Board of Education Minutes
Wichita Public Schools · USD 259
Wichita, Kansas
February 8, 2021

Roll Call	The Board of Education of Unified School District No. 259, Sedgwick County, Kansas, met in regular session in the Wichita High School North Lecture Hall, 1437 Rochester, Wichita, Kansas, at approximately 6 p.m., on February 8, 2021, with President Stan Reeser presiding. Present: Ben Blankley, Julie Hedrick, Ernestine Krehbiel, Sheril Logan, Stan Reeser, Mike Rodee, and Ron Rosales.
Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance	The business portion of the meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
Statement about the COVID-19 Modified BOE Meeting Format	Due to the Governor's Declaration of Emergency and due to health and safety concerns that exist because of COVID-19, no members of the public are present at this meeting. This meeting is available to be viewed live by the public in the following ways: 1. WPS-TV on Cox Cable Channel 20, 2. District's website at www.usd259.org/wpstvonline, and 3. Apps for phone, Roku and Apple TV by searching "WPS-TV." Following the conclusion of today's meeting, this meeting will be available on the WPS YouTube channel. It will also be rebroadcast on WPS-TV Cox Cable Channel 20. At this meeting, all Board members, District staff, and presenters will identify themselves by name and position before they speak. The usual public communications item that allows members of the public to speak at Board meetings has been removed from the agenda. In its place, an E-mail Public Comment item has been added. Information about how patrons can submit e-mail comments is included in the BOE Agenda. Public Communications will not be placed back in the agenda until the public again starts attending meetings.
Reports	Recognition of Outgoing Board President Sheril Logan. New BOE President Stan Reeser recognized Ms. Logan, who served as BOE President in the 2014-15 and 2016-17 fiscal years, and from July 24, 2018 through January 11, 2021. As President, Ms. Logan has served the most terms (4.5) and also the longest continuous time (2.5 years) since unification of the Wichita school district and other area districts into USD 259 in July 1965. Report – Good News 2021 Scholastic Art Awards. The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is the oldest and most prestigious recognition program for creative teenagers in the U.S. This year, 45 works from three USD 259 high schools were selected for the Eastern Kansas Scholastic Art Awards. Winning categories include American Vision, Gold Key, Silver Key, and Honorable Mention. This exhibition will be on display at Mark Arts, 1307 N. Rock Road, from February 12-March 27. Continued on next page >>

Reports (Continued)	Recognition of Community Partners in 2020-21. The Wichita community continues to support Wichita Public Schools in a variety of ways. Tonight, the Board recognized partners who have helped address the increased and different needs of our district and schools since spring 2020.
Suspend Order of Business	Motion #1: Mr. Reeser (Ms. Logan) moved the Board suspend the order of business to allow a topic of New Business to be discussed. The motion passed 7-0.
New Business: Part 1 **Resignation of Board member Mike Rodee, BOE District 5**	Board member Mike Rodee said he would like to bring up an item concerning his resignation as a Board member. Motion #2: Mr. Rodee (Ms. Krehbiel) moved the Board take up a new business matter concerning the resignation of Board member Mike Rodee from the Board of Education. The motion passed 7-0. Board member Mike Rodee announced that he was resigning from the Board effective immediately for personal reasons. Motion #3: Ms. Krehbiel (Ms. Logan) moved the Board accept Mike Rodee's resignation effective immediately. The motion passed 6-0.
Recess	At approximately 6:23 p.m., President Reeser requested a 5-minute recess.
Reconvene	At approximately 6:28 p.m., President Reeser reconvened the meeting.
New Business: **BOE District 5 Vacancy** (Continued)	President Reeser recognized former Board member Mike Rodee for his dedication to the Board of Education from July 2013-present, efforts with special needs students, work as a Northwest High School athletics booster, and unwavering support of public education. Board member Sheril Logan said Mr. Rodee's presence on the Board will be missed. Motion #4: Ms. Logan (Ms. Hedrick) moved the Board bring up an item concerning the appointment of a new Board member for District 5 to replace Mike Rodee. The motion passed 6-0. Motion #5: Ms. Logan (Mr. Blankley) moved that the Clerk of the Board be directed to publish a notice one time in the Wichita Eagle on February 11 stating that a vacancy has occurred in the BOE District 5 seat, and that the unexpired term will be filled by appointment by the Board not sooner than 15 days after publication of the notice. The motion passed 6-0. At the request of President Reeser, Superintendent Alicia Thompson described a timeline for the appointment of a new Board member for District 5: 1. The Board will approve a Notice of Vacancy, which will be published in The Wichita Eagle on February 11. The notice will state that the BOE Web page at usd259.org/boe, includes a link to the Application Form and BOE District 5 Map. Continued on next page >>

New Business (Continued)	2. The deadline for printed application packets to be received in the Clerk of the Board's office is February 24 at noon. Qualified applicants must reside within the boundaries of BOE District 5. Applicant addresses and voter registration will be confirmed at the Election Commissioner's Office. USD 259 employment will be checked. The Kansas Supreme Court has ruled that it is a conflict-of-interest for a person to serve as a Board member and as an employee of a school district at the same time. A USD 259 employee may apply for this position; however, if selected, the employee must resign from the district before taking the oath of office. 3. The Board will conduct interviews of qualified applicants on March 3 at 6 p.m. during a Special BOE Meeting at the North High Lecture Hall. 4. The Board will continue the appointment process on March 8 during its regular BOE Meeting at 6 p.m. at the North High Lecture Hall. Provided at least four Board members vote to appoint a qualified applicant that evening, the appointed person will be required to take the official oath of office at the Sedgwick County Election Office by March 12. The appointed Board member will take a seat at the Board table on April 19. <u>Motion 6</u>: Ms. Hedrick (Ms. Logan) moved the Board approve the following revisions to the 2020-21 BOE Meeting Calendar: • The Special BOE Meetings previously scheduled for Monday, February 22 and Monday, March 29 are cancelled. • A Special BOE Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 3 at 6 p.m. in the North High Lecture Hall. The Board will interview qualified applicants for the BOE District 5 position at that meeting. • The BOE Good Apple Awards Program previously scheduled for Monday, April 12 is cancelled due to uncertainty about the pandemic. Instead, April 12 will be the first day of Good Apple Week throughout the district. The motion passed 6-0. Additional discussion of the Interview process is included under additional **New Business: Part 2** on page 10 of these BOE Minutes.
E-mail Public Comment	President Reeser acknowledged e-mails regarding the North High mascot topic on tonight's BOE Agenda from 121 community members, which will be attached to the BOE Minutes for this meeting.
Reports (Continued)	Report – Service Employees International (SEIU): Esau Freeman, SEIU Business Representative. Topic: None submitted. Report – United Teachers of Wichita: Kimberly Howard, UTW President. Topics: Request for consistent implementation of the district's requirements for mask-wearing and social distancing at all schools; request to address elementary specials teachers on carts while secondary specials teachers are in classrooms; and encouragement to complete UTW's annual staff survey.

Education	
Every Student Future Ready Strategic Plan: Student and Staff-Centered Response to COVID Pandemic	The Every Student Future Ready plan focuses on four long-term goals: 1. Increase the high school graduation rate; 2. Increase 3rd grade reading proficiency; 3. Increase the percentage of students completing dual credit, concurrent credit, industry certification, or other college and career readiness opportunities; and 4. Ensure that schools are trusted as safe places by students, parents, staff and community. Superintendent Alicia Thompson highlighted these efforts. The complete presentation is included in the archival copies of this BOE Agenda and Minutes. Equity and Opportunity: • Technology access for all – 49,000 devices deployed; • Overcoming the digital divide – 14,000 families have Internet access; • Serving special needs students – 1,700+ onsite this fall; and • MySchool Remote innovation from concept to reality in six months – serving 40% of our students. Collaboration: • Partners provided safe learning spaces for remote learners; • Donations supported needs – dozens of partners provided internet access, masks, supplies, and meal distribution; • "Amazing Edventures" allowed students to travel the world, and • Nourishing hungry kids, serving nearly 1 million curbside meal Communication: • "Staff first" commitment; • Nearly 6 million Parentlink contacts since March 2020; • 1.6 million Microsoft Teams meetings; • Social media/web engagement; • Regular outreach through Everyday Engagement, Parent University, ReadAlong with Dr. Thompson; and • BOE meeting "live" broadcasts. Resilience and Inspiration: • Frequent shifts responding to changing conditions and needs; • Teacher support –160 virtual PL sessions to start the year, with Professional Development and on-demand trainings; and • Learning to learn differently, interact with technology, problem solve, and find success. Schools Trusted as Safe Places: • 2,300+ COVID tests at two testing centers; • 178,000 cloth masks for every staff and student; • 21,000 units of hand sanitizer/disinfecting wipes for schools/offices; disposable masks, equipment, and supplies; and • Planning underway to offer USD 259 employees COVID vaccines. Inspiration: • Staff were asked to do the impossible and have done it; and • Staff have been successful and have used the Strategic Plan to guide and prioritize decision-making. This presentation was for the Board's information.

<table>
<tr><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Consent: Disposal of Routine Business</td><td>Ms. Hedrick (Ms. Krehbiel) moved the Board of Education approve the following items of routine business.

The motion passed 6-0.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Human Resources Report

Appendix 1</td><td>Board approval.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Treasury Warrants:
December 2020

Appendix 2</td><td>Board approval.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Monthly Finance Report:
December 2020

Appendix 3</td><td>This is a monthly report to the Board on the budget and finances of the district. The report is provided for the Board’s information. No action is requested.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Financial Services Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System

Appendix 4</td><td>Enter into a professional services agreement with Oracle America, Inc., for $64,322 to allow for one year of Oracle Cloud ERP product support as the new system goes live in March 2021.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Purchasing Consent

Appendix 5</td><td>Board approval.

