

Canandaigua City School District

COMMUNITY FORUM

Thursday, February 16, 2023
6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Join the Zoom Webinar to learn
about the recent NYS regulation and
how it relates to our school Name
(Braves) and Symbol (Friendship Belt/Arrow)



The forum link has a capacity of 500 participants
This webinar will be recorded and available on the District YouTube Channel after the forum

School Name/Symbol Community Forum

- ➔ Brief History of our School Symbols
- ➔ 2001 Review
- ➔ Draft Regulation from New York State Education Department
- ➔ Steps taken by the District so far
- ➔ Next Steps



Canandaigua City School District

School Name/Symbol Community Forum

Zoom Webinar Capacity: 500 people

This forum is being recorded and will be uploaded to the CCSD YouTube Page in the next few days

Please hold all questions until the end



Canandaigua City School District

School Name/Symbol & History

1791 Private Canandaigua Academy is Founded

The school is officially incorporated by the NYS Board of Regents in 1795

1900 Public Canandaigua Academy Opens

School retains the Academy name and eventually adopts the colors of cherry & gray

1949 Change from the “Canandaigua Cans” to the “Canandaigua Braves”

Students petitioned the Board of Education to change the name; Board adopts new name

2001 District reviewed symbol and name, adopted new symbol

Friendship belt symbol and commitment to teaching about the Haudenosaunee are adopted

2022 NYSED Commissioner Betty Rosa Issues Draft Regulation

Prohibits the use of indigenous logos; exemptions possible with agreement from a recognized tribe

Canandaigua City School District

2001 School Name/Symbol Review

Background

Then NYSED Commissioner Richard Mills called for school leaders to reconsider the use of Native American Nicknames and Symbols

The Board of Education reviewed options for a new school symbol and also looked at ways to retain “Braves”

The District committee consulted a leader at Ganandagon, a Haudenosaunee Faith Keeper



