



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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January 15, 2021

Dear Principal Hristić and Wilson High School Community,


Thank you for your eloquent and succinct communication regarding your school community's proposal that Wilson High School be renamed after **Ida B. Wells-Barnett**. As articulated by Board Policy and Administrative Directive, let this letter serve as confirmation from my office that I approve with heartfelt sincerity your community's recommended choice of a new name. I intend to recommend to the PPS School Board that they formally accept the name change at their next regular meeting on January 26th.

As is our custom when an agendized formal resolution for a school name change is considered by the Board of Directors, I look forward to having you summarize and describe, for our school board and broader public, the process you underwent with representative stakeholders from your community to research and thoughtfully consider options. Based on what I have already seen, I can state unequivocally that your engagement process meets and exceeds expectations. Your leadership and your community's participation in this process are evidence of every one of our PPS Core Values.

Presumptively, it is exciting to know that future cohorts of PPS students will walk through the doors of "**Ida B Wells-Barnett High School**," learning about and honoring this exceptional individual's strength of character and many accomplishments. In addition to serving as an exemplary role model for students, we can also champion the renaming process you undertook as an example of how true collaboration can lead to positive—and uplifting—outcomes.

Again, I am thrilled with your selection. **Ida B Wells-Barnett**: journalist, activist, mother of four, tireless and fearless champion of racial equity and social justice. It is long overdue that a notable person fitting this description grace the portals of one of our cherished Portland high schools. Your community has my deep gratitude for conducting this process with integrity, and with careful thought as to the identity and values of your school community that you want to convey to current and future generations of students.

Onward from Wilson to Wells-Barnett!


Guadalupe Guerrero
Superintendent