<u>Summary</u>
<table>
<tr><td>Description of products/services</td><td>Amount</td><td>Responsible Party</td></tr>
<tr><td>1. Vacuum Replacement and Accessories</td><td>$61,004.60</td><td>Luke Newman</td></tr>
<tr><td>2. Food Safety Health Inspection License Renewals</td><td>$32,135.00</td><td>Fabian Armendariz</td></tr>
<tr><td>3. Food – December 2020</td><td>$453,049.65</td><td>Fabian Armendariz</td></tr>
<tr><td>4. Supply – December 2020</td><td>$128,748.81</td><td>Fabian Armendariz</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Auditorium Lighting Upgrades: Various Sites

Appendix 6</td><td>Approve an amount not to exceed $199,108, which includes the above combined base bid and a contingency amount of $15,000 with Total Electric, Inc., for the auditorium lighting upgrades at various sites.
<table>
<tr><td>Base Bid – Marshall Middle School</td><td>$25,073</td></tr>
<tr><td>Base Bid – Allison Middle School</td><td>$69,549</td></tr>
<tr><td>Base Bid – McAuliffe Elementary School</td><td>$89,486</td></tr>
<tr><td>Contingency Allowance:</td><td>$15,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total:</td><td>$199,108</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Card Reader Installations: Various Sites

Appendix 7</td><td>Approve an amount not to exceed $313,148, which includes the above base bid and a contingency amount of $23,000 with Southwestern Electrical Company, Inc., for the third phase of Card Reader Installations at various sites.
<table>
<tr><td>Base Bid:</td><td>$290,148</td></tr>
<tr><td>Contingency Allowance:</td><td>$23,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total:</td><td>$313,148</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Parking Lot Resurface: Minneha Elementary School

Appendix 8</td><td>Approve an amount not to exceed $90,875, which includes the above base bid, Alternate #1, and a contingency amount of $8,000, with Pearson Construction, LLC, for the Parking Lot Resurface at Minneha Elementary School.
<table>
<tr><td>Base Bid:</td><td>$55,575</td></tr>
<tr><td>Alternate #1 Replace Base Material</td><td>$27,300</td></tr>
<tr><td>Contingency</td><td>$8,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total:</td><td>$90,875</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><td>Parking Lot Resurface: School Service Center

Appendix 9</td><td>Approve an amount not to exceed $59,445, which includes the above base bid, Alternate #1 and a contingency amount of $5,000 with Pearson Construction, LLC, for the Parking Lot Resurface at School Service Center.

<table><tr><td>Base Bid:</td><td>$33,645</td></tr><tr><td>Alternate #1 Replace Base Material</td><td>$20,800</td></tr><tr><td>Contingency Allowance:</td><td>$5,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total:</td><td>$59,445</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Adult Meal Price Increase Under the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Operation

Appendix 10</td><td>Approve adult meal price increases of $0.25 for Breakfast and $0.45 for Lunch to $2.50 and $4.35, respectively, while Nutrition Services operates under the Summer Food Service, effective February 15, 2021.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Approval to Receive Gift Funds for Education EDGE FY 21 Grants

Appendix 11</td><td>Authorize the transfer of funds from the Wichita Community Foundation in the following amounts: Athletics: $150,000, Fine Arts: $150,000, and Classroom Mini-Grants: $150,000.</td></tr>
<tr><td>BOE Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2021

Appendix 12</td><td>Board approval.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Proposed Policy Revisions

Appendix 13</td><td>Board approval.

<u>Summary</u>

<table><tr><td>Policy</td><td>Title</td><td>Person Responsible</td></tr><tr><td>6005</td><td>Restructuring for No Child Left Behind Act – Proposed for Deletion.
<u>Note</u>: P6005 was adopted in 2008 to comply with the U.S. Department of Education’s No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). In 2015, NCLB was replaced by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). P6005 is no longer needed.</td><td>Gil Alvarez
Michele Ingenthron</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Legal Services: Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch, LLC and McDonald Tinker PA</td><td><u>December 2020 Legal Services</u>: Authorize payment for legal services and expenses for Civil Litigation and Worker’s Compensation under the school district’s self-insured programs for December 2020 in the amount of $17,548.65 to Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch, LLC and the amount of $8,104.60 to McDonald Tinker PA.

<u>January 2021 Legal Services</u>: Authorize payment for legal services and expenses for Civil Litigation and Worker’s Compensation under the school district’s self-insured programs for January 2021 in the amount of $28,048 to Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch, LLC and the amount of $11,532.33 to McDonald Tinker PA.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>Policy</th><th></th></tr>
<tr><td>Second Review: New BOE Policy 0400 - Non-Discrimination Statement and Cross-References in Seven Other Policies

Appendix 14</td><td>On January 11, 2021, the Board had its first review of the following policies and requested no further revisions. After the Board's first review, Administration noted that the Equity, Diversity, and Magnet Committee mentioned in BOE Policy 0900 is no longer active. Thus, AIP 1 of BOE Policy 0900 is revised to reflect current practices, and AIP 2's reference to the committee is deleted.
<table>
<tr><th>Current Policy</th><th>New Number</th><th>Title</th></tr>
<tr><td>0400</td><td>NA</td><td>Non-Discrimination Statement – New Policy. The new policy is cross-referenced in the seven policies listed below and controls all BOE policies and other district documents.</td></tr>
<tr><td>0900</td><td>NA</td><td>Integration and Diversity – Revisions to AIP 1 and 2 as noted above.</td></tr>
<tr><td>0910</td><td>NA</td><td>Civil Rights Resolution</td></tr>
<tr><td>1115</td><td>NA</td><td>Sexual Harassment of Employees</td></tr>
<tr><td>1116</td><td>NA</td><td>Sexual Harassment of Students</td></tr>
<tr><td>1119</td><td>NA</td><td>Harassment of Students – Briefer policy title does not affect content.</td></tr>
<tr><td>1120</td><td>NA</td><td>Harassment of Employees – Briefer policy title does not affect content.</td></tr>
<tr><td>4025</td><td>4000</td><td>Equal Opportunity Employer</td></tr>
</table>
Mr. Blankley (Ms. Krehbiel) moved the Board approve the proposed new BOE Policy 0400 – Non-Discrimination Statement as well as cross-referencing in seven other identified policies.

The motion passed 6-0.</td></tr>
<tr><td>First Review: New BOE Policy 1117 – Sexual Harassment and Complaint Procedures

Appendix 15</td><td>The Wichita Public Schools prohibits sexual harassment. New BOE Policy 1117 - Sexual Harassment and Complaint Procedures is intended to ensure compliance with certain amendments of the regulations implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) that took effect on August 14, 2020.

For Title IX and proposed policy 1117 purposes, sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies as least one of the following:
A. A school employee conditioning an educational benefit or service upon a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct ("quid pro quo" harassment);
B. Unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would find so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it denies a person equal educational access; or
C. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking.

An employee found to be responsible for sexual harassment will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination. A student found to be responsible for sexual harassment will be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension and expulsion. New BOE Policy 1117 supplements 1115 and 1116. In the event of conflict between the requirements of new BOE Policy 1117, on the one hand, and 1115 or 1116, new BOE Policy 1117 will control.

This item provided an opportunity for the Board's first review of new BOE Policy 1117 - Sexual Harassment and Complaint Procedures. The Board had no suggestions for additional work on this policy.</td></tr>
</table>

Operations	
Wichita High School North Mascot Appendix 16	Many organizations and teams – from professional teams to college teams to high schools teams – have started evaluating the impact of culturally-insensitive mascots. The Board received many letters requesting that they look at the Wichita High School North mascot to examine the social impact and ramifications on our students and our district. BOE Policy 1216 – School Themes was provided in Appendix 16 for reference purposes. Executive Director of Public Affairs and Special Project Terrell Davis presented four recommendations of the North High Mascot Committee. The complete presentation is included in the archival copies of this BOE Agenda and Minutes. Recommendation #1: Discontinue the use of the Redskin mascot/nickname. Rationale: The term is offensive to Native Americans and the Native American Culture. The term is racially and culturally insensitive. Recommendation #2: Adhere to BOE Policy 1216 – School Themes. The policy states: "The building principal is responsible for the development of school themes, songs, flags, mascots, and so forth. The principal is particularly responsible for determining that these themes are not offensive to minority ethnic groups within the school." Recommendation #3: Begin a two-year phase-in plan starting in the 2021-22 school year to remove Redskin from Athletic and Fine Arts uniforms, jerseys, facilities, school-related activities ,and school apparel. Exceptions: All trophy cases and statues will remain as they are currently. The Committee emphasized that this plan is not about rewriting history or erasing the great pride and accomplishments of the Wichita High School North Community and Alumni. Recommendation #4: The development of a 9th grade curriculum to be implemented in Advocacy class that highlights the great history of North High School and it's Native American influence. The curriculum would be developed in conjunction with the Native American Program and include hands-on experience with Native American artifacts. Highlights would include: History of the location of the school, why the location was selected, history of the building, its construction, and unique historical architecture. Ms. Logan (Mr. Rosales) moved the Board adhere to BOE Policy 1216 – School Theme's and accept this committee's recommendations, which include dropping the use of the name Redskins as the North High mascot. The motion passed 6-0.
Second Review: 2021-22 District Calendar Appendix 17	The Board had its first review of the proposed 2021-22 District Calendar on January 11, 2021. Mr. Blankley (Mr. Rosales) moved the Board adopt the proposed District Calendar with August 12, 2021, as the first day of school, and May 25, 2022, as the last day of school. The motion passed 6-0.

Finance	
Resolution 2021-01: Energy Service Contract (ESCO) Appendix 18	On February 24, 2020, the Board approved an agreement with Navitas to provide ESCO services, beginning with an Investment Grade Audit. Tonight, Chief Financial Officer Susan Willis and Division Director of Facilities Luke Newman provided an update on the process, outlined next steps, and proposed the first phase of scope and pricing for approval. The complete presentation is included in the archival copies of this BOE Agenda and Minutes. Ms. Hedrick (Ms. Logan) moved the Board approve the following Administrative recommendations: Recommendation #1: It is recommended that the Board approve an agreement with Navitas to proceed with the proposed Phase 1 scope at a cost not to exceed $3,732,263. Recommendation #2: It is recommended that the Board approve an agreement with PEC Engineering for an amount not to exceed $671,600 to act as the lead designer and commissioning agent for development of the Phase 2 scope of work. Recommendation #3: It is recommended that the Board adopt Resolution 2021-01 declaring the intent to authorize the reimbursement of expenditures by obtaining financing through a lease purchase arrangement related to the acquisition and installation of energy conservation improvements for the district. The motion passed 6-0.
Miscellaneous	
Superintendent's Report	None submitted.
Board of Education Reports/Requests	Ron Rosales: • Thanked Dr. Vince Evans and Student Support Services staff for efforts related to the Safe Streets program. • Thanked Dr. Thompson for continuing awards programs for students and staff during the pandemic. Ernestine Krehbiel: • Praised the Juvenile Justice program for its work in the schools and community. Ben Blankley: • Thanked school athletic directors and staff for "live" streaming of athletic events during the pandemic. Julie Hedrick: • Encouraged parents to complete 2021-22 magnet school program applications prior to the February 19th enrollment deadline. Sheril Logan: • Said she was pleased that the Board had approved the non-discrimination policy, resumed Strategic Plan discussions, and voted on the mascot issue. Stan Reeser: • Asked Dr. Thompson to develop a plan to safely bring back Public Communications during Board meetings.

