

Olentangy Schools Public Participation Comments for April 22, 2021

4/19/21 0:20:33

Kelly Pyles

752 Wynstone Dr Lewis center

It's about time that the school board and the superintendent start listening to the kids of this district! The seniors are asking for a Traditional graduation and they deserve that! The district has failed to protect several kids throughout the years, from a vice principal that bullied kids, to staff that have discriminated against students based on race, size, and financial background to name a few. It's time for you to get something right and to do the right thing.

4/19/21 8:19:24

Carolyn and Rodger Glenn

533 Glenn Road, Delaware, Ohio 43015

My name is Carolyn Gardner Glenn. I am writing to uphold the mascot of the Olentangy High School: the Brave, someone to be revered as strong, courageous and admired. Our family history in the Olentangy School District is extensive. I was born in the little village of Powell and lived in the house in which I was born until I married by Olentangy High School sweetheart. My brother graduated from OHS in 1964. My husband and I both proudly graduated in 1962. Our son graduated in 1989 and our daughter in 1992. Our two grandsons are Olentangy students: one a sophomore at Berlin High School and the other a fourth grader at Cheshire Elementary. Our family has paid taxes to the Olentangy School District for all 67 years it has existed, and now we feel betrayed. There are so many families just like ours who have lived here a lifetime, and now we are being told that what we have admired and loved about our school system is suddenly racist. As taxpayers we believe we should have been given more information about what was happening. We do not spend our working hours on social media; we have a business to run. We rely on the written information that can be digested from mailings and newspapers. The district is progressing without the input from a large segment of this community. Most of the information comes to us after the fact. It sounds like a major makeover of the entire school district: new logos, new mascots, new curricula, new training for teachers, staff and administration. Even elected school board members need new training. I taught for Big Walnut Schools in the 60's and 70's, and I quickly learned how important it was to know the community. A questionnaire sent to every residence would have been a token of appreciation to all the taxpayers who foot the bill. They should have had an opportunity to voice their thoughts on important issues and changes in their school system. Since the Olentangy School District receives so little funding from the State of Ohio, it must be provided by the taxpayers. When it comes time for operating levees and bond issues, we always receive mailings promoting them, With the drastic changes now being undertaken, it would have been wise to inform the people who will provide much of the funding. Finally, the Braves are those who have a special place in the history of the school district. Our family is proud to be the Homes of the Braves! After all, even our national anthem has a special reference to the character of braves.

4/19/21 16:19:58

Jacob Bonacci Jay-cub Bo-Notch-E

286 Bluff Ridge Court April 22, 2021

Please reconsider having a traditional graduation such as having it at our own football stadiums instead of a boring drive through.

4/19/21 19:29:59

Samantha Stewart

1051 Las Vegas Blvd Columbus, OH 43240

I would like any and all team names or mascots that are related to Native American tribes to be immediately discontinued. There is a historic and current racist epistemology to the Braves name. It does not honor anyone, it only perpetuates gross misrepresentations and causes harm. Discontinuing the name is a step toward growth and healing for everyone in the community.

4/20/21 12:24:44

Jennifer Feucht Jennifer Foyt
2231 Tucker Trail Lewis Center, Ohio

I am concerned and disappointed that OLSD in partnership with The Delaware County Health Department failed to work alongside concerned parents and to reschedule the high school Covid vaccine clinics. The district and the health depart instead moved forward with the 9am-12Noon clinics at our high school buildings instead of taking into consideration an after school hours option.. Flu clinics have been held during and after school hours in the past, however our concern is due to the controversial nature of the Covid vaccine. The Covid vaccine is not FDA approved like the seasonal flu shot. The Covid vaccine is simply authorized for emergency use. For this very reason there are very strong feelings surrounding the use of this vaccine on youth, who also happen to be the least impacted by this virus. Holding clinics during school hours does nothing to protect the privacy of those students wishing to decline the vaccine. They are subject to judgement by their peers and teachers that may view them as "not doing their part" to stop the spread. The teachers' vaccine clinic was held after hours and I had requested that this clinic extend that same level of privacy to our students. The clinics are in violation of Code of Conduct rules of the district handbook referring to rule #1 and the disruption of the regular school day and other rules which refer to hostile school environment and intimidation. I also asked how adverse reactions would be handled on school grounds after the county nurses had left campus and the health department's response was, "our EMS team has really good response times," and could handle a severe reaction. There was nothing shared regarding how teachers might have to deal with multiple students feeling ill after receiving their shot. Our school buildings are a place for education to serve our students during school hours. Though I appreciate the efforts by our health district to offer convenience to our families, our buildings are not health and wellness centers during school hours and a true effort should have been made by district officials and the health department to offer these clinics after school hours.

