



June 16, 2023

Dear Manhasset School Community,

At the June 6, 2023, Board of Education meeting, the Board continued its discussion regarding [Part 123 of the Commissioner's Regulations](#), which prohibits the use of Indigenous names, logos, or mascots. This discussion is on the [District's YouTube channel](#) (beginning at 2:17).

The Commissioner's Regulation requires the following:

The Board of Education must commit, via resolution, to eliminate the use of all Indigenous names, logos, and mascots by the end of the 2022-2023 school year. The resolution must identify a plan, that can be developed separately and incorporated by reference in the resolution, to eliminate the use of the prohibited name, logo, or mascot within a reasonable time, no later than the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

The State Department of Education has published a comprehensive [FAQ document](#) in which they respond to frequently asked questions and provide a timeline for implementation and links to important documents, including the [November 2022 memorandum to Districts](#).

The impact of this Commissioner's Regulation is significant for Manhasset. The State Education Department stated that they "do not anticipate that any team names, logos, or mascots that contain vestiges of prohibited team names, logos, or mascots will be considered acceptable."

The new regulation requires us to replace our team name and associated imagery as it appears on our uniforms, athletic equipment, wrestling mats, fields, gym floors, windscreens, and rugs. The regulation does not require removing or changing legacy or memorial items or historical artifacts.

In addition, the regulation prohibits school officers and employees, when located on school property or at a school function, from utilizing or promoting any Indigenous name, logo, or mascot on district property or at a district event.

The Board of Education is expected to adopt a resolution regarding the above at its next meeting on Wednesday, June 21, 2023. The resolution under consideration by the Board can be found below.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gaurav Passi

Superintendent of Schools

PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING COMMISSIONER’S REGULATION PART 123

WHEREAS, on April 18, 2023, the New York State Board of Regents adopted Part 123 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, (8 NYCRR Part 123) regarding the use of indigenous team names, logos and/or school mascots by public schools; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Part 123, boards of education must commit, via adoption of a resolution by no later than the end of the 2022-23 school year, to eliminate the use of all indigenous names, logos, and mascots within a reasonable time which shall be no later than the end of the 2024-25 school year; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Education Department has advised that district logos or imagery that incorporate symbols associated with indigenous peoples are also prohibited under Part 123; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Part 123, the District’s use of the name “Indians” and any symbols or logos associated with indigenous peoples must be eliminated within the timeframe set forth in Part 123;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby commits to eliminate the use of the name “Indians” and associated imagery, in accordance with the Commissioner’s Regulation Part 123; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools to create a plan, in accordance with the Commissioner’s Regulation Part 123; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legacy or memorial items are considered historical artifacts and will not be removed or changed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all school officers and employees of the District are prohibited from utilizing or promoting any indigenous name or associated imagery, whether on District

property or at District functions to be held off District property, in accordance with the Commissioner's Regulation Part 123; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent to make every effort to seek reimbursement from the State of New York for the costs associated with the District's compliance with the requirements of 8 NYCRR Part 123.