New Business: Part 2. **BOE District 5 Vacancy** (Continued from page 3 of these BOE Minutes)	BOE District 5 Vacancy: Board President Reeser asked Board members to each select a topic and prepare one question to ask during the interview session on March 3 at 6 p.m. in the North High Lecture Hall. Board members volunteered for topics as follows: Diversity: Ben Blankley. Board Relations: Ernestine Krehbiel. Superintendent Relations: Julie Hedrick. Mission Statement and Strategic Plan: Sheril Logan. Community Relations: Ron Rosales. Budget: Stan Reeser.
Executive Session #1: Attorney-Client Matters	At approximately 8:54 p.m., Mr. Blankley (Ms. Logan) moved the Board recess into an executive session for purposes of consulting with the Board's attorney on a matter involving pending litigation, which is deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), and the Board will return from executive session to this room at 9:15 p.m. The motion passed 6-0.
Reconvene Meeting	At approximately 9:14 p.m., Board President Reeser reconvened the meeting.
Executive Session #2: Personnel Matters	At approximately 9:15 p.m., Mr. Blankley (Ms. Logan) moved the Board recess into an executive session for purposes of discussing a matter involving a District level administrator under the non-elected personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act K.S.A. 75-4319 (b) (1), and the open meeting will resume at 9:30. The motion passed 4-0, with Julie Hedrick and Ernestine Krehbiel away from the table.
Reconvene Meeting	At approximately 9:30 p.m., Board President Reeser reconvened the meeting.
Adjournment	Mr. Blankley (Ms. Logan) moved the meeting adjourn. The motion passed 5-1, with Ernestine Krehbiel away from the table. At approximately 9:30 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

From: Nolan Nez
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 7:44 PM
Subject: School Board Meeting Comments on North High Mascot

Hello,

My name is Nolan. I am a registered member of the Navajo Nation. There are a lot of terms that I tolerate - Chief(s), Indian, etc. But redskin is not one of them. The term redskin is a racial slur. I do not believe I have met a person that would answer 'yes' to the question, 'Would you go up to a Native American and call them a redskin?'

My culture, the culture of the people that were here first, is not something to be used as a mascot, especially by those too ignorant to understand why the term is offensive. It is long past time the term 'redskin' left our vocabulary, and the Wichita School Board has the opportunity to be part of that change.

Thank you,
Nolan Nez
1132 S. Waco Ave.
Wichita, KS. 67213

From: Teresa Villa
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:25 PM
Subject: North high school

I'm a 1974 graduate of North High school and I'm supporting to leave mascot , the Redskins as is at North .

Teresa Villa
1112 W. 14th St N.
Wichita, KS 67203

From: Dana Zimmerman
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:50 PM
Subject: North High Redskins

Seriously, I have NEVER thought about Redskins as being a derogatory name. I think most of us mid-westerners respect all of our Native American Indians and I know lots of people love the various rituals, music and such. It's so insulting to think that after all these years, to hint that all the graduates, students and alumni have lived and went to school in a derogatory and hurtful mascot and name. We felt PRIDE!

I know of no one that I graduated with, 1975, who is in favor of changing the name. My Mom went to North....it was always a school of great pride. It remains that way. Please, let it remain that way. With all my heart, I hope you vote to KEEP the REDSKINS!! Please, keep the Redskins, let us keep the pride.

Dana Zimmerman
3254 S Millwood St
Wichita, KS 67217

From: Danny Pritchard
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 9:35 AM
Subject: North High School Mascot

Since 1932 the Indian has been a symbol of the North High School. The building and the Bridge across the River have a tasteful rendition of the Indian Mascot. We as graduates of NHS have a connection to the school and the mascot and the Redskins name. Few people have the history at the school that my family has had. My father was a 1933 graduate of NHS, I have had a number cousins that have attended NHS and served as ambassadors for the school. I was Jr class President in 1960, my cousin Frank and Fred Minton were Officers during their tenure. Others such as the Pharses's, Cochenour's, Minton's, Pritchard's have all had a place at the table. In 1933 my father went to the National HS Olympics in Chicago as did NHS track team. He watched as NHS took second to an Indiana school who sent I believe 6 athletes, one of which was Jesse Owens. I have never heard a derogatory remark about the mascot from any of my family. I even today play the "War Cry" music written for NHS. History has over the years, has been published and analyzed by those that have written the books. It might not have been accurate and others have come back with different versions. "The Battle of Wounded Knee" is one example. I have not and do not think that the name "Redskin" is offensive. If it were so I would have long ago backed the change. However, I do not believe a small group should have oversite over the vast majority. We are destroying our history, washing away the past and thinking we are doing something ennoble by changing the name. We are not, we are just moving the finish line. Do not change the name of a fantastic school. Thanks,

Danny Pritchard (1961 graduate)
419 Anderson County Rd #375
Palestine TX 75801

From: Phyllis Seidl
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 10:32 AM
Subject: Redskin name change

I am a 1968 graduate of North High and was told I have a little Cherokee blood in my ancestry and I always loved our school and all the artwork that we had. No other school in Wichita has that and I would hate to see that lost. I never had trouble with the term Redskin and it seems lately we have to lose our history to make things politically correct which I am not in favor of. That is our history and we cannot change the past. With that said, if we have to lose the name Redskin, I am hoping it will still be part of us as the name Wichita is from the first settlers here. I was told that the Wichita Indians also camped on the river that North High sits on so if a name has to be changed, can it just be the North High Indians? I think that would be a compromise that we could live with IF we have to change our name.
Sincerely,

Phyllis Martin Seidl
1968 North High Graduate.
556 SW Prairie Creek Rd.
Benton, Ks. 67017

From: Jim Laney
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 10:57 AM
Subject: Mascot

I am part Indian and have had several relatives and friends who attended North High through the decades. Several were of indian descent, and to my knowledge, none of us object to the school mascot. I personally consider it an honor. Our ancestors were brave, resourceful people, and hopefully the school's athletes and students are the same. Whatever you do, PLEASE do not deface the building by removing the indian figure.

Jim Laney
431 N. Morning Dew St.
Wichita, KS 67205

From: Janice Massucci
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 11:08 AM
Subject: Wichita High School North Redskin

Please note that I support the Wichita High School North Redskin name / mascot / reference.

Please do not remove "Redskin" from anything associated with Wichita North High.

It is with complete and total respect that North honors anyone with any Indian in their DNA by using the "Redskin" theme.

IF you didn't attend or graduate from Wichita North High, you may never understand.

Nothing about "Redskin" is derogatory to anyone associated with Wichita North.

Thank you.

Janice Massucci
1305 Coach House Court
Wichita, KS 67235

From: Phil Maurer
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 11:22 AM
Subject: Wichita North Mascot

I'm a member of the North High Class of 1961. I support leaving the present mascot of North High in place. Ragene Aldrich is the glue that holds our class together. This is the reply I sent to her upon hearing about the current controversy concerning the North High mascot. I think this is much ado about nothing.

Phil Maurer
169 Horsecreek Rd. N.
Wilsall, MT 59086

From: Carmen Bell
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 11:50 AM
Subject: North High Mascot

I am so glad that you are discussing this matter now instead of later! This last year has really brought to light for many people, including myself, systemic racism and the fact that we participate in it without even knowing it. We have to acknowledge that it exists and immediately start correcting it. This is not trying to erase history. It is calling history what it was. It is our history and we must acknowledge it, but that doesn't mean we have to continue in what we now know is systemic racism. Redskins was not even the original mascot of North High. It was Butch the Buffalo. I do not know when or why it was changed. The term "redskins" originated with the act of collecting Native American scalps for bounty. It has never been used in a positive light when addressing Native Americans. In fact it is considered a racial slur to them.

Please immediately implement your policy and send this issue to the current principal of North High. Let the current students decide on a new name, or maybe they will even want to go back to the original one.

Thank you,

Carmen Bell
2104 N. Parkwood Lane
Wichita, Kansas 67208

From: John Seevers
Date: Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 12:05 AM
Subject: Wichita North

I understand that the Board will be discussing the renaming of North High's nickname. I understand the need to change "redskin" , but hope that the Native American theme can be retained.

I am a North High Graduate and taught Social Studies in Kansas for 30+ years. As a sociology teacher, I fully understand the insult to native groups that some of our native references displayed. However, I feel deeply that my respect and warm feelings for the Native American tradition came by identifying with all "Indian" groups as a North High student. Perhaps North High Tribe.

P.s. My Aunt, Marjorie Seevers was a Secretary at Wichita BOA in the 1940's And 1950's.

John Seevers, retired to Washington state
3721 169th St. N E. Apt 439
Arlington WA 98223

From: Carole Moore
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 12:20 PM
Subject: Changing name of North High Redskins

I graduated from North High in 1961. Even as a Native American I was not offended by the North High Redskin name. As I grew older I became aware that the name was offensive. It was not just the name but actions by the students. My son Tahlo played on the freshman football team and we went to his games and I was offended and embarrassed by the cheerleaders dancing around in a circle making "war whoops". I think the ornamentation on the school and bridge is beautiful and I understand the significance of it. However in this time of cultural correctness I think the name "redskins" should be dropped.

Carole Moore
2554 N. Litchfield Ave.
Wichita, Ks. 67204

From: Richard Manlove
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 12:32 PM
Subject: North High Mascot

Board:

Your own policy states that ethnic minorities currently enrolled in the school should be polled regarding their feelings regarding the school's mascot. "The existing policy on school themes...for Wichita Public Schools specifies that the building principal 'is particularly responsible for determining that these themes are not offensive to minority ethnic groups within the school.'" Per that statement consideration should only be given to statements given by currently enrolled Native Americans at North High. Opinions by non-ethnic minorities are neither valid as truly offended or helpful as to coming to a helpful consensus.

I live in Oklahoma where a good portion of us live on tribal lands. The town of McLoud, within the OKC metropolitan area, school mascot is the Redskins. Like North, largely outside, non-indigenous people, agitated for changing the mascot. The tribes put a stop to it saying that the school honored the Native American culture and traditions. All tribes have a duly elected chief or president. It would not be unduly hard to prepare a short presentation that included the history, pictures and other details of North High School (good project for journalism classes) and send it to the tribes for evaluation and comment as to whether North was offensive. To heed the cries of "woke" whites sounding off on what they feel is best for the Native Americans is repeating the sordid and shameful past. Thank you for your consideration and may God bless you with wisdom and a thickened skin.

Richard Manlove, '66
19671 Serenity Place
Harrah, Oklahoma 73045

From: Christine (Adams) Pruitt
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 12:33 PM
Subject: North High School Redskins

Hello,

I attended Wichita North High School from the first ninth grade class until graduating early in my Junior year (1980).

During that time, I learned a great respect for the Indian culture. I was inspired by the architecture of the school building, the bridge and the park across the river.

The Native American people that I have spoken with over the years were never offended by North's mascot because they knew that the entire school was a structure of respect and it invited students to learn MORE about them than the average school did.

If you take away the mascot, you take away the pride that goes with being from the BEST "indian themed" school around.