4/20/21 10:16:33

Kariena Turner car-ee-na
265 Tara Glen Dr., Delawre

"Hello board! Once again I am asking for a meeting with you all to discuss the braves name again. I would actually prefer to have a community forum to discuss this and would appreciate your support in that. A real discussion. Not just back and forth on social media. So much is lost in those conversations. For today I am going to address concerns we have seen on social media. I want to remind the community that the board is removing the Native Imagery and giving the name braves another meaning and mascot of which they have not shared with me or anyone I know. Questions asked from the community via social media...(full disclosure these questions are not the exact wording of the questions the but premise of the question is there) 1. Question: Have you talked with ACTUAL Native Americans about this? Answer: YES. For this endeavor I spoke with Native Americans who identify as Native American and are culturally Native American. Leaders who have a vested interest in their people. The Chief of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, the cultural director of the Delaware Tribe who both gave us letters for the board, the National Congress of American Indians and Coalition of Natives and Allies sent a letter as well. I continue to see out new voices to add to the conversation. See these communications on our facebook page retirethebraves. 2. Question: Is the Braves name really a slur? Answer: For some people, yes, for other no, it is a linguistic study of different tribal interpretations. But the name itself isn't really the main issue. It is the cultural stereotyping at sports events that occurs that is the issue. Face painting, donning a headdress, tomahawk chops, opposing team yelling "scalp them" etc 3. Question: Why are we so offended by everything now? Answer: Concerns around Native mascots and names is not a new "woke" movement. This has been an issue since

the 1960s. 4. Question? Is this a big deal? Answer: I would pose that question to yourself. If you ask the question, "is it a big deal", then you have your answer. If it's not a big deal, then let us move on from the name braves, and choose something else. 5. Question: Why do you want to erase Native Americans from our community? Answer: This is quite the opposite. If the only thing that represents Native Americans is the name braves, then we have failed. Our intention is to include more Native American education. At Berlin High school we have done just that. During the fall we had a display of celebrations, one of those we highlighted was the HOPI Soyal Solstice Ceremony. We discussed this religious ceremony, the purpose of the kiva and the Hopi Kachina dolls. This information was done with the help of a Hopi Artisan from New Mexico. . Currently at Berlin there is a display on the healing Ojibwe (O-jib-a-way) jingle dress. And discussion around missing and murdered Indigenous women. Again, done with the help of Navajo Dine people from Utah. Our goal is to increase exposure, not diminish. A future goal would be field trips to the Hopewell Indian mounds, and other fun activities for the kids. 6.

Question: I am Native American and don't care about the name. Answer: Great, we would love to talk with you, we just hope that your claim to being Native American is a true statement and not a familial folklore, or a positive DNA test. Regardless of where the decision lands, we would love to partner moving forward with any Native Americans in our district. We acknowledge Native Americans are not a monolith, opinions will not be 100% the same. For an example, let's address the University of Utah. They are called the UTES. Their mascot is a Red Tailed Hawk. Per the agreement with the UTE Tribe, every freshman takes local Native American History, there is Native representation on boards, in the classroom and campaigns to help Native youth attend the University on scholarship. I grew up going to their annual Pow Wow. The culture is rich and abundant and APPROVED by t"

4/20/21 16:34:14

Stephanie Fichtelman Stephanie Fik-tel-man

518 crick stone dr

I would like to propose that you remove the mask mandates for outdoor recess and gym class. If our indoor and outdoor athletes do not need to be masked for physical activity, I don't think the elementary schools should require it either.

