of embracing peace for all races.

Kevin Mallett, San Clemente, CA

I am a student at J.E.B. Stuart and I believe that the name of our school, which was chosen based on discriminatory ideals, completely misrepresents the student body. Changing the name would

be a huge step in giving our school the positive reputation it deserves, and it would create a better environment for all future students.

Cassie Marcotty, Falls Church, VA

It's horrible that our school was INTENTIONALLY named after a Confederate soldier who believed that equality between different races was wrong. Nothing good will come of it if it's not changed. What if Civil Rights Movement leaders didn't speak up for themselves? Then the uproar to fight against racism and inequality wouldn't have happened and schools, busses, stores, and basically everything else wouldn't have been integrated. An African American wouldn't have the right to stand side by side with a person of non-color if it wasn't for them and for that I am grateful. If the Civil Rights movement had never occurred, then the present that we know today wouldn't exist. African Americans would still be enslaved. I'm not saying our school is the only symbol of racism left because let's face it, racism is still around and it's not gonna go away in a blink of an eye. If we let this slide then people will keep thinking that racism isn't a big deal even though it's been the cause of millions of deaths!

This is a petition to rename Jeb Stuart High School after the Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. I signed it and so should everyone else. This is our chance to strip the school of the name that supports slavery and racism. This is the closest we have ever been in history to equality but that's not enough. There's still negative racial slurs being thrown around. Innocent people around the country are dying and not being treated equally because some people aren't happy with their skin color. Change is the key to everything. Justice, equality, and having the chance to live a full life that many were not as lucky enough to live. Help with the change and sign the petition today.

Sara Zewdu, Falls Church, VA

JEB Stuart class of 1980

Drew Koslow, Easton, MD

I am signing this petition as an alum of the class of 1978. I am signing this petition as I stand in support of the student body there today that has led a conversation that is once again landing on the minds of us all across this land, as we re-visit the symbols that represent a divided nation, and those of hatred and the attempts to uphold racism. Our public schools deserve to be symbols of freedom of thought and of the rights bestowed to all of us as equals. Their names need to reflect the basis of the intent of what public education is all about, not historical representations that

point to some of our worst times as a people. That our school took up to a decade to be integrated following the Brown v Board decision, and then often only with the threat of legal action against the School system, is a fact that needed course correction then, as was the case with the naming conventions chosen, and is being brought forward today because that course was steered incorrectly. I can't imagine a better suggestion than Thurgood Marshall, who lived miles from the school, whose family was an active participant in the surrounding community of Stuart and still is today, and whose legacy speaks to all that is good in our nation, all that is right, and the history that we should be teaching our current students. I have never been prouder as an alum of this very school than I am today, with the actions and efforts currently underway to rename this school. Justice Marshall spoke about this very thing: "Certain people have a way of saying things that shake us at the core. Even when the words do not seem harsh or offensive, the impact is shattering. What we could be experiencing is the intent behind the words. When we intend to do good, we do. When we intend to do harm, it happens. What each of us must come to realize is that our intent always comes through. We cannot sugarcoat the feelings in our heart of hearts. The emotion is the energy that motivates. We cannot ignore what we really want to create. We should be honest and I am also proud to have attended J.E.B. Stuart. I was class of 1978. And I knew Bruce and Julianne in school. And I am proud of their extraordinary accomplishments since high school. But I am particularly proud of their standing up for the students who now attend J.E.B. Stuart and who will attend the school in the future. I am proud that they have stood by the current Stuart students who have rightfully spoken out to change a name that is offensive to the diverse student body that now attends the school. I am proud that they have reached back to help correct a wrong that was inflicted at a time when Fairfax County was fighting the desegregation of their school system. A southern general is no hero for future students of the school to look up to or admire. Thurgood Marshall, who lived in nearby Lake Barcroft, and who played a key role in desegregation, is a sensational role model. He is someone for us all to be proud to be associated with. I applaud Cohen and Moore for standing up for what is right and for a better, brighter future for a school to which we all owe a great deal.

jeffrey slonim, ny, NY

do it the way we feel it. What we owe to ourselves and everyone around is to examine the reasons of our true intent." --Thurgood Marshall

Lea Ann Bernick, San Rafael, CA

I'm signing because I'm a Stuart alum who supports the efforts of current Stuart students to replace the school's name with one - Thurgood Marshall - they would be proud to honor.

David Hardison, McLean, VA

I graduated in 1964 and am honored to join with my grandchildren's generation to replace this vestige of Virginia's "Massive Resistance" with the name of someone truly honorable.

Arnold Reed, Goodlettsville, TN

I am a graduate of JEB Stuart H.S. (1991). I believe that this would be a wonderful name change for one of the most diverse schools. It sends a powerful message that history is not forgotten, but can be an ever changing fabric of knowledge and tolerance of mankind.

Molly Donegan, Alexandria,, VA

I went to HS there and would welcome the name change

Lisa O'Hara, fairfax, VA

Class of 2014

Melisa Quiroga-Herrera, Annandale, VA

Years ago when National Geographic showcased Stuart High School for its extraordinary ethnic diversity, many of us noted the sad irony of lauding diversity in a school named after the likes of JEB Stuart. Although changing names cannot erase heinous acts of the past, nor dismantle ongoing institutionalized racism, the symbolism of such a change can provide poignant and timeless teaching opportunities for students—past, current, and future. I too wholeheartedly support this name change and believe that Justice Thurgood Marshall is an outstanding choice for this honor. Professor Joyce V. Millen, class of 1980.

Joyce V. Millen, PhD, MPH, Salem, OR

When I went to school here in the late 1960's, the Confederate flag was flying out front. I was appalled then and now -- the name and flag need to go!

Barbara Scharff, Portland, OR

I'm an alumni...1982

Elaine OMalley, Falls Church, VA

As an alum of Stuart (class of 66), I want to congratulate the students of today and the writers of the petition. Smash racism!

Rodney Green, Washington, DC

I am an alumni of Jeb stuart and felt that while attending the african american culture wasnt recognized as it should have been, For black history month the school never showed any support, maybe this will make a change.

lon ti, Annandale, VA

I also went to Stuart. The principal at that time ended up fired -- excuse me, 'retired' -- for incompetence & policies that were so obviously racist that not even the county school board would put up with him. Unfortunately not enough has changed since then.