Christine (Adams) Pruitt
3239 S Blue Lake Ct
Wichita, KS 67215

From: Michael Greene
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 12:54 PM
Subject: Re: North High School

Please do not change the mascot or any of the associated activities surrounding this team's nearly 100 year history. I am proud to be considered a Redskin and will always be a Redskin!

Thank you,

Mike Greene '72
3018 N Shefford St
Wichita, Kansas 67205

From: Terry Stafford
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 1:04 PM
Subject: North High school meeting

I am a proud North High Redskin.

That being said, I feel the mascot name should be changed. I live just outside Tulsa Ok. One of our largest schools has been known as the Union Redskins. They have been dealing with this issue for many years. A vote was taken two years ago and the name was kept the same. The controversy just continued. After much discussion and much anger, the decision was made to drop the Redskin name. After several years of this controversy it is finally over. We are no longer arguing about this issue and life has gone on.

The district has been praised for making this change.

While the name Redskin is not offensive to me. It is not about me and I know it is offensive to local native Americans.

Let's do the right thing and make the change and move forward. This too will pass.

Thank you,
Terry Stafford
10505 Hastings Rd,
Beggs, OK 74421

From: Heather Hansen
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 1:07 PM
Subject: Public comment, BOE Meeting 2/8: North Mascot

Esteemed Members of the Wichita Board of Education,

I write to you in gratitude for your recognition of the critical opportunity before us to reconsider North High School's racist mascot. While there are some truly difficult challenges facing us as educators, the issue of the mascot is uniquely within our complete control to make right. Rarely is it so simple to make a profound change for the good, and it is our great fortune to be the ones who can put North High on the right side of history at last.

I am the proud parent of a North High graduate (class of 2019) and a current North senior, and I am equally proud to teach in the North High English Department. To work here and to have my children educated here are choices I would make a hundred times over: I believe in this school, its devoted staff, and its wonderful students, who every day give me cause for hope and joy.
I also believe with my whole heart in the transformative power of language, in its potential to act as a balm against the abrasive, corrosive forces that threaten us: this belief fuels my work. But there can be no doubt, in this year of national reckoning, that language can itself be the corrosive, abrasive agent that inflicts lasting damage. We choose which it will be.

As proud as I am, and as proud as my children are, to have invested our identities in this school, there has always been an element of shame attached, an embarrassed unease and demurral when dear friends and classmates wear clothes and repeat slogans that feature the word *R**skin*. In honoring North tradition, generations of graduates have been compelled to dishonor entire cultures, to engage symbolically, if not consciously, in seeming support of the acts of cultural hegemony and genocide that drove indigenous peoples from the very lands where the school now stands. I do not doubt that this is meant as anything more than innocuous school spirit. But I believe it is not innocuous, that instead it damages us at the level of the soul to so casually use this word, attached as it is to historic acts of racist hatred and violence.

I fear, too, that it marks us in the eyes of the world. As teachers, we work tirelessly to ensure our graduates can take their rightful place on the global stage, heads held high. I fear that a self-proclaimed identity as *R**skins* will cost them the respect they deserve and have worked so hard to earn. Let a choice of a new mascot be our gift to the students we serve, and for generations we will never meet, that their pride in North High may shine unabashed as a beacon, an emblem of the choice to do better. Let that choice be the tradition we choose to honor. Let it start with us, today.

In gratitude,

Heather Hansen
8617 E Limerick Lane,
Wichita KS 67206

From: Kaye Tillery Reis
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 1:42 PM
Subject: North High Mascot

I am a ’61 grad of North in Wichita and am proud to be a redskin, proud of the Indian culture, proud of the look of our bridge and the architecture of the school itself. We never looked at the Indian motif as an insult to a race, but, adversely, an honor to the native Americans that came before us. Please don’t change any of the original and historical tributes all attendees and graduates remember with pride.

Kaye Tillery Reis
P.O. Box 465
Green Mountain Falls, CO 80819

From: Pauline Sharp
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 2:40 PM
Subject: Mascot

Hello,

As an enrolled member of the Kaw Nation, I am in favor of changing the Wichita North High School mascot to something other than Redskins! This name is offensive to so many Native Americans! I am glad this issue is finally being addressed in our country and our city.

Pauline Sharp
515 S Main St
Wichita, KS 67202

From: Les Moore
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 3:08 PM
Subject: North High Redskins

I am a North graduate of 2006. When I run into old alumni of North High, a popular saying is "once a redskin, always a redskin". We don't say it to make Native Americans feel suppressed and demean them as a culture. We say it because we're proud to be part of something that's was and still is special. Being a Redskin meant so much more than a mascot name. At least to me it did and still does.

Lester Moore
5533 W. 1st St. North
Wichita, KS 67203

From: Jeremiah Powell
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 3:15 PM
Subject: North High Redskins

Hi,

I am a former Wichita North High student along with my wife, 3 of our kids and their grandfather. I do believe the name Redskin should be changed but in the end it is not on someone like me it should be decided by the many Native American Counsels here in Wichita. If it is offensive to the majority of them the name should be retired. I would hate to see North High stop honoring the Native American Culture because of this and the good it does educating students and Wichita residents about our very rich Native American history. I believe a name change to something like The Wichita North High Red Wolves would allow North to still display the numerous Native American images on the North High building and honor the past without it being demeaning. This name would also allow the school to keep its colors and uniforms as long as the Redskin name was removed. There are some traditions the school needs to look at and work with the local Native Americans to determine if they are appropriate or not and what the school should do to honor them. I fear the more we remove the Native American images and references the more their culture and the injustices that happened to them disappear. If these meeting with local counsels have taken place (I can't find any reports of it) let us know what came from them. If these conversations haven't happened you know where to really start this discussion.

Jeremiah Powell
1603 N Athenian
Wichita, KS 67203

From: Douglas Duane Rhoads
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 3:32 PM
Subject: Wichita North High School

I was a graduate from Wichita North in 1972. My father, Doran Rhoads, was also a math teacher and the golf coach at North. My understanding is that the school board will be discussing the use of the term Redskin, as the school mascot/sports moniker. It is well past time to do away with this racist name. I firmly support the termination of the use of this term and finding a more racially sensitive and culturally aware term. I implore the school board to do away with the use of this term and find a process to find a more appropriate name.

Douglas Rhoads
University Professor of Biological Sciences
Director, Cell and Molecular Biology Program
601 Science Engineering
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville AR 72701

From: Tim Lytle
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 3:48 PM
Subject: North High Mascot

Greetings and thank you for taking up this topic for the Board of Education.

I am a North High graduate, class of 1972. Growing up I had much pride in the North High mascot and in its theme song. I did not know much then about the meaning of the term, "Redskin".

Over the last 30 years I have become more aware about how the term "Redskin" was used in our country's history to vilify Native Americans, our First People. As just one example, it was used in connection with killing them in return for a bounty in such newspapers as The Daily Republican of Winona, Minnesota in September 24 of 1863 where it states, "The state reward for dead Indians has been increased to $200 for every red-skin sent to Purgatory." The term "redskin" even became linked with the idea of extracting the scalp of our Native People.

With this history of derogatory and insulting usage, how could we with pride continue to use the term? In what way would continuing to use this mascot term help Wichita North High School in its goals of providing education for people of all races and ethnicities? How would keeping this term promote a sense of equality and safety for all people? In what way does using this term benefit the understanding, development and education of our young people?

It seems clear to me that the time has come for us to change our mascot into one that we can be proud of without insulting people and pulling up a violent history. It is time for a positive change that will be of benefit to all our students, past, present and future. It is time to be embracing of all cultures that come to Wichita North High School!

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,
Reverend Tim Lytle
197 San Andreas Drive, Apt. 4
Novato, California. 94945

From: Gary Grommet
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 7:14 PM
Subject: North High Mascot

I'm a North High alum, not in favor of the mascot name change. I'm also white and although I am of Western European heritage I am still referred to in media and by government by the color of my skin. And usually I'm asked to identify as a non- Hispanic white. I'm not complaining. It seems convenient and only to some is it considered a slur. My guess is it is primarily whites who define the North mascot as racially insensitive. I believe it was likely recognition for native Americans and not insensitivity that brought their culture and heritage into the building architecture, traditions and mascot. I'm also under the impression that the result of striking the mascot name in the guise of racial sensitivity will also strike the visible heritage and traditions of a proud and historic race. I see it as cancel culture's way of minimizing the contributions of a racial minority. I have no sense for what the majority of local native Americans feel about this but I'm pretty sure we'll all be proudly supporting our Chiefs in the Super Bowl Sunday.

Insensitive people use racial slurs. Unwise though well meaning people often bring harm with change, particularly when following modern trends. No matter how many mascots you rename it won't account for that and important pieces of history hazard loss. The next step is likely the City taking up the some call to change the whole thrust of the Mid American All Indian Center or the exhibit of Cowtown because these too could be construed as racially insensitive.

Gary Grommet
4233 N Ironwood Ct
Wichita, KS 67226
North High 1975

From: George Fooshee
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 9:18 PM
Subject: North High Mascot Name change

We appreciate the opportunity to share our family"s feelings about the idea of changing the North High mascots name.
We are are proud of the fact that North Hi paid t tribute to the Native Americans by naming our mascot "THE NORTH HI REDSKINS". THE INDIANS WERE HERE BEFORE WE WERE, AND THEY SHOULD BE PAID A TRIBUTE.

I was born in 1929, the year North High was started. We also are very proud that North High has a Bible verses about wisdom on the tower just over the entrance of the school. If some people complained about having Bible verses from the Proverbs on the school would the board decide. to remove the verses from the side of the building????

My wife and I first met at North, both graduated from North, and continue taking family and out of town guests over to see the most. beautiful school in Wichita!

PLEASE give consideration to NOT removing the redskins name just because other organizations have removed redskins from their names, WE ARE PROUD TO PAY TRIBUTE TO OUR NATIVE AMERICANS who were here before we were.

George and Marjean Fooshee,
7373 E 29th St.North,V202,
Wichita, Ks.67226

From: Dave Quick
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 11:55 PM
Subject: USD259 SCHOOL BOARD
USD259 School Board Members,

My name is David Quick and I have enjoyed living in Riverside fifty of my seventy-five years. My mother was a proud student in the first Wichita HIgh School North class in 1929 and my brother graduated from North in 1957. I graduated from North High fifty-eight years ago in 1963. I salute North High School Graduates of 2020 and 2021 and honor their incredible and unexpected educational adventures. I was involved in music and theater programs at North and I ran track and was on the tennis team and I was very privileged to get to take advanced art courses and honors english and literature programs. I got a very solid education that helped lead to my later being an Artist-In-Residence at the University of Pennsylvania and teaching for Bryn Mawr College as well as at historic Philadelphia prep schools including William Penn's own Penn Charter Academy and at notable art centers in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and at Wichita State University. All without graduating from college because the tumultuous times of the 1960s interfered with my graduating from Friends University. Still I achieved much because of my three years experience at Friends and a solid academic base at North High School.

