

Hello, my name is Jane Close Conoley and I reside at 1430 El Mirador Avenue, Long Beach. I am writing to comment on Item 25 under New Business, the School Naming Policy and support renaming Jordan High School the Felton C. Williams High School.

Dr. Williams has provided exemplary leadership as a sixteen-year member and five-term president of the Board of Education. He has been instrumental in the national and international success and academic ranking of the school in its efforts to improve the academic outcomes for students of color, and in particular, African American students.

Dr. Williams has made significant contributions to the district and the city of Long Beach and has had extensive experience working with K-16 educational organizations to support and facilitate student success. As acting President of the Board of Education, he advocated for the Teachers for Urban Schools Initiative—a multi-year initiative and partnership between the College of Education CSULB and LBUSD designed to recruit, prepare, and place more teachers of color in LBUSD classrooms.

As a leader in education, Dr. Williams implemented a volunteer advisory committee that developed a program to recruit and retain students of color in Advanced Placement classes. This program further highlights Dr. Williams' ability to empower all internal and external stakeholders to work collaboratively on outcomes focused on student success.

In 2015, Dr. Williams worked with the LBUSD superintendent, the College of Liberal Arts and College of Professional and International Education at CSULB to implement a district wide Ethnic Studies program. These courses opened high school students to new and deeper ethnic understandings through free dual-enrollment courses while earning valuable school credits for both high school and college. These courses provided students with university equivalent credits at CSULB and were transferable to most institutions students chose to attend.

Dr. Williams is a dedicated, passionate and caring community member who has made significant contributions to the Long Beach community, CSULB and LBUSD and tens of thousands of students at both institutions. It is my hope that the committee will recognize the outstanding and extraordinary contributions that Dr. Williams has made in naming the Felton C. Williams High School in his honor. Thank you.