

Fern Creek Traditional High School

9115 Fern Creek Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40291
(502) 485-8251
Fax: (502) 485-8032



December 23, 2014

Dear Dr. Donna Hargens and the JCPS School Board:

Enclosed you will find four letters in support of changing the name of Fern Creek Traditional High School to Fern Creek High School. The letters are from our Alumni Association, our PTSA, our SBDM Advisory Council, and me, as principal of the school. For 74 of the 92 years the school has existed, "Traditional" was not attached to the school's name and does not accurately reflect our school. Each letter reflects the rationale from that committee's viewpoint on why changing back best serves our school, our community, and JCPS going forward.

This process is two years in the making and was brought to our school stakeholders to weigh-in on their thoughts. Our current students, staff, parents, community, alumni, and former principal, Houston Barber, are fully supportive of this move. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan R. Meyer".

Nathan R. Meyer, EdD
Principal of Fern Creek Traditional High School

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December 19, 2014

Dear Jefferson County Public School Board:

Over the last two school years, Dr. Houston Barber and I have worked with stakeholders on removing "Traditional" from our school name and becoming Fern Creek High School once more. We have met with our current students, our faculty and staff, our parents, our SBDM Advisory Council, and our Alumni Association in making this decision.

The reasons to remove "Traditional" are the following:

1. Traditional does not align with our school's mission and vision statements.
2. Our 5-Star School Program of CMVPA does not fit traditional learning processes
3. As a priority school with a high percentage of ESL and ECE students, traditional methods of teaching cannot be used to move all students to proficiency. Creative, authentic, and project based learning approaches are necessary for students to be engaged with and apply content to standards.
4. The term traditional can also label how schools handle student discipline measures. We feel that the accompaniment of our school's SRT and PBIS reflects current best practices.
5. Traditional creates confusion in the community as we are not considered "traditional" by JCPS in the same manner that Louisville Male High School and Butler High School are.

We have worked to build an inclusive school community and the moniker of being a traditional school is misleading. All of the stakeholders listed above are fully supportive of this, and have shared this with my Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Lynne Wheat, as well. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to your advisement on our next steps.

Sincerely,



Nathan R. Meyer, EdD
Principal of Fern Creek Traditional High School



FERN CREEK
traditional high school

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 91266 • Louisville, KY 40291

502.485.6362 • 502.485.8150

info@ferncreekalumni.com

www.ferncreekalumni.com

November 17, 2014

Jeff. Co. Schools

Board of Education

Van Hoose Education Center

Louisville, KY

Dear Board Members:

Our Alumni Association encouraged school leadership to consider seeking permission to drop "Traditional" from its name. We voted in October, 2014 to drop "Traditional" from our name. We have supported the school with funds exceeding \$1.3 M for teacher and student scholarships, improvements to school facilities, uniforms, equipment and student activities.

We feel that the term was appropriate and meaningful when the change was added many years ago but no longer represents the type of school that we have become. Old teaching methods must give way to new and creative learning approaches that are necessary for our diverse student body to succeed.

We strongly recommend your approval of the name change that will drop "Traditional" from Fern Creek High School.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Michael Gatton

Chair

Fern Creek Traditional High School

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December 17, 2014

To the JCPS Board of Education:

On behalf of the PTSA at Fern Creek Traditional High School, we support the removal of "Traditional" from the school's name. We voted in our general body meeting on November 24th unanimously to support this change. The term "traditional" does not reflect the best means of educating our school's diverse student population and the methods our teachers use to reach our kids in the classrooms. In addition, the use of "traditional" is confusing to our parents who have gone through the district's "traditional program" or have children currently there.

The school continues to seek out innovations to reach our kids that go beyond traditional schooling. It is for these reasons that we support the name change at our school.

Sincerely,



Anitra Durand Allen
Fern Creek Traditional High School PTSA President

Fern Creek Traditional High School

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December 2, 2014

Dear Jefferson County Public School Board:

On behalf of the Fern Creek SBDM Advisory Council, I am writing a formal letter, as chairperson, to remove to remove "Traditional" from our school name. During the November 2014 Fern Creek Traditional High School SBDM Advisory Meeting, the council voted unanimously to recommend removing "Traditional." The consensus was that "Traditional" is not an inclusive term that represents our school's diversity, how we teach, and how our students' learn academically, or fits their social and emotional needs.

We have worked to build an inclusive school community and "traditional" is misleading to how we approach teaching and learning and causes confusion with other truly traditional high schools in the district.

Our SBDM Advisory Council thanks you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to your advisement on our next steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nathan R. Meyer", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Nathan R. Meyer, EdD
Principal of Fern Creek Traditional High School
SBDM Advisory Council Chairperson