Chris Simpson, Washington, DC

I'm a rising senior at JEB Stuart High School and the diverse environment of the school doesn't fit the name. A lot of things changed since then and now it's time for a change now and the future generation.

Christine Phan, Falls Church, VA

J.E.B. Stuart graduate, class of 1977. This change was overdue when I was a Stuart student and it is much more overdue today.

Andrew Cross, EDGEWOOD, NM

I graduated from the school in 1987 and I support the name change.

Matthew Reid, Calistoga, CA

I am a 1958 graduate of Falls Church HS, a Fairfax County HS. I remember the days of segregated schools and feel strongly that we need to honor African American heroes.

Martha Rohr, West Orange, NJ

I'm signing, because to me honoring the Confederacy and its legacy so publicly goes on to quietly and effectively perpetuate hate instead of actively and unapologetically shouting out love, as we should be doing!

Lidia Amanuel, Alexandria, VA

As a proud member of J.E.B. Stuart High School class of 1969, I strongly support the proposal to rename the school after Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Justice Marshall is local--he lived in nearby Lake Barcroft; his life and career reflect the values of the community; and, far more than General Stuart, he provides an excellent role model for students. Change the name!

Linda Coleman, Lanham, MD

I'm signing this because I just graduated for Stuart and I believe strongly in social justice. Our school name doesn't reflect what the school looks like because it is very diverse. This simple change can go a long way and be the first step towards making the school a better place.

Jasmin Chavez, Great Falls, VA

I'm a 1990 alumna and I feel that it is time to change the name of our high school. I think Thurgood Marshall High School is a great choice, especially considering there is already a scholarship in his name at our school. -Linnea Dakin

Linn Los Angeles, CA

I'm signing because our school is much too diverse to be bogged down by a racist name. While I understand how important the history may be, it should be left in the past. It is time for Stuart High to move on to something better greater.

Deborah Winzeler, Houston, TX

Because it's actually more serious than it seems like to have a confederate guys name as the name of your school especially with all the racism problems that's going on currently.

Nihad Fetaihabi, Falls Church, VA

When I attended Stuart in the 60s (class of '68), my mother carefully excised the Confederate flag from the silhouette on the school's bumper sticker before placing it on the family car. Thurgood Marshall is a fitting name, since he lived in the area in addition to being a national icon of the Civil Rights Era.

I graduated from J.E.B. Stuart in 1963. I would like to see my school promote co-existence by honoring Thurgood Marshall.

Francesco Caprio, Los Angeles, CA

I as in the first graduating class at JEB Stuart. Was uncomfortable with the whole Confederate symbol. Led me to do my senior paper on Brown vs Board of Education.

Peat Sandra, Medford, OR

I'm signing because (a) it is wrong to allow honor and visibility for people who committed treason to our country and were willing to sacrifice countless lives in order to perpetuate slavery, (b) the efforts in the South to culturally swamp the Civ Rights movement with acts like the naming of this school in the 1950s are equally heinous, and (c) because I went to JEB Stuart in the 1960s, when I lived nearby in a neighborhood that had barred both blacks and Jews and wasn't integrated until Thurgood Marshall moved in.

For me, the main focus is to remove the current name of the school. Thurgood Marshall would be a fine replacement, and relevant for his efforts to overcome Jim Crow, which still existed in the 1960s. But there are people from the same era as Stuart and Lee who also be great people to honor: Frederick Douglass, John Brown, Harriett Tubman, or Francis Pierpont, who was governor of the Restored Government of Virginia, those parts of Virginia that remained loyal to the Union and governed much of the state from 1861 through the end of the Civil War.

Jeffrey Knight, Oakland, CA

Class of 1971.

Paul Gartenmann, Longmont, CO

I'm a 1965 graduate of Stuart and have never been happy with the name or the several others built around the same time and named for Confederate generals. Thurgood Marshall would be a great change.

Elizabeth Coker, Advance, NC

I attended this school in the 70's and thought the name was inappropriate then.

William Wright, Falls Church, VA

I attended JEB Stuart High School in the 1982-83 school year and support renaming the school after Thurgood Marshall

Andrew Hausrath, Tucson, AZ

I have always believed, since I attended J.E.B. Stuart in the 1960's, that the name reflected racism and should be changed.

Natalie Almy Harrah, Rochester, WA

I am an alumnus of Stuart and have always been embarrassed by the name. It represents two shameful moments in our history. This is long overdue.

Adrienne Starr, Falls Church, VA

I'm tired of going to a school that won't change it's name because it isn't "convenient." The name was born with racism and intended hate, and doesn't reflect who we are as a school.

Whitten Rutledge, Falls Church, VA

I am a former student of J.E.B Stuart High School and while I was there I never paid much attention to its name and what it represented, but while I was in college I looked into it for one of my classes and I didn't like that it honored someone who wanted to uphold slavery, something that dehumanized people actual human beings only for their skin color.

Alba Campos Parada, Falls Church, VA

At first blush, I was against this as it just seemed another stab at political correctness. However, after reading the comments from a number of alumni and especially from current students, I think it would be inspiring to attend a school named after true champion of inclusiveness as opposed to General Stuart. Class of 1973.

Danny Campbell, Las Vegas, NV

I went to Stuart and it should be changed go marching band!

Travis Gilmore, Falls Church, VA

1975 Graduate of this high school -

"No one should have to apologize for the name of the public high school you attended and the history of racism it represents, as we and so many alumni of Stuart have felt the need to do our whole lives."

Elena Rodriguez, ARLINGTON, VA

I am a 2003 graduate of JEB Stuart and I agree with Ms. Julianne Moore.

Tiffany Smith, Alexandria, VA

I am a 1965 Stuart graduate who supports a name change.

Richard Goheen, Tulsa, OK

I am signing because I am a J.E.B. Stuart graduate - class of '65 and I would like to have a name that is someone who was a great American and admired by all.

Nancy Bidne, Huntingtown, MD

I attended JEB Stuart HS in the 60's.