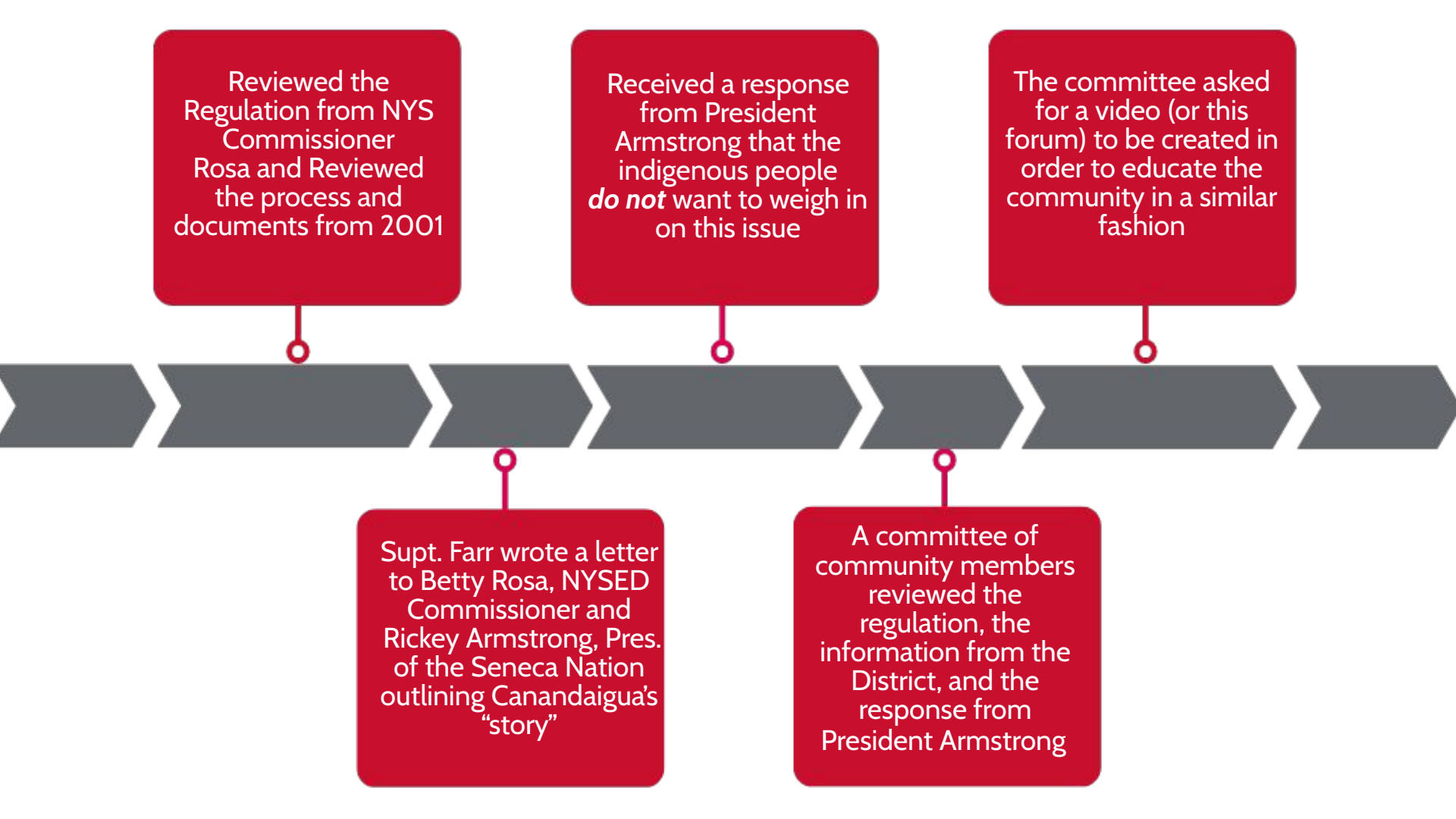
Results

The Canandaigua City School District adopted the logo with the Friendship Belt and Arrow and stopped using Indian Head logos and mascots

The District committed to teaching the school community about Haudenosaunee culture through the curriculum and more

No formal, written agreement was developed with a recognized tribe

Canandaigua City School District



Reviewed the Regulation from NYS Commissioner Rosa and Reviewed the process and documents from 2001

Received a response from President Armstrong that the indigenous people *do not* want to weigh in on this issue

The committee asked for a video (or this forum) to be created in order to educate the community in a similar fashion

Supt. Farr wrote a letter to Betty Rosa, NYSED Commissioner and Rickey Armstrong, Pres. of the Seneca Nation outlining Canandaigua's "story"

A committee of community members reviewed the regulation, the information from the District, and the response from President Armstrong

Three Key Documents

1. New York State Education Department (NYSED) Draft Regulation
2. Letter Composed to Commissioner Rosa (of NYSED) and to Seneca Nation of Indians (SNI) President Armstrong
3. Response from SNI President Armstrong

Canandaigua City School District

The New York State Education Department Regulation & Timeline

December 1, 2022

Draft Regulation Issued

End of the 22/23 School Year

Date which a Board of Education resolution is needed if approval is not granted

April 30, 2023

Date of approval of the Regulation by the Board of Regents coinciding with the date which approval by a recognized tribe would need to be documented

End of the 24/25 School Year

Deadline for completion of the name and symbol change along with the rebranding process (should we change)

Canandaigua City School District

The New York State Education Department Draft Regulation

Key Points

Change your school district symbol to no longer have an indigenous name/symbol or have an agreement with a Federally recognized, local tribe (in NYS)

Even if we obtain written tribal permission to retain our name/symbol, they reserve the right to remove approval at any time - we would then have the remainder of that year and one more to make the change

Note: From what we understand, the Haudenosaunee were not involved in the creation of this new Regulation

If a school district does not comply, NYS will withhold state aid funds from the school district



Canandaigua City School District

The Letter Composed to Commissioner Rosa and President Armstrong

Key Points

1. Is there a desire of the Haudenosaunee to have us retain the name “Braves” and symbol (Friendship Belt)?
2. Historical Significance of Canandaigua to the Haudenosaunee:
 - a. Canandaigua - the name itself
 - b. Canandaigua Treaty
 - c. The Creation Story
 - d. Ring of Fire - Bare Hill
3. The District’s Commitment to Positively Recognizing Local Haudenosaunee Heritage
 - a. All Kindergarten students hear the Creation Story
 - b. All 4th graders take a field trip to Ganondagan
 - c. All new teachers and teaching assistants are trained at Ganondagan
 - d. Components of Native American history is taught in 9 out of the 12 grades
 - e. The name/symbol is meant to be respectful and historically accurate



Canandaigua City School District

Seneca Nation of Indians President Armstrong Response

Key Points

1. This topic has been debated across the world.
Some hold on to the romanticized notion they are “honoring” while others feel the practice devalues humanity
2. If ever a case has been made to retain a symbol and name, the Canandaigua City School District has done so
3. At best, public declarations are difficult to arrive at a blanket viewpoint
4. The Seneca Nation is not interested in being the judge and jury on this matter in New York State



Canandaigua City School District

Next Steps



Continue to pursue communication/approval with the Haudenosaunee to determine if this option remains

We are drafting a resolution for the Board of Education to vote on in case - changing the name and symbol

We are working on creating a series of surveys to solicit community input regarding our name and school symbol (Expect these in May)

What do we need from you?

Canandaigua City School District

Canandaigua City School District

One Community, Transforming Lives

Explore ♦ **Enrich** ♦ **Empower**

Vision

The Canandaigua City School District believes in building a community rooted in inclusion and love, where everyone recognizes the active role they play in educating our children and helping them find a sense of purpose in life.



Mission

The Canandaigua City School District is dedicated to creating enriched, world-class educational experiences that engage all learners, foster meaningful exploration, and empower our school community to have their voices heard.

