

Testimony in Support of Renaming District HQ:

Dr. Constance E. Clayton Education Center

School Board of Philadelphia

Thursday, April 25, 2024

Jerry Jordan, President, Philadelphia Federation of Teachers



I am so pleased to be here today in support of something I know my friend and colleague Dr. Clayton would have loved—the renaming of this building as the ***Dr. Constance E. Clayton Education Center***.

It is a perfectly fitting tribute to someone who centered her life's work on the children of our city. On every memo and letter Dr. Clayton sent, her letterhead contained the phrase: **Every school is a good school.**

Let me say that again—every school is a good school. Dr. Clayton meant it. She saw the promise, the potential, and the incredible work taking place in every grade, in every school, in every neighborhood. That phrase—coupled with how she often ended her speeches—“Always remember the children come first.”—truly encapsulates what Dr. Clayton stood for. And it is reflective of what we should all strive for.

So it is really touching that this building—which can and should operate from that same belief, that every school is a good school—will pay tribute to an incredible educator and leader that truly left our District and our city better off for her service.

My members and I have fond memories of Dr. Clayton's firm but fair superintendency, because she was a terrific leader and an inspiration to so many.

As the Board considers this renaming, let us not just commit to naming 440 after an exceptional leader—but let's also make sure that the work we do every day furthers the simple mission that Dr. Clayton laid out and the legacy she left: ***Every school is a good school. And, always remember the children come first.***

Thank you.