Marching band, girl's field hockey. Fun, but it is so PAST TIME to honor people who loved life, and worked so hard for JUSTICE, instead of a murderer!! Thurgood Marshall is PERFECT!

hmmm...new mascot name... No more Raiders!

Joe Lee, Issaquah, WA

It's the right thing to do! Stuart class of 1976!

Next on my delete and honor somebody better list is Andrew Jackson!! Yuck!

Hannah Hall, Honolulu, HI

I attended J.E.B. Stuart (class of '76) and support this 100%. Thurgood Marshall actually spoke to my Government class. Let's name the school for a great American hero instead of a traitor.

Kemp Honeycutt, Houston, TX

I graduated from J.E.B. Stuart High School in 1974 and I share the views of this petition.

Kathryn Heifetz, Cambridge, MA

Class of 2007 here. I didn't think this kind of change would ever happen, especially in my neighborhood. You have my full support in the fight against racism. AWESOME!!

Pablo Soria, Falls Church, VA

I'm signing because, as a JEB Stuart alum, I can recall thinking that the mascot was inappropriate even then, when I moved to the area in the late 1980's. "We have a Confederate General for a mascot? Seriously?!" I could have gone to the new magnet school, Jefferson, but I didn't want to - I wanted to be in school with the whole, diverse population of my region because that diversity is what the real world is like, what makes it vibrant. I became valedictorian of our class, went on to Stanford undergrad and then to Stanford for my MBA, and have been fortunate to have a successful career in clean energy. I have a deep respect for the teachers and the balanced education I got at Stuart, these were a foundation for my career success. Its time for Stuart to catch up with the real world now, and recognize that the students, teachers and alums will be proud to say their school changed its name to Thurgood Marshall.

- Tad Glauthier, Class of 1989

Tad Glauthier, Kailua, HI

When i went to jeb stuart i had many freinds of all colors and religions and i felt like there was friendship and everybodys the same-they were nice or they were not .. i support the name change -to honor my memories , my friends and future students that want to learn ... Shelby

Shelby Russell, Manassas, VA

I am a 1987 alumni of JSHS and believe strongly that the school name should be changed. This name, JSHS, is a negative, racist weight placed on the hearts and minds of ALL the students who attend and will attend this school in the future. Please change the name to something that is fair and just for all.

carolyn raich, arlington, VA

I graduated from JEB Stuart in 1999. It was always awkward being a minority in a school that was majority minority but was named to honor a man who would lay down his life to sanctify slavery and white supremacy, by people who fought to prevent people like me and the many great alumni from even being able to get an education. JEB Stuart is a dishonor to the people who attend this school today.

Wesley McGee, Colorado Springs, CO

I'm a JEB Stuart HS alum. Ever since I understood racism and Virginia's stand on the side of slavery and later Jim Crow and school segregation, I've been unable to take pride in my high school's name. This proposed change would turn a regrettable name into the source of pride that it should be!

David Rogg, Oakton, VA

im signing because I am an African American that attended J.E.B. Stuart High School

Sadatu Hage, Falls Church, VA

I went to this high school

Gerardo De ugarte ger711.gdu@gmail.com, Burke, VA

I was a 4 year student of the school, class of 2013 graduate and did not know the true meaning of the blue flag until now.

Alexis Mejia, Falls Church, VA

I'm a current student at Jeb Stuart and agree to change the name

Aaima Abbas, Alexandria, VA

As Stuart alum (Class of '69), I fully support changing the name to honor the life and leadership of Thurgood Marshall.

Margo Edmunds, Washington, DC

Great idea! I was always dismayed when the students would chant "The South shall rise again!" during sports events.

Robert Heller, Seattle, WA

I hate my school's name.

Roman Lacorchy, Falls Church, VA

I am a 1980 graduate of J.E.B. Stuart High School in Fairfax County, Virginia. I support renaming the school after Justice Thurgood Marshall. Justice Marshall was a resident of the area and would be a better and more appropriate role model for students attending this school than the current confederate officer.

Glenn Hollowell, Homer, AK

I am a graduate of J.E.B. Stuart H.S. (1976) and would really like to see the name changed to reflect what's good about its students and America.

Terry Butler, Columbus, GA

I go to this school and the school name should be changed

madina sultani, Bethlehem, PA

The 3 of us Kids learned about Racism IN the schools of Falls Church. My Brother and Sister at JEB, me at Sleepy Hollow. Racism and Segregation was kept alive in the halls of these schools back then. Time for Change

mike kaye, phoenix, AZ

I graduated in 86 and believe no honor should be given to anyone fighting for desegregation.

paris michelle, Los Angeles, CA

I graduated from Stuart in 1998. It's the most diverse school in the country and shouldn't retain a name that was given not to celebrate Stuart, who needs no such celebration, but to denigrate so many people, who now make up the majority of Stuart's student body. In contrast, I lived nearby Thurgood Marshall, who was a giant of a man, and a wonderful neighbor.

Jonathan Stull, Berkeley, CA

I'm an alumnus, and I believe the current name is an insult and an embarrassment to the students and the community.

Will Mitchell, Washington, DC

I went to Stuart and was embarrassed by the name, this is a great petition!

Molly McIntyre, brooklyn, NY

As an alumnus (1971) of Stuart High, I know very well the racist basis on which it was named, and the animosity shown by its administration to the "colored children" (as they were called) even a decade after its establishment. Thurgood Marshall was a true American hero and a resident of the neighborhood, and it would be a fitting corrective to the many decades of insult and racism that the school established to thwart integration be named after a champion of progress.

Frank Proshan, Washington, DC

I resent that our High School is named for a person who fought to enslave a people.

sean mahoney, Falls Church, VA

I'm signing because I attended this school and feel the same. The time has come to change the name.

Joanne Maldonado, Annandale, VA

Class of 1971

Rob Ringle, Frederick, MD

I am an alumnus of J.E.B Stuart and feel this would be a good change.

Linda Mayne Ray, Murphy, NC

It is time to put this terrible chapter of history behind us. As a graduate of this school, the name has always been an embarrassment.