While at North some of my friends and I made a little poetry and opinion chapbook and during my senior year in 1963 I visited with Principal C.E. Strange and other school administrators and asked if some school related materials being sold in the little school closet bookstore could be removed from sale because they were demeaning and discriminatory. One item I showed them is the car window decal shown below. I said that I felt it was not honoring Native American culture but came frighteningly close to the type of stereotypical propaganda produced during the 1930s Germany dictatorship. I was also in the honors history program.

The administrators did not want to discuss the issue so I was sent to visit with the Senior Class Counselor who suggested that I was just trying to gain unwarranted attention and that I should simply be quiet and learn to be more loyal to my school. Nobody with authority would discuss the stereotypical image or nickname with me other than two nurturing teachers and some personal friends. Before the earlier School Board Meeting that was to once again discuss North's nickname had to be cancelled because of our on-going health emergency a woman who was also in my graduating class suggested that " various out-of-state and nationally known organizations such as football teams and Nike were again trying to make decisions for the entire country " and saying "No cancel culture can truly erase history and reality." She stated that was why she supported keeping the traditional nickname. "Cancel culture" is of course a currently popular political trope that was not yet invented when we graduated from North High fifty-eight years ago.

I do believe that some types of "cancel culture" have existed and that it is a truly terrible thing. Over a hundred thousand Native American people being forced to leave their homelands because of the Indian Removal Acts beginning in the 1830s with hundreds of men and women and children dying as they traveled on the notorious Trail of Tears from the Eastern and Southeastern United States to the arid and remote unsettled Southwest seems an obvious attempt to cancel several cultures. Likewise dozens of broken treaties and whole peoples being driven to live in remote parts of our land where health and social problems and abject poverty often still abound seems like on-going cancellation of culture. I have had friends in Kansas and Oklahoma who as children were forcibly separated from their families and tribal groups and sent to schools where they were punished for speaking their native language and that is without doubt another form of cancelling culture. Sadly anyone familiar with the often violent history of western expansion in this country is aware of the terribly violent other non-racial meaning of the North High School nickname.

This month The Riverside Booster monthly newspaper is publishing five of my photographs of Park Villa at various times of year. I enjoy sharing my love of this area with others and a couple of weeks ago I began preparing a second submission to the paper I hope the editors might find interesting. It includes seven of my photographs of North High School and The Minisa Bridge I've made over the last dozen years plus a short article I have been preparing regarding the amazing famous decorative sculpture and murals at North High that were designed by the Wichita sculptor Bruce Moore. Moore's work was carefully complimentary with the actual real history of the life of Native Peoples who once lived along the Little Arkansas River. It beautifully pays homage to the lives of both Native Americans and this area's early settlers as well as highlighting some of the wildlife such as buffalo and eagles that once thrived in the area. Bruce Moore's nationally recognized vision had nothing to do with an at best controversial nickname or with misguided and stereotypical mimicking of tribal practices that have no relation to the real lives of the original residents of Riverside and the North High School area.

I have long believed that we can continue to proudly honor our original Native American residents as well as early area settlers who include some of my relatives and also honor Bruce Moore's loving visions of Native Peoples without continuing to propagate stereotypical inaccurate political and social tropes that did unfortunately exist in the late 1920s when North High School opened. I respectfully believe it is far past time for a change to a more appropriate North HIgh School nickname. Hopefully we can have a respectful and thoughtful discussion about this issue and hopefully not have to revisit it yet again in the future. (Below is the 1963 North High School car window decal I mentioned juxtaposed with one of my photos of Bruce Moore's beautiful and respectful sculpture on the Minisa Bridge.) I thank you very much for your consideration. Proud graduate of Wichita High School North / Class of 1963. - Dave Quick

DAVID QUICK
1001 N. COOLIDGE AVE.
WICHITA KANSAS 67203

From: Carlos Rodriguez
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 5:20 AM
Subject: Regarding agenda item VII.A- North High mascot name change

Board members,

"Once a Redskin, Always a Redskin." Those are the impassioned and empowering words of our Alma Mater, Wichita North High School.

North High Redskins are more than a mascot. It is a community. It is a feeling. It is a story that is told by the classes that have passed through the school's halls and into our communities and lives. Those students, faculty and their families embrace the Redskin name with love, honor and reverence for the people it is named for and the generational traditions it represents.

Although the Redskin name has rightfully come into a national discussion on racial epithets used in sports mascot names, I believe the North High School community and alumnus have for decades represented the Redskin name respectfully and can continue to carry that name along with a loving embrace for its beautiful imagery, legacy, local architectual influence and above all representation of the American Indian culture and history it is rooted in.

Its ties to our communities, families, area traditions and to North High School must not be allowed to be erased and changed.

At the same time, this discussion can help us all refocus on the need to continually have these important dialogues in our schools and homes as the country redefines the cultural and racial bonds that unite us.

Please keep the North High Redskins mascot name and tradition alive. Our community needs it now more than ever.

Respectfully,
Carlos Rodriguez
2001 North High Class President
2223 N Shelton Ave
Wichita, KS 67204

From: Gregg Galloway
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 9:36 AM
Subject: North High Redskins

My name is Gregg Galloway, I reside at 1047 N. Verda St, [Wichita].

I feel that the attempt to remove the name Redskins is an affront, an insult to all the graduates as well to all future grads of North High. More than once, over the years, Native American students of North High have mentioned that they are proud to be a Redskin, one student in particular mentioned that North High had taken a term that had once been used in derision and as an insult and had turned it into one of honor and respect. Speaking for myself I have never heard any attendee of North use the term in any desultory way whatsoever. Commenting as one who had many family members; my mother, uncle, brother, sister, cousins and a nephew attend and graduate from North, myself in 1974, I cannot condemn strongly enough this attempt to erase from history a part of the proud heritage that is part of North High School. Or, as many alumni express it ‘Once a Redskin, ALWAYS a Redskin’.

I thank you, in advance, for taking this into consideration.

Gregg Galloway
1047 N. Verda St.
Wichita

From: Kelly Wenz
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 11:16 AM
Subject: Redskins

To whom it may concern;

We recognize this topic has become quite controversial through time. With that time, our opinion has evolved, as well. Once we were, in fact, proud to call ourselves Redskins. However, naivety and lack of education on the topic has our pride waning. Let me be clear, our pride of attending the greatest school in the state is not waning, but rather, the word "Redskin".

Our pride was built on being taught by the best teachers, lifelong friendships, walking the halls of the greatest architecture in the country, and the greatest school spirit around. When people ask what was great about your high school years, those are the reasons we give. Not once have we said, "We are Redskins." Changing the mascot name does not change one lesson learned, does not terminate a friendship, remove the architecture, or diminish our spirit for North High.

Our pride still beams for the greatest high school, and any name change will never take that pride.

Thanks for your time,

Michele Martinez Wenz 1990
Kelly Wenz 1991
12001 W. Beaumont
Wichita, KS 67235

From: Diana G. Carlson
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 11:17 AM
Subject: Redskins School Mascot at North High School in Wichita, KS

As a 1961 graduate of North High, I have fond memories of my time there, including the school mascot used at that time.

For a number of years, I have been in agreement with the need to retire the Redskins as a School Mascot for North High, and choose one that does not denigrate the rich culture of the Native Americans of the United States and their continued vital contribution to our great nation.

Hopefully, this change can at last be made, making more healing possible in Wichita, in Kansas and in the nation.

Thank you.

Diana G Carlson
6901 N Galena Rd
Peoria, IL 61614

From: Kenneth Adamek
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 1:23 PM
Subject: Continued Use of North High "Redskins"

As a North High Alumni, I am deeply disturbed at the current “cancel culture” movement attacking the beloved history of North High School. I am proud to have attended a school that was established to honor the Native Americans, commonly referred to as Indians or called Redskins. This is no different than referring to African-Americans as Blacks, as used in Black Lives Matter. I don’t think we want to fall back to using the N word. If one followed the logic of the cancel culture we should stop using the word Hispanic because it contains “his” which is sexist and also contains the word “panic” which could lead to riots. THEREFORE I STRONGLY SUPPORT NORTH HIGH CONTINUING TO USE THE TERM “REDSKINS”

Kenneth Adamek
7373 E 29th St North, Apt W216
Wichita, KS 67226

From: Harold Stover
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 2:05 PM
Subject: North High

The mascot and architecture of North High is a tribute to the importance of the Indian influence and history of our area.

The Keeper of the Plains is one of our biggest treasures, we have a famous Indian sculptor and painter, Black Bear Bosin.

We have a WSU basketball player that wears his Indian name on his jersey, Poor Bear. Don't go along with the nonsense happening in other parts of the country trying to erase parts of history and heritage.

Harold Stover
8814 E. Bradford Cir.
Wichita, KS 67206

From: Deborah Hibbs
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 3:51 PM
Subject: North High Redskins

I am writing in response regarding the possible name change of the “Redskins” for North High. I am in favor of keeping the name Redskins! It was named in honor of the Natives to this land. I do not see this offensive in any way.

Debbie Hibbs (formerly Smith)
1726 Golden Belt
Hays, Ks 67601

From: Sherry G. Skillwoman
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 4:33 PM
Subject: "Redskins" is Pejorative on Any Meeting Date

Dear BOE Members,

We are now in 2021, moving into a decade which a few years ago, was conceptualized as "Vision 2020" - the embodiment of a New Beginning. It is (past) time to deconstruct the paradigm of White Supremacy that has prevented genuine cultural pluralism in this nation far too long.

Among other changes, deconstructing the White Supremacist model means we discontinue the use of derogatory terms that refer to "racial" appearance of "non-White" people - like "Darkie", "Slant-Eye" & "Redskins". It also means re-evaluating the concept of having a caricatured Native American as a "mascot", including the misappropriation of regalia taken totally out of cultural context to use as a "mascot costume".

The issue of the NHS "Redskins" has been around a long time. When I was a senior in 1965, I took this issue to the Student Government. I spoke up against the racism of this term, because of family heritage & because I was raised with strong social justice values. Two long time members of Mid-American All Indian Center (MAAIC), Sandra Hulsey & Bob Marley, related that they had been part of an Indian panel that spoke (circa 1980's) to NHS parents/students to educate the non-Indians as to why the term & mascot were disrespectful. They said that the (non-Indian) audience "booed" them. There was a circa 1995 "survey" about the issue, which evidently did not seek out Native Indian Community input. Strangely, the survey showed that those (non-Natives) surveyed did not find the name "Redskins" to be a problem. See link below for some Indian Community feedback given at that time in response to the survey. A link is also included that elaborates on the historic tie between the word "Redskin" & the scalp bounty paid for having killed an Indian.

