



August 1, 2023

Dear Manhasset School Community,

As you know, over recent months, the Board of Education has extensively discussed [Part 123 of the Commissioner's Regulations](#). These regulations prohibit the use of Indigenous names, logos, or mascots. In accordance with the regulation, the Board passed a resolution at its meeting on June 21 to eliminate the use of the name "Indians" and associated imagery. The Board also resolved that legacy or memorial items, considered to be historical artifacts, will not be removed or changed. Our traditional school colors of blue and orange will remain unchanged.

Consequently, the new regulations require us to develop a process to change our team's name. We are committed to involving our school community in this endeavor to envision a team name that will inspire passion and pride throughout the District. Our objective is to create a team name that encapsulates Manhasset's distinctive character, culture, traditions, and history and symbolizes our strive toward excellence while projecting a positive image for the Manhasset Public Schools. Our new team name should be one all community members can proudly associate with.

As an initial step, we invite all members of the school community to contribute their ideas and suggestions for a new team name. Suggestions can be shared via [Google form](#), which will be open until September 15.

We are also opening an application for those who may be interested in participating on a committee tasked with reviewing the suggestions and recommending a process for selecting a new team name. The committee's responsibilities will include:

- Reviewing the team name suggestions from the school community.
- Defining the characteristics and qualities of the new team name, including factors such as appropriateness, uniqueness, relatability, creativity, and the mascot's ability to resonate with our school community.
- Ensuring that the new team name recommendations align with our District's values, mission, and vision.
- Develop a list of recommendations for a team name and recommend a voting and selection process.

If you are interested in an opportunity to serve on the committee, please complete the attached interest form and return it to the District Clerk via email (districtclerk@manhassetsschools.org) by September 15.

We thank you for your active participation and valued input. Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful and safe rest of your summer.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gaurav Passi

Superintendent of Schools