Gary Mayne, Colorado Springs, CO

I graduated from JEB Stuart HS in 1985. It was a bad name then, and it's past time for it to go.

Mark Conger, Ann Arbor, MI

I am a 1969 alum. Could the change somehow be made retroactive so that my records didn't say JEB Stuart and so I could say I graduated from Thurgood Marshall H.S.? I'm continue to be ashamed of the name and ashamed that I went to a school named JEB Stuart. I would be proud to say I graduated from Thurgood Marshall H.S. It also seems to me that naming the school Thurgood Marshall helps Virginia signifies repentance of our collective "original sin."

John Cook, Arlington, VA

I'm a student at Jeb Stuart High School and I think we should change our school name.

Kimberly Pham, Vienna, VA

I'm a student at Jeb Stuart HS and I wish to change the school name.

Masuma Rahman, Falls Church, VA

I believe that our school name should be changed.

Elizabeth Hernandez, Falls Church, VA

I graduated from Stuart in '62. I agree with the need to rename the school because we do not need to have its diverse student body attend under the stigma of honoring a civil war which was fought to maintain people of color as slaves. despicable practice of slavery in the United States.

Richard Wirz, Clifton, VA

I am a Jeb Stuart Alumni. Class of 2006.

Mike Jones, Orlando, FL

I attended this school

carina milena, Alexandria, VA

Racism has no place in schools, esp in the school name. I graduated J.E.B Stuart HS in 1978 and I think Thurgood Marshall HS is a great name. In fact my buddy lived right next to him near Beach 1 in Lake Barcroft.

Bill Stephens, Key Biscayne, FL

Class of 1975 - get rid of racism.

Martha Naley, Belchertown, MA

I attended JEB STUART HIGH SCHOOL for my sophomore year in 1964/65. I thought then it was uncomfortable given the nature of the times. Thank you for this.

Genevieve Nucholas, Santa Monica, CA

Attended JEB.S for 4 yrs, original 8th grade class, 1959. Proud of Stuart as a school, but appalled when coming of age, I realized the impact of the name. Please rid Fairfax County of this name shame!

Marjie Strayer Fries, Stockton, CA

I graduated from Stuart in 1995. This name change is long past due.

Chad Jemison, Cary, NC

I graduated from Stuart in 1996.

Alex Johnson, Australia

I graduated from Stuart in 1998 and the name needs to change to reflect the times and the student body that it now represents

Jessica Bates, oakland, CA

I attended Stuart in the early 60s; even though I was involved in Civil rights activities, I never really thought about our name at the time, nor what it represented. Northern Virginia has long been a diverse community and we should recognize that with a name change to remove this vestige of an ugly memory.

Andy Eaton, South Pasadena, CA

I was a 1971 graduate who was amongst the one bus of black students in attendance from my neighborhood. The racial prejudice mainly amongst staff was probably associated with the old ghost of J.E.B. and that era. I was scared by early integration which was done without counseling nor regard for the effects of my generation who was the first to integrate in Northern Virginia.

Deborah Moore Stanton, Woodbridge, VA

I went to Jeb Stuart. I have always been ashamed of the name.

Sherryl Katz, Brookline, MA

I'm a graduate of Stuart (class of 2000) and I think it's high time that the name reflected the diversity and values of the current student body.

Julia Morse, Princeton Junction, NJ

i currently attend this school and i do not feel it is right the this is the name of my school. This is one of the most diverse school. things to change

amina trabelsi, Falls Church, VA

As a graduate of JEB Stuart High School, I've always been troubled by the connection of the school's name to segregation and racism. A name change is LONG overdue.

Tom Weck, Lawrence Township, NJ

As an alumna of this school (class of '83) I strongly feel that the current name does not reflect the students nor does it present a sense of inspiration or equality. Thurgood Marshall is a role model for all students. Please do make this change to show respect to an evolving community.

Denise Speight, Severn, MD

I graduated from J.E.B. Stuart in 1964. Currently a Professor of Economics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

John Gowdy, Poestenkill, NY

I graduated from JEB Stuart in 1985 proud of the many friends I made there. Now, thinking back, I can only imagine how that name and Confederate flag run around the field at football games must have made them feel and am embarrassed it never occurred to me it might bother them. The call is overdue - change the name.

Carol Kenefick Kenefick, Vashon, WA

I am a 1976 graduate. A more appropriate name should be selected. Thurgood Marshall would be great.

Carol Hunt, Winston-Salem, NC

Class of 87. I was never comfortable with the name or emblem on the front of the school walkway.

Carol Dehasse, Tucson, AZ

I was a member of the first graduating class of J.E.B. Stuart High School, 1961.

The majority of the graduates that year we're transferred from Falls Church High School after redrawing of school boundaries. I really don't think that the majority of our class focused on the name of the school at the time because of the change of jurisdiction. In addition, the make up of the student body was mostly transitory, federal, military, or corporate federal contractors.

Hindsight is both the victim and the winner here. Virginia politically delayed desegregation of its

schools 1963/1964. I am totally behind any effort to rename the school. I think the renaming should recognize and individual, woman or man that best exemplifies equal access to education regardless of race or gender.

Howard Silberstein, Arlington, VA

1969 Graduate of Slavery-Defender High School

Kim Smith, Falls Church, VA

I'm signing this because I attend JEB Stuart high school and I do believe the name should be changed.

Lana Nor, Falls Church, VA

I graduated in 1971 from JEB and Thurgood Marshall and his family lived on Lake Barcroft. the lake association wanted to ban his family in the 60's due to the color of his skin....a Supreme Court justice! Wow....love this petition, hope it makes a difference. Thank you, Julianne...

M'Lou Wilkie, Viroqua, WI

Alum 1973. Change it. Thurgood Marshall is an excellent alternative that speaks to the good that this country can hope for when we get past our racist illusions. Stuart, on the other hand, was a traitor to the US and a racist warrior.

Najib Joe Hakim, San Francisco, CA

I'm a 1964 graduate of J.E.B. Stuart and have always been proud of Stuart as a brave and dashing cavalry commander. But students attending now shouldn't have to put up with a symbol of racism. Time to change.