Now, thanks to the Shawnee Mission School District & the Washington "Redskins", the NHS "Redskins/mascot" issue comes back around again. It's time to discontinue this cultural insult & the psychological damage it causes to Native kids who grew up internalizing these caricatures of their culture. Drop the name "Redskins" & find a respectful way, including input from the Native Community, to arrive at a new "mascot" name - it doesn't have to be a person (Bison Butch might be an option). The upset people will get over it & eventually re-establish their loyalty to the new NHS identity. Below is a link to a 2019 article re Wisconsin's School system when they rose to this same challenge.

Thank you for your consideration & your efforts on behalf of all your students, including those with Native blood.

Sherry G. Skillwoman, MSW
932 Spaulding
Wichita, Ks 67203

From: Breanna Deis
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 5:08 PM
Subject: Mascot Opinion

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the call for opinions on the North High mascot. As an indigenous person from the Ulkatcho Dene nation, I am deeply disturbed by this school's mascot.

The term "redskins" is a racist slur for native Americans and should not be used in the year 2021. Further, a mascot for a team associated with this name is extremely problematic. Mascots such as this participate in normalizing untrue stereotypes about native Americans and trivialize our people.

This is an excerpt from the American Psychological Association on why these mascots are a problem.

"Research has shown that the continued use of American Indian mascots, symbols, images and personalities has a negative effect on not only American Indian students but all students by:

- Undermining the educational experiences of members of all communities-especially those who have had little or no contact with indigenous peoples. The symbols, images and mascots teach non-Indian children that it's acceptable to participate in culturally abusive behavior and perpetuate inaccurate misconceptions about American Indian culture.
- Establishes an unwelcome and often times hostile learning environment for American Indian students that affirms negative images/stereotypes that are promoted in mainstream society." (APA, 2011)

I urge you to listen to the masses of indigenous people calling for change.

Thank you for your time,
Breanna Deis
4325 Maywood St Burnaby BC V5H 2J6 Canada

From: Monty Vines
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 5:18 PM
Subject: North High Mascot Issue

My name is Monte Vines, a 1974 alumnus of North High. I saw in the Wichita Eagle today that the Board of Education will be taking up the matter of North High's mascot/name at Monday's meeting, and that input from the community is welcome by sending it to you as Clerk of the Board. I have a suggestion I'd like you to pass along to the Board.

Over the years I had been on the fence about the issue of North's Redskins name/mascot. When I was a student there, and over the years since then, it seemed to me that North did a nice job of embracing the Native American connection in a positive and uplifting way. It seemed like a way to honor that culture rather than to demean or belittle it. But I also saw that both the name Redskins and the idea of a racial or ethnic group put into the status of a mascot could legitimately be seen as offensive and demeaning. In recent years I've come to think that the name and mascot does need to change.

I know that's a challenging process, because of the traditions and strong feelings of many North High alumni and others in the community. It would be a challenge to change—and not to change.

The Board may not be aware that North High counts among its many interesting and successful alumni a person who has excelled at working with institutions on their identity and rebranding. Bill Gardner, of Gardner Designs, North High Class of 1975, has a wealth of experience with that. If the Board were to engage Gardner Designs to undertake a process to rethink North High's identity and brand, I think Bill and his team, especially with his North High connection, could find a way to harness many of the various feelings and ideas and much of the energy people have about this issue toward a productive end.

I'm sure engaging Gardner Designs to lead this effort would involve substantial time and effort for them and entail a significant cost as well. As to the cost, I can think of three potential sources of funding for this. Of course, USD 259 may think an effort like this would justify some direct funding. Beyond that, I think there would be a number of North High alumni who would be willing to donate to a fund to support this. I would be. And I think the Wichita Community Foundation might consider this to be an issue they would like to get behind with some funding as well. I could contact Shelley Pritchard to explore the Foundation's interest in it if the Board is interested. I don't have a good idea of how much an effort like this would cost, but it seems the funding could be found.

Rather than send you this suggestion with no idea whether Bill Gardner would be interested and willing to get involved in it, I took the liberty of running it by Bill. Since it is right down the alley of his expertise, and because of his North High connection, he let me know that he would be interested. And I understand from Bill that USD 259 has worked with Bill and his company before on other rebranding type projects. So I assume the Board may be familiar with Bill and his work.

The bottom line for me is that it seems inevitable that at some point North High's mascot will change. We might as well do it now when there is a lot of momentum for such things in our society, and we might as well make it as positive a process as possible. I think engaging Bill Gardner and his company to lead the process would be a way to make it as positive a process as possible—and come away with a well thought out, well-designed, fresh new identity and brand for North High that would be widely embraced.

Let me know if you would like anything more on this idea from me. Or, if you want to look into what such an effort might entail, I'm sure Bill could engage with you or the Board or other USD 259 staff about it.

Thanks to the Board for being willing to take on this challenging issue.

Here is my contact information:

Monte Vines
250 S. Pershing
Wichita, KS 67218

From: Sherry Scales
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 5:27 PM
Subject: North High Redskin Name Change

All I can say is that it hurts me to the core that a nation of people who should be so proud of their heritage are asking us to sweep it under the rug. We are lumped into groups by our color. Whites, Blacks, Red, Yellow, and Brown. Just as female and male, blondes, redheads and brunettes. Not a one should be any more important than another. I understand that this stems from someone telling a Indian he was nothing but a dirty redskin. Well I am sure there are some who have been called white trash, black trash, and the list goes on, but we are not trying to change anything. There are always going to be bully's.
The American Indians which we refer to as Redskins, have so much to be proud of, and a heritage of such interest. The customs, the stories. Just because one white man was a bully is no reason to sweep that heritage under the rug. The Redskin culture has so much to be proud of! They were such survivors, and so in tune with nature, and such a strong proud people. Don't let that die. Be proud to be call a Redskin. Our school was proud enough of you to choose you as our mascot. You were fierce, tough, full of pride and respect and a survivor. That is what we wanted to be, so we choose you. Redskin forever!

Be happy and healthy,
Sherry Scales
North High Redskin 1974
2900 Windy Vane Dr.
Pflugerville, TX 78660

From: John Dill
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 6:08 PM
Subject: The consideration of renaming Wichita North High School ...

Graduation from North High in 1952 was a memorable event in what would become, thankfully, a life of work and travel all over the world.ï¿½ I have seen and functioned in cultures of all kind. I also have the advantage of having experienced 86 years of history in these United States. I have witnessed changes in social thinking, social mores, social behaviors and social interactions and, I have seen "movements" and "causes" come and go in numbers beyond my ability to count. What's is popular today will be out of favor tomorrow ...and what is out of favor tomorrow will be IN favor the day beyond that. At the moment the nation is swept up in the "Cancel Culture" where what was once considered acceptable speech is no longer acceptable. As regards to the consideration of renaming North High "Redskin" mascot, as is the case with MANY of the decisions made in the present "movement" or "cause" is that what is done to satisfy the present, and believe me TEMPORARY movement, is that decisions made in a temporary situation become regrettably PERMANENT. When the culture moves on, as it will, these illogical, un-needed changes will become just that ...permanently illogical and un-needed.

Leave the name of the Redskin mascot, the colorful ceremonies at sporting events, and the culture honoring and celebrating Native Americans alone. Move on ! Society will.

John Dill
1570 Wildberry Lane
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

From: Taiomah Rutledge
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 5:49 PM
Subject: Please Cease and Desist using my Cultural Identity.

Boozhoo! I am a member of the Ojibwe, Meskwaki, and Dakota Nations and I have a lot of experience and knowledge in this matter having run a family youth drum at the Mid America All Indian Center. Mascot imagery has always been an issue since the inception of sport related activities in the school districts. Several Native rights groups have brought this to the forefront of our direct action because there are several correlations that often go unnoticed. Issues pertaining to not only self esteem and academic performance, but how Native youth perceive themselves, as well as how they are perceived by non-natives. While many are often quick to point out that this may be their first time hearing of these issues or that it's the first time anyone has raised concern. This is simply untrue and due to the lack of representation and dismissiveness of these communities. Many Natives are often met with dismissiveness as well as divisiveness by those claiming to "honor" them through the stereotypical and often racist imagery, with some exchanges even escalating to the point of hostility. Many Natives would rather sit quiet for fear of being ostracised or being excluded from the communities that they are a part of. Mascots tend to dumb down and dissolve a very complex and diverse group of people into what is considered to be their base traits or "stereotypes". Focusing solely on the aesthetic and superficial, this is not only demeaning but it commoditizes their existing Identity and eventually eclipses another's understanding of it. This is racist whether intentional or not, due to the gross overgeneralization and exaggeration of what traits make an "Indian", "Indian". With people misusing the imagery from our spirituality and painting themselves red or with warpaint. This not only parodies an existing minority but it is also extremely harmful to our communities. We have some of the highest statistics pertaining to suicides, dropout rates, sexual assaults and missing and murdered women in the United States and Canada. The reason for this ties back to the dehumanization stemming from mascot imagery and the notion that our communities exist in the "past tense". Mascots do this regardless of intention and they do this to great extent often rendering us invisible. Using imagery that is often offensive or romanticized, they continue to dehumanize and place us further into the realm of myth. By putting us in the same category as animals, inanimate objects and civilizations from a bygone era, this not only locks us into that past tense but portrays us as something fun or humorous. Something to be mocked or imitated and exploited. Regardless of intent, the harm far exceeds anything "honorable" that is said to come from mascot imagery. This also creates an alienating and hostile atmosphere for traditional Native students who are being pitted against other "native" students who are either self identifying, less than 1/4, or simply didn't grow up in their culture. It not only tokenizes "well behaved" students but forces the traditional students to assimilate and expects them to keep quiet in order to fit in. Thus perpetuating the "Kill the Indian and save the child" mentality of the boarding schools, furthering Native erasure and any attempt in salvaging an already wounded Identity. The other issue here is with the conduct of the other schools who will be playing against these teams. Again Mascots only create further hostility towards Native people, continuing the "us vs them" mentality harkening back to manifest destiny and early colonialism. How is a Native student expected to feel safe and comfortable while trying to process other students shouting "F++k them redskins!" or carrying banners that read "We'll send you on another Trail of Tears!". They are literally trivializing ethnic cleansing and using the suffering of people for "good fun" and for the sake of throwing a few barbs at the rival team. That is not only irresponsible but harmful to our native communities. The term "Redskin" was originally used in reference to the scalps taken from native people as bounties by settlers and bounty hunters and the argument posed by the "Washington Redskins" about the body paint worn by a specific tribe does not represent the entirety of our people and would've been unique to the eastern region and a very sacred practice, therefore it does not hold any merit. Another issue I'd like to talk about is ownership and Identity. We have a right to our identity and we are not a commodity. The only arguments being raised are only being done by those who feel like they have as much of a right to our Identity and culture as we do. Anything that would be argued by current students or alumni is based in sentimental value and superficial reasoning. They do not own our likeness and are losing nothing in showing us respect and decency. Our culture and Identities were stolen from us while we were forbidden from practicing, let alone being Indian. School Tradition and sentimental value does not equate to the value and respect that we have for who we are and where we're from. We predate any of those "traditions" or "teams" and our Identity is not to be held ransom and exploited by those who only want to play Indian for the sake of "school spirit". Again those fake warbonnets and face paint will wash off, but at the end of the day we're the ones who have to live with the decisions being made at our expense and our communities will continue to be affected by the dehumanization and misrepresentation of our people. The fact that we're even having to appeal to those in the district about this sensitive matter only shows that people value their ownership of mascots more than the people they're supposedly meant to honor. Miigwech.