4/21/21 10:26:25

Heather Primavera

1196 Caribou Run Delaware

Hello-I have been happy to hear the return to full time has gone well and am thankful my children are back 5 days a week. I am however becoming more and more concerned with the masking of the children. I realize that to an extent, you don't have a say in this. However, if I am reading things correctly you could allow for certain things (no masks outside where there has been virtually NO evidence of spread in the world outdoors, honoring all exemptions, etc) and also you can ask questions and pursue discussion in regards to this with the health department (this may already be happening and if so, thank you!). I just wanted to voice my concern that many scientific studies have shown that a) these children are not effective spreaders and b) masks may not be effectively stopping the spread. I would be happy to send these studies in a separate email to the board. I hear from some people, "who cares, its just a mask" but its not just a mask for some. I believe the unintended consequences are being ignored. All I ask is that the board look into the possibility that they are causing more harm (physically, emotionally, psychologically, developmentally, socially) than the potential good. Hopefully these discussions are already being had with the health department. Some of the stories I have heard regarding the children in masks are honestly breaking my heart and so I feel compelled to ask you to look into this. Hopefully soon masking the children will be a choice made personally with the parents and perhaps in consultation with their personal doctor. In the meantime, I hope you will consider letting the children play outside during recess without masks as they do in many other schools and I hope you will pursue discussion in regards to the harms and long-term effects the masks may have on these children. Thank you for hearing my concerns.

4/22/21 9:56:59

Tracy Kourie

T r a i s e e K u h r s e e

2793 Coltsbridge Dr, Lewis Center

The actions taken by the school district and health department are not based on science or stats. The whole pandemic has been politicized. I don't know who continues to believe these actions are helpful to anyone but they are being extremely dishonest and/or they are ill informed. If mask policies for Olentangy schools are not voluntary for children come fall I do believe the district will have a huge fight on their hands. Facts and science matter and neither are being followed. If you just go on the CDC website you can find a chart comparing a surgical mask (most people are wearing cloth so there's that) and N95 masks. The intended use and purpose is "Fluid resistant and provides the wearer protection against large droplets, splashes, or sprays of bodily or other hazardous fluids. Protects the patient from the wearer's respiratory emissions". These do not prevent transmission of aerosol or viral particles. N95 masks were intended for the use around patients with tuberculosis etc, which is a bacterial infection, and the particles are much larger than a covid or influenza virus particle (which suddenly has been miraculously eradicated). I encourage you to fight for the truth and the health of our kids in this district. Shut down the fear mongering of parents and teachers in our district with facts on viruses and masks. I think a presentation from experts such as Stephen Petty, local National Exposure/PPE Expert, would be extremely valuable to staff. Stephen Petty did an interview with Dr Douglas Franks in March 2021 in regards to the work he did with Oakstone Academy here in Ohio. Oakstone Academy has been in-person with no masks since last summer. Where there's a will there's a way. According to Stephen Petty, "1) PPE are the least desirable way to protect people, 2) masks are not PPE, 3) scientific evidence suggests Covid-19 particles are mostly small aerosols not droplets, which would mean respirators, not masks, are needed to protect the lungs and would make the 6' rule effectively meaningless, and 4) smaller particles are likely a greater cause of disease since they can reach deep into the lungs." The size of a covid viral particle is .1 to .3 microns and because of their extremely small size and density they can stay suspended in the air for a very long time (7 to 50 days). Also, another great video is Masks: The Science & Myths by Dr Lee Merritt. "Children do not readily acquire SARS-CoV-2 (very low risk), spread it to other children or teachers, or endanger parents or others at home" ("Masking Children: Tragic, Unscientific, and Damaging from www.aier.org). In Ohio, according to the Covid 19 Mortality Metrics, there have been 7 deaths (0.00037% of Ohio covid deaths) under the age of 19 and 31 deaths (0.0016% of Ohio covid deaths) under the age of 29. Teachers are also not at significant risk of dying of covid. If you look at the number of deaths under the age 60 in the state of Ohio (which would likely be the majority of people in the schools) it makes up for 7% of covid deaths (1364 deaths). For reference, Ohio has a little over 11.6 million people. I won't even get started on the accuracy of these numbers and the PCR tests. Also, we only have 20 active student cases and 3 active staff cases. Active Cases include confirmed cases, probable cases and suspect cases! So why are schools locked down, why is there plexiglass everywhere, why are kids wearing masks, why are events for our children being canceled, why is there social distancing, and why are the high schools having vaccine clinics for an experimental drug trial? It's really unbelievable and sad. In conclusion, I believe the Governor and his administration believed that encouraging and mandating mask wearing would help curb the fear of the pandemic in Ohio. Unfortunately, it has created more fear and harm. I hope you all consider this information as you plan for next year. Our children deserve better.