Jon Bosak, Ithaca, NY

Excellent idea to drop the JEB Stuart name...long overdue. A great idea to rename the school in honor of Justice Thurgood Marshall. Class of '64

Richard Citron, Alexandria, VA

I went to the school and have too much pride in its history to see it continue with a name that is clearly a slap in the face to many of the students that go there. Thurgood Marshall was a great American who actually lived in a nearby neighborhood. In a house he bought after being denied by another realtor because of the color of his skin. Change the name--it's time.

Gavin OHara, DURHAM, NC

I am a 1974 graduate who gave little thought to the name of the school. But in the current environment it is important to give thought to people and causes that are celebrated. Clearly,

confederacy and white supremacy need to be overcome and diversity embraced. I support the name change to Thurgood Marshall High School.

Catherine Croft, Manassas, VA

I was a student at Jeb Stuart and I know that a school name should reflect the school values and morals. It currently does not.

Dora Yaffe, Charlotte, NC

Think to yourself:

If it doesn't make sense to name a HS in Germany after a gestapo agent, then it doesn't make sense to name one here after a general fighting to keep slaves.

Whether or not the war was about southern rights can be debated, but the fact that a major reason was over slaves doesn't change.

It was a mistake to have named the school JEB Stuart, and no matter how much time has passed, the mistake is still a mistake.

As an alum from class of 2004, I support this.

Enrico Li, Alexandria, VA

Fellow Stuart Alumni who thinks the name should be changed. It is past time.

Jessica Lathrop, New Market, MD

I go to JEB Stuart High School and agree that something should be done to change the name. I find it really offensive that J.E.B. Stuart is being idolized.

Jojo Matheson, Falls Church, VA

Parents

I have one child just graduated from Stuart, one currently attending -- the face of this school is beautiful, diverse, and multilingual. It was named for racist reasons in a racist time. It's time to change the name.

Stanley Chin, Falls Church, VA

I'm signing this petition because I'm a parent of 4 kids who went (or are going) to JEB Stuart and, although I'm sure Mr. Stuart was a decent man, his views no longer represent the views of this special and diverse community. Honoring the courageous and significant contributions of our neighbor Justice Marshall, would better represent our heritage.

Holly Hazard, Falls Church, VA

This name is exactly why I didn't send my own children here.

Robyn Wiley, Burke, VA

My daughters are slated to attend this high school and it would be so much more meaningful if it was renamed the Thurgood Marshall HS, after someone who made progress on behalf of humanity, rather than someone who vainly tried to stop progress from taking place.

Tina Hinh, Falls Church, VA

My children graduated from JEB Stuart

Rev. Kerry Mueller, Berwyn, PA

Both my children went to Stuart and I always found the name to be an embarrassment.

Paula Rothenberg, Falls Church, VA

My daughter graduated JEB Stuart in 2002. At the time, the school was hailed in the National Geographic Magazine as among the most cosmopolitan schools in the nation. A school where 42 languages were spoken. So different than its demographic when the school was founded in 1959. Times change.

Elle VanderSchoor, Ashland, NH

I'm signing because my older daughter went to Stuart - lived walking distance to the school - and couldn't understand why anyone would want to name the school after an uneducated backwoods guerrilla warfare advocate for slavery. Marshall is a much better choice.

Steve Yaffe, Arlington, VA

We live close by and my daughter attended Stuart. The name always bothered me so I am glad to see this petition. Relative to student population, Stuart is one of the most diverse high schools in the country. So diverse that a major story about the school appeared in National Geographic magazine a few years ago. If General JEB Stuart's side had prevailed in the Civil War, how many of those minority students would be allowed to attend the school today? What must the descendants of slaves attending the school think of when they see that name everyday? This school did not get its name in the late 1860s to honor a fallen hero it got its name in the 1959 as a way for the surrounding neighborhoods (some of which prohibited blacks from living there) to thumb their noses at the civil rights movement. This is hardly the reason to name a school after someone. We name schools to honor people who have done great things to help society in some way. To name a school after a marauding general known for his own midnight raids in the name of advancing slavery is simply not the proper to do.

Justice Marshall lived down the street from me and his wife still does. He was a man who did much for our county and it would be more than fitting to name the school after him.

George Waters, Falls Church, VA

My son attended J.E.B. Stuart and the school legacy should be one we could be proud of; not a name that glorifies racism.

Russell Brenda, Bradenton, FL

My children will be attending this high school in the coming years and we do not support the racial segregation policy supported by the naming of the school.

Patrick DeMent, Annandale, VA

I am signing because my family just moved into the JEB Stuart Pyramid three weeks ago and my 9 year old son asked me straightway how a high school could be named after a Confederate general who fought to keep slavery. Time to change JEB Stuart HS's name today! While there is already a Marshall HS in Fairfax County (George Marshall HS which goes by Marshall HS) I see know problem in renaming the school Thurgood Marshall--people will simply call the HS by its full name: Thurgood Marshall.

Aimee Keeney, Falls Church, VA

I won't allow my children to wear a school jersey that honors racism and bigotry.

Daniel Buford, Annandale, VA

My son attended JEB Stuart and my daughter will be attending in another year. Our local youth community is informed and passionate about this.

Nancy Findlay, Falls Church, VA

My son attended this high school and I often help students there. It's the right thing to do.

David Tamayo, Sterling, VA

I'm signing because I'd rather my daughter graduate from here in 2028 without apologizing

Dan Rinzel, Falls Church, VA

Others of Note

As a father in FCPS, it is time to rid our county of the racist mistakes of 60 years ago.

Matt Erwin, Falls Church, VA

It is the right thing to do. My grandchildren have gone there too and want to be proud of their high school.

Gayle Chesness, Grand Rapids, MN

Julienne! Plus, my family is African American and attended the school.

Jay Hawkins., Laguna Beach, CA

I am a teacher at Stuart High School and have always been embarrassed by the name.

Toni Maples, Annandale, VA

As a graduate of Fairfax County public schools myself, I share the embarrassment over this name. It's time to change it.

Diana Waldron, Jacksonville, FL

We are in the JEB Stuart HS district and embarrassed that the school was named for a general who fought to preserve slavery.

