

## **School Renaming Fund Pledge Form**

Our community has made great progress in recent years, and we continue to move forward in positive ways. I'm writing to ask if you will join me in taking another step forward in being a community that increasingly values equity and inclusivity for all of our residents, especially our school children.

In decades now long past, our city forefathers chose some school names supporting objectives and values that should no longer be honored. Today, thousands of children attend public schools named for Confederate leaders.

Last summer, I initiated the Board's process to consider renaming these six schools. Soon after, my colleague at the time, Ashley Smith Juarez, initiated the process for three additional schools without Confederate ties. The movement in renaming the Confederate-named schools is now supported by several organizations including the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Times-Union, and the NAACP.

As Dr. Greene considers her final recommendation and as the Board takes final action in June, it would be advantageous to know the community not only supports the progress this action represents, but also is willing to share in the cost so that the burden does not impact our classrooms in any way.

Through our partner, the Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF), a fund has been established to receive tax-deductible contributions for this purpose. Depending on the final decision of the School Board, the cost to transition the names of these schools will be in the range of \$2 million for expenses such as new signage, band uniforms, and athletic uniforms reflecting the new name. There is no special funding source for this type of action, and while I see this as an important step for our students and our community, the ability to meet these costs without the use of taxpayer dollars would make a bold statement about the current culture of our city.

I am hopeful that the Board will take the political step needed to change these names, and I am equally hopeful you and other members of our community will support us financially. Please see the attached pledge form which you can send to [carly@jaxpef.org](mailto:carly@jaxpef.org) (Senior Manager of Finance & Administration at JPEF) to let us know that we can count on you to help take this momentous step forward for our city.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me via phone or email if you desire to discuss this opportunity before making your commitment. I would be grateful for your support of Duval County Public Schools and our efforts to provide all students with an outstanding educational experience in school buildings with names reflective of Jacksonville's contemporary values as an inclusive city seeking equity for all.

Sincerely

Warren A. Jones

**A pledge to support the cost of renaming certain public schools in Duval County**

Former School Board Chair Warren A. Jones recommended in August 2020 changing the names of the schools named after Confederate leaders. The Board approved a community process to consider the names of these six schools:

- Robert E. Lee High School
- J.E.B. Stuart Middle School
- Jefferson Davis Middle School
- Edmund Kirby-Smith Middle School
- Joseph Finegan Elementary
- Stonewall Jackson Elementary

Subsequently, former Board Member Ashley Smith Juarez recommended a review of other school names due to their historical significance, and the Board approved a community process to consider these school names, as well:

- Andrew Jackson High School
- Jean Ribault Middle School
- Jean Ribault High School

The Board is expected to vote on the names of these schools on June 1, 2021.

The costs associated with changing school names include items such as band uniforms, athletic uniforms, and exterior and interior signage.

I pledge \_\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the renaming of the following schools:

\_\_\_\_\_ Only schools named after Confederate soldiers.

Fulfill your pledge by sending a check with "Confederate Schools Rename" in the memo line to:

Jacksonville Public Education Fund  
40 E. Adams St. Suite 110  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

\_\_\_\_\_ All nine school names listed above.

Fulfill your pledge by sending a check with "Schools Rename" in the memo line to Jacksonville Public Education Fund, or by submitting an online donation at [www.jaxpef.org/renaming](http://www.jaxpef.org/renaming)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

This is an anonymous pledge/gift.

Check this box if you do not want your pledge/gift recognized publicly.