Taiomah S Rutledge
2640 N. Bluff
Wichita Kansas 67220

From: Steve Hamilton
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 7:26 PM
Subject: North High Redskins

I'm Steven Hamilton, and I was informed that this is the email address to write to concerning matters to be discussed at the next Wichita School Board meeting on Monday, February 8, 2021. I have been informed that the Wichita School Board is to discuss the Wichita North High Mascot Name, 'Redskins'. As I am a lifelong resident of Wichita, Kansas, and a 1978 Wichita North High graduate, I wish to voice my strong opposition to any change from the 'Redskins' mascot name.

I, and my two older brothers, all proudly graduated from Wichita North High and never once felt the name 'Redskin' for our school mascot was derogatory or demeaning. We treated the 'Redskin' name with honor, and still do. As I know my follow classmates felt the same, I feel the vast majority of those who are in opposition have never attended Wichita North High, never felt it's culture, and are just looking for something to be offended about, which is all too often the case in this day.

Looking at it another way, where does one draw the line? The Shawnee Mission school district determined the mascot names of "Braves" and "Indians" were offensive. Does having a city, 'Wichita', offend because it is named after an Indian Tribe, and it needs to be changed? What about 'Kansas' for the Native Americans the State was named after? Should it be changed? One could even argue the Wichita West High Mascot, 'Pioneers' is offensive to Indians as Pioneers drove Indians off their land. It can go on and on and on…

Thank you and I hope you resolve to keep the North High 'Redskin' name.

Steven Hamilton
1431 North Rutgers
Wichita, KS 67212-1168

From: JACK HOLLOWELL
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 7:31 PM
Subject: Item for Board meeting re: North High mascot change

To the Board of Education USD 259,

My family includes seven PROUD graduates of North High including my father, my daughter and myself. I am saddened by the thought of the changing of the school's mascot. Clearly the architecture, the traditions and the mascot were intended to honor and celebrate the native American culture. I would hate to see that lost. I am, however, resolved to the fact that the name will be changed by the BOE. That said, I believe we must insist that the BOE consider only mascot names that honor the native Indian history and culture.

I would like to express my interest in any committee that may be formed to address this topic.

Thank you,
Jack Hollowell
3178 N. Lake Ridge Ct.
Wichita, KS

From: David Lister
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 7:44 PM
Subject: Wichita HS North 'Mascot'

I am an alumni of Wichita HS North, Class of 1970

I would like to submit the following comments for the board's review.

I have given this some thought. Regardless of our individual heritage, I believe we all learned one thing from our teachers and our parents. That is compassion. Compassion tells us to reach out to our brothers and sisters. Now, don't get me wrong, I am proud of our past as 'Redskins'. But, if it IS found that our Native brothers and sisters ARE offended by that term, let us peacefully and purposefully honor them. I propose that a tribe of the local Wichita area be selected. I recommend we honor them by taking their tribal name from this point forward. We adopt that tribe. We recognize them, and perhaps even start a scholarship for them in our name. I would be proud to be the first to contribute to such a fund.

And, by the way, referring to a human as a 'Mascot' being is detrimental in and of itself. I remember them to be more like namesake. I always considered our Native Americans as someone to be admired - not berated. Perhaps this term could be changed, as well.

Best regards,

Dave Lister, MSgt, USAF (RET)
3868 McAlester Lake Road
McAlester, OK 74501

From: Charlie Russell
Date: February 6, 2021 at 7:59 PM CST
Subject: North High

I am a 1952 graduate from North High. I am disappointed that periodically we visit North's mascot name. When Sherman Padgett was Principal the subject came up. He got feedback from Native American students, parents and locals. The consensus was no change was necessary. I suggest you look up this survey and study. The Board has enough priorities such as teaching under the virus threat, budget, new teaching methods, building maintenance and other subjects. To take up this subject again seems redundant. When I was at North, the name Redskin gave me a feeling of pride and being special. Whatever you decide, the name has to fit with the beautiful architecture of the building and bridge. I suppose you could use Chiefs. But first you would have to get the K.C. Chiefs permission so you don't violate their copyright. I suggest you continue the existing mascot name. Thank you for considering my opinion.

Charlie Russell
6678 Shepherds Crossing
Bel Aire, KS 67226

From: Rosanne DeFilippo
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 8:57 PM
Subject: Wichita North High School Mascot

I am a very proud 1961 graduate of North High School. We could not have been more proud, respectful and appreciative to have been called The North High Redskins. I grew up in Wichita and we looked upon our native american friends as fierce warriors, as well as strong and spiritual. Our sports teams, especially football, always seemed to gather more energy when our band played, War Cry, our school's song. And Buffalo Butch was a great place to stand and talk to our friends. Each year the seniors would turn the class ring of a junior around on their finger in symbolic way that meant they were now going to be the leaders.

So that's how we viewed Redskins in 1961 - never in a demeaning way; so I hope you will reiterate this to that community as I am in California now. I can understand if the meaning that we had has changed, and the native Americans prefer a change. But how would East High be able to dump blue paint all over the Indian Heads over the bridge? Another fond memory.

Yours very truly,
Rosanne DeFilippo
40375 Via Francisco
Murrieta, CA 92562

From: Kenneth Cupit
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2021 9:42 AM
Subject: Re: Wichita North Mascot

The people who favor this kind of action do not consider the mascot is there to honor the native people who came here before us. Changing the mascot would be an act of overt racism.

Kenneth Cupit – WHSN Class of 1961
321 East 12th St. #205
Newton, KS 67144-1972

From: Donna Simmons
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 9:29 PM
Subject: NORTH HIGH

I am a life long resident of Wichita, and a 1952 graduate of North High. North has a very special place in my heart, I married a 1950 North graduate. We have been married for 69 years, and are the proud parents of three children. Our children are graduates of North, and four of our grandchildren are also graduates of North. We have had many nieces and nephews graduate from North, and two of them happen to be One half Cherokee Indian. They are very proud of their heritage, and we are all proud of our years at North High. Some of very special friends, are schoolmates of North High. We are all very upset, that this keeps returning every year, and especially this year with so many other problems you need to solve! I do pray that if you do change it—you do not use the same people that named the "Wind Surge". I am hoping that the committee can understand the pride that all of us "Redskins" have in North High!

"ONCE A REDSKIN—ALWAYS A REDSKIN"

Cliff and Donna Simmons
7077 E. Central #23
Wichita, Kansas 67206

From: Melinda Giltner
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 10:55 AM
Subject: Redskin Mascot Name Change discussion

To whom is making a private decision unrelated to the majority of North High Redskins.

Without disrespect whether the mascot name is changed for North High School, Wichita, Kansas.

We are unable to change historically that my Mother Irene Judith Young, (41) and all of my seven Langhofer siblings graduated as North High Redskins from 1967-1981.

I propose we learn from history rather than trying to erase history. In many socialist and communist countries this was their past as well. They attempted to remove the history to change the future.

I propose we teach our history and encourage cooperation of the future. You will never be able to erase North High Redskin mascot from history. You might affect however encourage hostility as you attempt erase or change North High's historical past.

Proud graduate of North High Redskins 1977.

If you did not graduate from North High, I suggest you are not connected to our Redskins as we are.

Regards,
Melinda Langhofer Giltner (1977)
Contact Information:
227 Northwood Drive
Bluffton, Indiana 46714

From: Claire Willenberg
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 12:11 PM
Subject: North High "mascot"

I am a 1961 graduate, live in North Riverside, and am active in community and city events/policies. While recent education concerning the term "redskins" has made us aware of why it could be offensive to some, the theme was originally selected to honor the historic use of the area around North High by Native Americans, and to promote pride in this heritage. The mascot has always been used as a badge of respect by the school. Many of us know Native American graduates who are proud of the theme, and feel it has a positive connotation.

I heard an interview with a Wichita War Dancer, Greg Victors, last evening concerning the war chop of the KC Chiefs. “We as a native nation face many struggles that are far more important. I know natives that support the Kansas City Chiefs and I also know natives who are against the native culture representation as mascots,” he said. “I personally feel that our energy and resources should focus on debates that affect the prosperity of our people and future.” I agree, and I hope this North High tradition can continue.

If a change must be made, please consider only changing Redskins to Indians. Add a section in native culture and history to the curriculum and further promote understanding and pride. Promote ways to assist in improving health and opportunities for native people. Develop programs in cooperation with Mid-American Indian Center. Of course, these thoughts should apply to promotion of every culture and race, but North High is uniquely positioned to highlight native culture.

Thank you for your consideration.
Claire Willenberg, class of 1961
1402 N Garland
Wichita, 67203

From: Mark E. Ritchey
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 12:44 PM
Subject: Derogatory names

Please change the name for students at North High School to a word that is not demeaning and derogatory.

You would never support using "North High Honkies" as a name, evert though a majority of the students in Wichita are Caucasian.(1)

You would never support using "North High Darkies" or "North High Negroes" as names, even though African-Americans are the second largest minority in Wichita. At one time, not so long ago, "Negro" was an acceptable term for African Americans. That is not the case now. (2)

You would never support using "North High Beaners" as a name, even though a large number of students in the area around North High are of Latin origin, and the sign in front of the school uses both English and Spanish to give its message. (3)

You would never support using "North High Gooks" or "North High Slant Eyes" as names, even though North High now has a large number of students from Viet Nam, Laos, Thailand, and Cambodia. (4)

Despite a long tradition, not so long ago "Colonels" was removed as the name for students at South High School.

Times change. Words change. Traditions change.

It is well past time to get rid of the derogatory word "Redskins" as a name for students at North High School. (5)

Mark E. Ritchey
4700 W 13th Street N, Apt 2134
Wichita, KS 67212-5552

From: Jeremy Harrell
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 9:52 PM
Subject: North High name change

As a proud North High graduate I think it would be a mistake to change the Redskins name.