Lee Price, Annandale, VA

Even though I'm a descendant of J.E.B. Stuart, I don't believe in the things he fought for. I believe that Thurgood Marshall is a MUCH better role model for students. I wholeheartedly support this name change!

Jennifer Smith, Fountain Valley, CA

As an educational researcher interested in the consequences of classroom climate, I am concerned that there are so many students compelled to attend schools with names that offer constant reminders of slavery and racism. I hope that the Fairfax County School Board will

honor the ideals I learned as a Statesmen at George C. Marshall High School. Just as there are no perfect people, there is no perfect namesake for a school. However, there are clearly namesakes that are contrary to the mission of public schooling in this country. Public schools should no longer be named after leaders who championed slavery.

Gail Headley, Mason, OH

This is long overdue, and it's personal for me. This would have been my HS if we hadn't moved.

Carrie Kendrick, Kensington, MD

Naming a school to honor a traitor is a terrible wrong that must be corrected. I attended FCPS, my kids attended, and I know the system can do better than this.

David Bargh, Alexandria, VA

I am signing because I went to high school in Fairfax County when it was still segregated as a result of the efforts of the infamous Harry Byrd. I thought segregation was wrong then and I still think it is wrong. This high school stands for all the wrong values, it is named after a traitor to the United States, someone who tried to destroy the USA and we should no more honor him than we should honor a Nazi or a Fascist.

William Hazleton, Atlanta, GA

Milton E Sears Jr. My high school is Falls Church High School.

Milton E Sears Jr, Clarksburg, WV

I am a graduate of Fairfax County public school system and believe there are an extensive list of historical Fairfax residents that are more appropriate to name a school. As a former student athlete, I have vivid memories, 35 years later, of how bad I felt about having to go to this facility to compete in student athletics. Having to participate in sporting events in structures honoring these figures resulted in my leaving high school sports.

Sharon Libby, Rincon, GA

I went to the graduation of the Class of 2009 for this school. The range of ethnicity for this class was stunning. This school deserves a more inclusive name.

Eva Whitley, Baltimore, MD

As a former long-time resident of Reston and Springfield, I was always a bit perplexed and embarrassed by the school's name. It's high time for a change.

Alan Rider, Indianapolis, IN

1972 graduate of a high school in Fairfax County. This is long overdue

Dwaine McCollum, Fairfax, VA

I attended Fort Hunt High School in Alexandria, VA in the 60's. Like Julianne Moore I was a military brat. I remember moving to VA and being very shocked that a local high school was named for a confederate hero. This should never have happened.

Patricia Dively, Satellite Beach, FL

As a former student in Fairfax County. It pains me to see action still not being taken. I want better for my former county.

Kamara Parker, Centreville, VA

I'm a graduate of another Fairfax County School (McLean HS "82) and a lifelong citizen and taxpayer living in McLean. Having a High School named after a confederate general is shaming to a great county such as ours, which represents a large diversity of people. We need to let go of this State's claim to the Confederacy and move forward into the future. The Confederacy represents traitors to the United States of America and keeping that name on a HS remind's our citizenry of Virginia's treasonous past and is disgraceful to the citizens of Fairfax County and the state of Virginia.

Melissa Ferral-Like, Falls Church, VA

I went to a neighboring high school and it is close enough to home to not want to be associated with it. Nothing should glorify or be named after Confederate "hereoes" - because they weren't heroes and they supported the nation's most damaging legacy - slavery.

Michele Dilworth, San Francisco, CA

I went to high school in Fairfax County. It's time to change this name.

Lauren Hartley, Fairfax, VA

My kids are in Fairfax County and I think the names of schools should be inspirational.

Paul Sullivan, ASHBURN, VA

...live less than two miles from this school and support it with my taxes. It is incongruous that a school body the diversity of which is so diverse that Stuart would neither recognize nor endorse it must attend classes in a building bearing his name. That diversity is possible due in large measure to the work of Thurgood Marshall, and it would be particularly fitting for this institution to bear his name.

Charles Roberts, Falls Church, VA

I attended FCPS and believe that a school system of this stature has a greater obligation to lead by example.

Elizabeth Braun, Athens, OH

I lived in Fairfax for five years and I saw all the diverse students there and they shouldn't have to go to a school named after Stuart.

Travina Parker, Frederick, MD

As a long time resident of the JEB Stuart HS community and former FCPS teacher, I am in favor of changing the names of the schools honoring Confederate generals. I agree with the FCPS school board, that: "Our diversity is a strength that creates resilient, open and innovative global citizens." Additionally, I agree that, "Everyone thrives in a vibrant, healthful, safe, enriching, and respectful environment." Where I differ with the FCPS school board is that I personally believe that if we are going to honor an individual by naming a public school building after him or her, then we should be looking for individuals who embody the values and character traits we seek to inspire in our students and contribute positively towards creating a respectful environment.

Otherwise, let's stick to names that reflect geographic characteristics or locations.

I would like to hear from the FCPS school board, regarding how the values and character traits represented by these particular generals contribute to the current FCPS educational mission:

"Fairfax County Public Schools inspires and empowers students to meet high academic standards, lead healthy, ethical lives, and be responsible and innovative global citizens."

Lynn Riggs, Falls Church, VA

I'm an employee of FCPS and agree that this school name should have been changed a long time ago

Jennifer Hoff, Dunn Loring, VA

Jeff Moore

Newton Falls, OH

Mar 1, 2017

In 1964-65 I was a Freshman at this high school. Directly across from the school were the remains of what I took to be a former Black Farmstead. This was all but the last of what I supposed to be a Black neighborhood. I had contact with a Black woman living adjacent to this foundation whose house was then burned and people who were proud to know other people who burned it. She was the last Black person in the the neighborhood. The legacy of the Confederacy

didn't die in 1865, but a contorted memory still exists. A School shouldn't be saddled with this difficult legacy.

Marwan Ali

Alexandria, VA

Feb 27, 2017

I'm a Stuart alumnus who never liked the fact that my school was named after a confederate general who stood against the type of diversity that the school has come to represent.