Explore Provide a range of opportunities that represent the various cultures, preferences, and aspirations of all learners.

Enrich Create differentiated and individualized experiences, which engage all learners.

Empower Provide students, employees, and community both voice and choice.







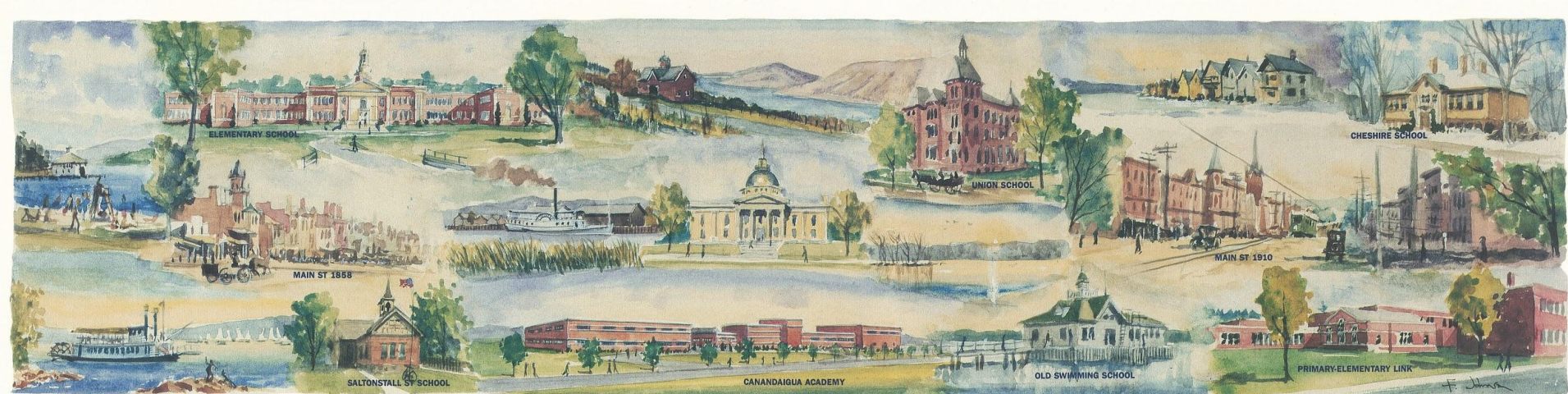




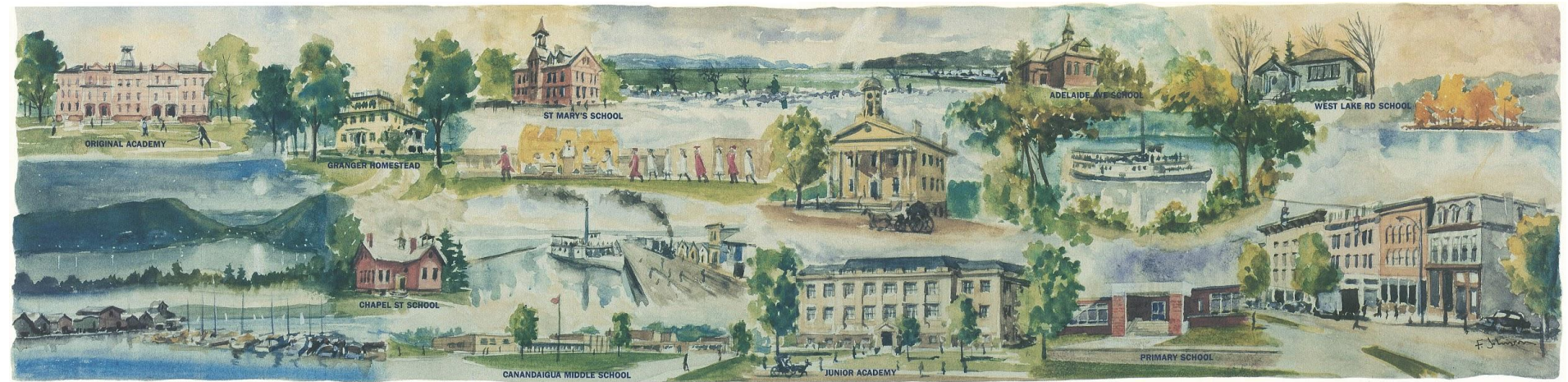
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#CanandaiguaProud



Historical & Cultural Significance



Steps taken by the District



Reviewed the Regulation from NYS Commissioner Rosa and reviewed the process and documents from 2001

I wrote a letter to Betty Rosa, NYSED Commissioner and Rickey Armstrong, President of the Seneca Nation outlining our symbol and its significance

Received a response from President Armstrong that the indigenous people **do not** want to weigh in on this issue

A committee of community members reviewed the regulation, the information from the District, and the response from President Armstrong

The committee asked for a video (or this forum) to be created in order to educate the community on our current status

Canandaigua City School District

School Symbols

Canandaigua Braves

