

Hello, my name is Verna Thompson and I reside at 1305 W. 138th St., Compton, CA 90222. I am writing to comment on Item 25 under New Business, the School Naming Project. I am highly in favor of changing the name of David Starr Jordan High School to Felton Williams High School.

The person after whom the school is currently named was a racist whose published views expressed great fears and phobias on "race-degeneration." Jordan was also the founding member of the Human Betterment Foundation, devoted entirely to the promotion of forced sterilization legislation.

In 2003, the California Legislature stated that by continuing to honor Jordan we dishonor the values of our school community. As a community and for our children, we cannot continue to honor the legacy of David Starr Jordan.

Dr. Felton William has served as a member of the Board of Education for the past 16 years, five times as its president, and has been instrumental in the national and international success and academic ranking of the school, particularly in its efforts to improve the academic outcomes for students of color, and in particular African American students.

In addition, he has made significant contributions to the district and city of Long Beach as follows:

First elected as a member of the Long Beach Unified School District, Area 2 in 2004 and re-elected for three (3) additional terms, serving from 2004 to 2020.

Served five terms as president of the board.

Served as Chair of Region I NAACP(9western states)

Assisted NAACP Legal Defense Team in successful lawsuit to desegregate Los Angeles Unified School District.

It's for these reasons, I support the name change from David Starr Jordan High School to Felton Williams High School.