

Hello Alan,

October 7, 2022

During the 2021-2022 school year, Salt Lake Virtual Elementary's inaugural year, parents, students, faculty and staff agreed that we ought to have a mascot. The process agreed upon by our School Improvement Council and our School Community Council was that we would have the students nominate ideas of mascots and vote on them, and the mascot ideas would be approved by both councils.

The students came up with a final five choices, those being dragons, foxes, mice, owls, and tigers. A vote was held, and the mascot of Foxes won. The results of the vote were that 29 voted for Foxes, 25 voted for Dragons, 21 voted for Tigers, and 11 voted for Mice. This all took place in the fall of 2021 before the new Administrative Procedures regarding mascots for new schools were approved. I mention that because we went ahead and approved that we would have Foxes as our mascot through SIC and SCC. We called ourselves the Foxes for much of the school year, and started branding with it. In June, we submitted to you that our top three vote-getters were the Foxes, Dragons, and Tigers, and requested that you request to the SLCSB School Board that they approve us to be the Foxes.

You asked us to consider that the mascot of Foxes might be inappropriately misconstrued to have unintended symbolism for some in the public. You asked if we would discuss this, and whether we were sure we wanted to go with Foxes as our mascot. We have discussed this as an office staff, as an SIC, and as a whole faculty. Our decision is that we would like to be the Salt Lake Virtual Elementary Foxes.

We have discussed that the fox is an animal with characteristics that should resonate with students and with education. One of our staff captured this by providing the description, "They are curious and keen. They have perseverance and a playful attitude. They represent cleverness and a strong independent mindset."

We also know that there are several schools throughout the state of Utah that have the fox as their mascot. We think there is a strong precedent for the positive use of the fox as a mascot, and we would like to join that distinguished group.

We would appreciate your presenting our request to be known as the Salt Lake Virtual Foxes to the Salt Lake City School District Board of Education. We appreciate the time you have taken to consider our request and provide us with feedback, as well as the time you will take to get this on the Board's agenda and discuss this with them.

Thank you!

Kenneth D. Limb
Principal, Salt Lake Virtual Elementary

DeAnn Moore
SIC Chair, Salt Lake Virtual Elementary