

Dear Wilson Community,

For several years now students, families and staff at Wilson High School have advocated for changing the name of our school. Our school's namesake, President Woodrow Wilson, was a known racist and segregationist. His beliefs and actions stand in direct conflict with our school's and our district's commitment to racial equity and social justice. Given our shared commitment that our school is free of hatred, it is clear that our school's namesake should not be a fervent supporter of the Ku Klux Klan.

As the principal of Wilson High School, I believe that we must change the name of our school and that we must begin this important process now.

More than 2,000 students, families and staff have signed a petition asking that we rename Woodrow Wilson High School. Earlier this week, Hui Hui Hutchinson ('22), Casimiro Cox ('22) and Ms. Whatmore provided powerful testimonies before the school board advocating for the change. Another one of our student leaders, Mia Sedory ('21), sent a letter to the Superintendent to explain why our school should sever ties with President Woodrow Wilson's racist legacy. Other student groups, including our Black Student Union, have long advocated for this change.

We are in early stages of this important process. I will meet with PPS district leaders next week to learn more about the policy that governs the naming/renaming of district property. I promise to keep you in the loop as we articulate what the community-engagement process will entail.

In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions.

Filip
Principal, Wilson High School