Jeffrey Meyer

Fayetteville, NC

I graduated from JEB Stuart in 1986. Our school is quite diverse with many African Americans. I could not believe that our high school was named after a Confederate General, who supported crimes against humanity. My ancestor was a Union soldier and died during the Civil War. Honoring Confederate Generals is a disgrace to the slaves who were victims of this oppression; a disgrace to the Union soldiers who died to keep this country unified; and finally a disgrace to all those who want to bring an end to racism.

I grew up in Fairfax County & graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1972. I always had friends at Stuart & my brother graduated from Stuart in 1977. The name, the symbols, etc. seemed a bit off when we were kids way back when. Now, it all seems simply inexcusable.

The diversity of the student body at the school simply highlights the absurdity of retaining the name. Children from all over the world go to school there. There are countless languages spoken. And yet they are at a school named for a racist, treasonous man as a way to express displeasure over the integration of schools.

We can do better than this. We must. It is time to turn this page and move forward.

Karen Hardison, Richmond, VA

I work with a lot of J.E.B. Stuart students—all of them racial and ethnic minorities. It's embarrassing to tell them, "The man for whom your school is named actually fought to keep racial minorities enslaved!"

Nicholas Marritz, Washington, DC

I live in Fairfax County and it's embarrassing to have a high school named after a Confederate general. Justice Marshall would be a significantly better person to name the school after, and one who would instill pride--rather than shame.

Elizabeth Owens, Alexandria, VA

I am a Fairfax County taxpayer and I want a name that honors the diversity of the school.

Thomas Moore, Fairfax, VA

I am also a student of Fairfax and truly. I would feel very uncomfortable going to a school like this.

Fatima Barrera, Fairfax, VA

As a Fairfax County taxpayer, I am appalled that this school STILL retains the name of a famous Confederate traitor. It is long past time for the school's name to be changed.

Sara Gann, Arlington, VA

As another alum of Fairfax County high schools, I would love to see the county abandon this outdated name. Going through school in Virginia we were taught a very slanted view of the civil war and slavery. It's well past time for us to stop fighting that war.

Dia Idleman, Richmond, VA

I'm the Head Football Coach at JEB Stuart, and have coached here for 20 years. I think it's time to set things right.

Roy Ferri, Falls Church, VA

I went to Herndon and jeb high sucks. Herndon hornets!! Also had no idea the underlying reason which explains why my mom refused to live in that district and said I would get it when I'm older.

Elliot Henney, San Diego, CA

I am signing because it is time for a change. BUT if each person signing this contributes \$10 to the Stuart Educational Foundation (<http://stuartfund.com/contribute.html>), that would would make real change-not only a symbolic one.

Kaye Kory, Falls Church, VA

It is time for a change. Coming from Northern Indiana, I could hardly believe the name when I first came to J.E.B. Stuart in 1976. I taught U.S. History for most of 38 years there. It was always awkward teaching about the Civil War and J.E.B. Stuart to a very diverse student body. The name does not reflect the community. It is well past time for a change.

Pam Martinov, Falls Church, VA

I'm signing because I was born, raised & educated in Fairfax County VA, as well as still live here in the county today. I'm now 40 years old & have always been embarrassed that our school system embraced such hateful & insensitive names for a few of the schools inside the county. I'm signing this to hopefully bring change to Fairfax County, VA, change that we can all be proud of!

Aryan Razeghi, Centreville, VA

This is a great idea. I taught school in Fairfax County for many years, retiring in 2001. Renaming the school to Thurgood Marshall would be great. I guess you could have two Marshall High Schools in one school system.

Steve Gutekunst, Suffolk, VA

I live in the JEB Stuart High School zone. I pay taxes that go to the school. We are at a teaching moment now. Changing the name of the school to Justice Thurgood Marshall High School would be a wonderful opportunity continually to highlight the value of diversity, not segregation, in our schools.

Stephen Spitz, Falls Church, VA

I live in Fairfax County and when I have kids I'd prefer they not attend a high school commemorating a confederate general

Kendra Hill, Gaithersburg, MD

I have lived in Fairfax County for over 50 years and am ashamed that such a progressive county would keep JEB Stuart High School's name glorifying such a horrible time in our history.

Renaming it Thurgood Marshall High School is the right and brilliant thing to do.

Florence Cadogan, Springfield, VA

I live in Fairfax county and would like to see the name changed.

Umman Khawaja, Centreville, VA

I will be attending this high school one day and I want to go somewhere that wasn't named to intimidate non-white students.

Sophia Marcotty, Falls Church, VA

I am from Fairfax County, born and raised and knew many people who attended Stuart who were equally as horrified by its namesake. It is not appropriate nor acceptable for an educational facility to be titled for a perpetrator of violence and perpetuator of ignorance. I wholeheartedly hope this petition is successful.

Jessica Lager, Pottstown, PA

My mother graduated from Stuart. Renaming it Thurgood Marshall is a brilliant idea as he lived very close to the school.

Helen Smith, Brooklyn, NY

I attended Annandale HS near Stuart HS. It was always disturbing to see the school named for a Confederate General. Treasonous

Jason Kooker, Exeter, NH

I graduated another Fairfax County H.S. in the sixties and have always thought the naming was wrong. Way past time to change it. Thurgood Marshall is an excellent choice.

Carol Culnan, Strasburg, VA

My ancestor rode with Stuart. They were both great warriors and I respect them for that. Probably not a good name for a high school though.

N A, Yorktown, VA

As a child psychologist and specialist in work with micro and macro traumas I know that implicit messages, like who the high school is named after, has a profound impact on the hearts, minds, and spirits of our children.

Marjorie Bosk, Narberth, PA

As an alumnus (1971) of Stuart High, I know very well the racist basis on which it was named, and the animosity shown by its administration to the "colored children" (as they were called) even a decade after its establishment. Thurgood Marshall was a true American hero and a resident of the neighborhood, and it would be a fitting corrective to the many decades of insult and racism that the school established to thwart integration be named after a champion of progress.

I am an alumnus of Stuart and have always been embarrassed by the name. It represents two shameful moments in our history. This is long overdue.

