

Hello, my name is Willie Mae Aldredge, and I reside at 2013 Del Bay St., Lakewood, CA. I am writing to comment on Item 25 under New Business, the School Naming Policy. I am highly in favor of changing the name of Jordan High School to Felton C. Williams High School. Dr. Williams 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 the city of Long Beach as follows,

§ First elected as a member of the L.B. Unified School District Board of Education, 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 a member of the Council of the Great City Schools Executive Committee (2004-2016, and Chair of the Council in 2017).

§ Received National Urban Educator of the Year Green/Garner award from the Council of the Great City Schools (2017).

§ Advocated for program to recruit and retain African-American male teachers in the school district. Subsequently developed partnership with CSU, Long Beach College of Education and created Elizabeth Patterson Scholarship Program

§ As Chair of Region I NAACP (9 western states), assisted NAACP Legal Defense Team in successful lawsuit to desegregate Los Angeles Unified School District

§ Advocated for LBUSD Strategic Planning

§ Helped facilitate the development and implementation of a district “dash board” to monitor the academic progress of students.

§ Elected president of the African American Cultural Center of Long Beach (2020).

§ Implemented *town hall* to promote President Barack Obama’s *My Brothers Keepers* project.

§ Worked with superintendent to implement district wide “*Ethnic Studies*” program.

§ Recognized by Goodwill Industry SOLAC for the *Community Impact Award*, 2017.

§ Named *Outstanding Alumnus* by Claremont Graduate University, 2017

§ Coordinated with district African-American staff to implement African-American History Month program.

§ Implemented volunteer advisory committee that developed and implemented program to recruit and retain students of color in Advanced Placement classes.

§ Assisted in the promotion of two successful bond campaigns

§ Recommend and supported efforts of Cambodian community to develop program for involvement of Cambodian parents in the district.

§ Invited by President of Claremont University to serve as a guest speaker at President’s Lecture Series.

§ Served as member of the City of Long Beach *Ethics Committee*

§ Served as Chair, Curriculum Committee, Leadership Long Beach

§ Served as Vice President of Administration, Leadership Long Beach

§ Member, Leadership Long Beach, Board of Governors

§ Served as member of the LBUSD Strategic Planning Committee

§ Served as a member of the LBUSD Facilities Master Planning Committee

§ Advocated for *Local Source Hiring Program* to provide employment opportunities for individuals and businesses located in the cities served by the district. Contractors working on district facilities were mandated to hire residents and provide contract opportunities to businesses.

Thank you!