

Wilson Elementary School PTA
7150 Portola Drive
El Cerrito CA 94530

September 16, 2019

Board of Trustees
West Contra Costa Unified School District
1108 Bissell Ave
Richmond, CA 94801

Dear Board of Trustees:

On behalf of the Parent Teacher Association and the Wilson Families we would like to request that the Board of Trustees consider a name change for Woodrow Wilson Elementary School. We would like to rename the school to Michelle Obama Elementary School, in honor of our former First Lady of the United States.

We are aware that the Board *shall* use certain criteria in naming schools and understand that the renaming of existing schools *shall* occur only under extraordinary circumstance. However, we believe that the Board does have discretion to make a consideration in this instance. The rebuilding of Wilson Elementary will be monumental feat for the West Contra Costa School District. This is the District's first time using a design and build team; and hopefully the project will come in on budget and on time. This will be a great success for the district and will serve as a beacon of hope for future projects.

The newly rebuilt school will be the District's initiation in the 21st Century school facility design, featuring flexible learning spaces, which will allow for student and staff collaboration, interaction and flexibility. When the students step into the new school, they will bring a positive attitude about what the future holds for them. We also want the neighboring community to see this new facility as a community resource. We want to keep our children in our school district.

With that being said, we feel as though a name change would be fundamental to this fresh new start. We are prepared to testify as to why we feel that the current name does not reflect who we are as a community, as well as why the name we are proposing is much more fitting.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Maisha H. Cole
P.T.A. President