I attended rival Fairfax High School, the "Rebels" it is time to recognize all these confederate leaders as the traitors that they were. Their cause was one of the worst ever. Good riddance. As a Virginia tax payer I want my elected officials to lead the Old Dominion into the 21st Century. Change all public place names from their confederate namesakes to modern heroes or name them after trees for all I care.

I'm signing because I attended this school and feel the same. The time has come to change the name.

As a graduate of the FCPS system, I hope that this petition succeed and the school is able to obtain a portion of the attention that the school board so lovingly devotes to praising the schools of high-income families.

I am proud to help take a stand to correct one of the biggest wrongs of this country. Thank you J. Moore and B. Cohen for not standing blindly by and seeing into the experiences of fellow human beings who have endured and continue to endure injustice due to racism. May we all follow your stellar example when we are confronted with injustice of any kind against any fellow human beings.

My son attended J.E.B. Stuart and the school legacy should be one we could be proud of; not a name that glorifies racism.

Russell Brenda, Bradenton, FL

Erica Randall Capitol Heights, MD 20743 United States 8/6/2015

by the name, change is overdue.

I went to this HS too, was and am embarrassed

J.E.B. Stuart graduate, class of 1977. This change was overdue when I was a Stuart student and it is much more overdue today. --Andrew Cross

As a proud member of J.E.B. Stuart High School class of 1969, I strongly support the proposal to rename the school after Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Justice Marshall is local--he lived in nearby Lake Barcroft; his life and career reflect the values of the community; and, far more than General Stuart, he provides an excellent role model for students. Change the name!

Linda Coleman

Melisa Quiroga-Herrera, Annandale, VA 22003, United States, 8/7/2015 Class of 2014

As a JEB Stuart alumnus ('78), and University of Virginia alumnus (BA '82, MA '86), this seems like a no-brainer.

Chris Norden, Moscow, ID

The United States is a land where diverse people live with defined rights, including protection from discriminating by national origin, race, religion and gender. It took years for some of these rights to become law and even longer to start becoming reality. The Civil War was literally raging in our neighborhoods. It remains this country's most costly war and resulted in ending the horrible practice of slavery.

Recent wars in the Balkans and Middle East showed tribal expulsions and murder far worse than the political clash that started the conflict. Lesser ancient conflicts still fester in our own land, with people not willing to live peacefully together, and even worse, exploit prejudices for their own gain. We need to learn each others' history and names so that our divisions do not persist for centuries. How would you have felt as a teenage African American student walking by the symbol that championed your family's enslavement?

The namesake of our institutions should be a positive model for all the people. I cannot look at the cover of my yearbook without feeling regret that it treated Confederate leaders as simply fighting for their region and way of life. The glorification of their legacy and flag is still used today as a focus for one group feeling more entitled to the benefits of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness than everyone else.

We have the example of our neighbor Thurgood Marshall, who was a pioneer in his own life and helped open equal rights to millions of people. In memory of his work and example, I request that JEB Stuart High School be renamed after Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Stephen Trapp

Class of 1975

I graduated from J.E.B. Stuart High School in 1974 and I share the views of this petition.

Kathryn , Cambridge, MA

When I went to school here in the late 1960's, the Confederate flag was flying out front. I was appalled then and now -- the name and flag need to go!

Barbara harff **Portland**

Right on Bruce and Julie; this change is LONG overdue. Thurgood Marshall, a Lake Barcroft neighbor, the great grandson of a slave who became the 96th Supreme Court justice, and the NAACP's chief counsel who represented the plaintiffs in Brown v. Board of Education is a perfect pick.

--Jay Millen, Class of 1978

I'm a 1990 alumna and I feel that it is time to change the name of our high school. I think Thurgood Marshall High School is a great choice, especially considering there is already a scholarship in his name at our school. –

Linnea Dakin

I unequivocally support changing the name of any public institution, facility, of public conveyance that is named after a prominent civilian or military member of the late and unlamented Confederate States of America. J.E.B. Stuart was a traitor against the lawful authority of the Federal government and raised his sword against all that it stands for. His efforts in support of the Confederacy are nothing to celebrate and the time is long overdue to remove his name from a place like a high school that stands for diversity and freedom of all peoples. The Confederacy ultimately stood for slavery (despite its window dressing of "states' rights" - a euphemism for the right to hold human beings in perpetual bondage as chattel & property). Slavery is an absolute evil in any of its manifestations and no public property anywhere in these United States of America should be named or given any kind of public honor regarding the Confederacy. As Abraham Lincoln remarked: "If slavery is not wrong, then nothing is wrong."

Clifford Samuel, Falls Church, VA

In a school that is majority minority, It is wrong to name our school after a person who is seen as a symbolism of hatred to minorities and was willing to fight to protect slavery and white supremacy.

Joseph Frankovich, Falls Church, VA

I'm signing because I believe that renaming the school to honor Justice Thurgood Marshall is the right thing to do. I served on the Fairfax County School Board during the 1970s, worked for FCPS as Assistant Superintendent during the 1980s, and served as Director of Teacher Education at George Mason in the 1990s. All of my seven children and several of my grandchildren attended Stuart H.S. and its feeder schools (Glasgow MS and Baileys ES.)

Mary Anne Lecos, Falls Church, VA

I'm a student

Sheima Amara, Falls Church, VA

APPENDIX 9
STATEMENT BY J.E.B. STUART ALUMNI, CLASS OF 1966

We are alumni of the J.E.B. Stuart class of 1966. We believe that the name of the school should be changed. It is not appropriate for the school to be named for a Confederate general who fought to preserve slavery. We hope that the Fairfax County School Board will replace the name of J.E.B. Stuart with a more uplifting designation for the school.

Kathy Thompson

Pat Foley

Rodney Green

Allan Crane

John LaTorre

Joseph LaTorre (class of 1964)

Marty (Marian) Edwards Gilbert

Geoffrey D. Condit

Ellen Wolfe Brewerton

Marti Walker

Chuck Daley

Janet Alford

Adrian Recinos III

Christine Rich

Ann Bigelow Peterson

Keith Bruce Ervin

Nancy Mills

Linda Green (Class of 1962)

Martin Vidnovic

Chris Condit