[Link removed from a Washington Post article, dated May 1, 2016, about Native Americans' responses to poll about the Washington football team's mascot.]

It would be a shame to ruin such a rich tradition.

Jeremy Harrell
638 N Covington St.
Wichita, KS 67212
Class of 96

From: Andrea Zipprich
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 10:20 PM
Subject: Regarding the sports team name change decision

In this day and age we should be looking to do what needs to be done to get rid of racist structures and language in our society for the betterment of everyone. Having sports teams named the redskins is doing the opposite of that. It is racist against people whom were massacred and oppressed by European settlers. It is more so a slap in the face to the people who were greatly oppressed already and it needs to stop. You can find better names. There are fierce animals or other things that aren't offensive to anyone. Please consider changing the name.

Andrea Zipprich
244-25 90th Ave
Bellerose NY

From: Madeline McCullough
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 10:27 PM
Subject: Changing the North High mascot.

I believe it's time to change the North High mascot. North High will still be the most beautiful high school in Wichita. And the art deco Native American motif throughout the school will continue to honor Native Americans in a respectful way.

Madeline McCullough
810 Shadyway
Wichita, KS 67203
Class of 1973, North

From: Clark Owens
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 10:44 PM
Subject: Wichita North High Redskins mascot

It appears that pressure from The Wichita Eagle's Editorial Board has caused the 259 school board to hurry and schedule a meeting on the North High mascot even though we cannot have public participation in-person to voice our opinions. The following is a letter to the Editor of The Wichita Eagle that I submitted following their editorial, but so far there have been no published letters allowed to be printed. We may have run out of time since there is a push to act immediately so I am forwarding it to the board for consideration.

Suzanne Perez, on behalf of The Wichita Eagle Editorial Board has declared the North High School mascot "Redskins" as being "a derogatory term for Native Americans … it's insulting, offensive and racist." The cancel culture is trying to claim yet another victim. As a graduate from North High in 1968, I never heard any student refer to the term in a derogatory manner. We were quite proud of the Native American theme of our school in portraying a positive picture of American Indian culture. We have a buffalo head mounted in the hallway named "Butch" that was a center of attention. The pep rallies revolved around Indian culture. The building and bridge over the Little Arkansas River contain many references to the American Indian. The Washington Post has traced the origin of the term "redskins" through history and found that it was first used in 1769 in a letter from Indian Chief Mosquito to a British lieutenant colonel that referred to his people as "redskins". The next reference was on August 22, 1812 when Little Osage Chief Sans Oreilles (No Ears) referred to the whites and red-skins. Then Sioux Chief French Crow referred to himself as a red-skin. On July 20, 1815, Meskwaki Chief Black Thunder gave a speech referring to red skins and white skins as reported in the Western Journal in St. Louis. Obviously the Indian chiefs were not intending to refer to their people in a derogatory manner. The Washington Post has reported about a poll that was conducted by them and also the Annenberg Public Policy Center. Both polls show that 90% of the Native Americans were not offended by the Washington Redskins name. In 2014, even the Red Mesa High School in Arizona on a Native American reservation had 88% of the students in favor of retaining their own mascot "Redskins". Only 7% of the students found the term offensive. It seems that the majority of those trying to change the term are white liberals that proclaim to be woke and never attended Wichita North High.

Clark Owens
646 Wetmore
Wichita KS 67209

From: Rita Carter
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 11:33 PM
Subject: Wichita High School North mascot vote

I am a white 1965 graduate of Wichita North, and I urge the Board to vote to change the “Redskins” name. I have felt this way after becoming more aware of the racist history involving indigenous people in the United States and the racism perpetuated through the words that we use. I agree with those who say that people should not be mascots. Please work with indigenous community leaders and members to find something acceptable.

During the years I attended North, cheering for the Redskins I didn’t really think about how some Native American students or their families in the community may have felt. I think many students who are white may have spent their years at North in this same way—thoughtless and clueless. However, North High Native American students may have heard from others or felt like the term addressed them in another context—one that wasn’t a cheer. I affirm valuing Native American life and culture, but there is no place for terms like “Redskins” that should join other racist words used against people of color—unspoken.

It’s time for the “Redskins” name to go!

Sincerely,
Rita Carter (she/her)
7218 El Rancho Ave.
Windsor Heights, IA 50324

Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.
Maya Angelou

From: Kris Thomas
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 1:14 AM
Subject: North high REDSKINS name

Hi my name is Kris Stafford Thomas. I was in the class of 92. My parents class of 72, sister class of 90 and many family members throughout the years. I feel like changing the name of the mascot would be a very bad thing. There is history behind the name. With that name change that you all are proposing will you also be changing the Native American culture that is within the school as well. The dancing that has been happening for years? I am thrilled to be a Redskin. The pride that come with going to North and being a Redskin will always follow me. My son went to North for 4 months and he has that pride of a long line of family that went there. He will always love that he went to North. Please take in to account that those of us that don't want the name to change love the lessons and the life that we had at North. I learned a lot from the traditions that we had there. If you change the name you will lose those traditions as well. I don't think when the school was named they put emphasis on racism. Life was much simpler back then. Why should life be so complicated now? It is a name, a tradition, it is Heritage but most of all it is PRIDE! Please don't allow the NORTH HIGH REDSKIN pride to be taken from us.

Kris Stafford Thomas
923 N High St
Newton, Ks. 67114

From: Muffin Overstreet
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 6:29 AM
Subject: North High School nickname

Dear Wichita Board of Education Members,

I am a member of the Pine Valley Christian Church's Adult Education class which has been discussing systemic racism and its impact on our community and society since the murder of George Floyd, Memorial Day, 2020.

We recently discussed the long-standing issue regarding North High School's nickname: Redskins. We discovered the term "redskins" originated with the act of collecting Native American scalps for bounty.

While I am one for nicknames, having had one since the day I was born, names should not be offensive or derogatory. Names are a precious gift. I understand long-standing traditions, having graduated from Texas A&M University; however, traditions rooted in cultural shaming should be re-evaluated.

I appreciate the BOE undertaking a thorough and thoughtful process to examine the negative impact of the continued use of the nickname "redskins" for students and graduates of North High School. I believe Wichita will be a better place to live, work and raise families as we systematically address racism in all its forms, even as seemingly benign as a nickname.

Sincerely submitted,
Diane (Muffin) Overstreet
811 N. Perry Ave
Wichita, KS 67203

From: Jan Karr
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 6:35 AM
Subject: Redskins

I want to express my opinion on changing the name of the mascot of the Wichita North High Redskins. What will we change next to be politically correct? Wichita, Kansas or maybe North Dakota or South Dakota. It is a term to honor Native Americans as are the names mentioned above.
Vote to retain the name.
Thank you,

Jan Karr
1215 N Coach House Ct
Wichita Kansas 67235

From: Beth Banks
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 6:36 AM
Subject: North High Redskins

I would like to register my opinion on erasing the history of the North High Redskins. Briefly, the cancel culture is disrespectful and damaging. Perhaps ask Native Americans how they feel about their heritage being erased, canceled. Stop belittling and shaming. The architectural history is to be respected and protected. Where do we stop canceling? Is the Mid-America All Indian Center next?
Please protect this historical treasure.

Respectfully,
Beth Banks
4233 N Ironwood Ct
Wichita, KS 67226

From: Valerie Walker
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 9:42 AM
Subject: North High Mascot/Team name

I agree that the name should be changed, if people are offended. I really have never been in favor of changing the name as the North High alumnae have always been very proud of our high school and respective of the Native American heritage symbols, colors, names, etc. We will be sad, however we will move on to embrace a new direction.

Valerie Walker - 1974 graduate
3717 E 5th Avenue
Denver CO 80206

From: Glen Armbruster
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 9:47 AM
Subject: Redskins

As a 1966 graduate of North High School, I can truthfully say that I felt reverence for the Redskins mascot. I never once thought of it as offensive, at least in my own heart. In those days I thought it honored the people it referred to.

Times change, though, and it is time to change to something that doesn't make native Americans feel disrespected. I'll miss the old mascot, but it's time to let it go.

Glen Armbruster
1009 N Stratford Ln
Wichita, KS 67206

From: Alfred O. Berg
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 9:55 AM
Subject: North High identity

Alfred Berg here, a 1966 North High grad. I was proud to be inducted into the Hall of Fame at our 50th reunion in 2016. During my visit back to Wichita I asked the principal about the "mascot" issue out of curiosity. That wasn't really the time to discuss it, but I recall appreciating his thoughtful response.

Of course times change, and this has grown into an important issue everywhere, including here in the Pacific Northwest where I now live. I think the key is to engage native groups and follow their recommendations. There are ways to edit, rename, refocus, and repurpose that can be fully respectful of the heritage on which the iconography is based, but it's going to be complicated and feelings will be intense.

In the end, though, my opinion is that eventually the sensibilities of tribal representatives will and should prevail. The School Board should probably appoint a group with majority tribal representation to make recommendations, and go from there. Next time I visit it would be wonderful to know that the Native groups have vetted the changes.

Good luck

Alfred O Berg, MD MPH
Professor and Chair Emeritus
Department of Family Medicine
University of Washington, Seattle
1959 NE Pacific St
Seattle, WA 98195

From: Lil Timmons
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 10:13 AM
Subject: Renaming Wichita North High Redskins

Do not rename the Redskins. Once a Redskin always a Redskin.

Thank you.

Agnes Lillian Rogers Timmkns
9120 N Seneca
Valley Center. Ks
67147

From: Darin Pruitt
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 10:26 AM
Subject: North high mascot

I'm a proud graduate of North. Please don't change our mascot. We are North High Redskins 😄. Thanks.

Darin Pruitt
1601 N. St. Francis
Wichita, KS

From: Jim Kincaid
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 12:58 PM
Subject: North High School Mascot discussion

My name is Jim Kincaid. Class of 1965. I was born in 1947. My affiliation with North High started in 1948 when my father, Bill Kincaid, was hired as a coach at North. He retired as Athletic Director in 1972. My sister, Sherry Hartsel, was a guidance counselor at North from 1973 to 2003. I have been given permission by the author's family to share a letter written to the Wichita Eagle during one of several previous discussions on this topic.

Sincerely,
Jim Kincaid
1300 W 34th St N
Wichita, KS 67204

GO, NEUTRINOS

As a member of the class of 1960 at North High, I have followed the Redskins controversy with interest. The use of "Redskins" should be discontinued for the following reasons:

Every time a North High athletic team or student group has done something outstanding, the use of "Redskins" implied that the effort had been put forth by Native Americans. In most cases, Native Americans had very little or nothing to do with the efforts, and yet they received the credit. This is clearly unfair to the African-American, Hispanic, Vietnamese, white and other nationalities who make up the North High student body.

As a replacement for Redskins, I would suggest "Neutrinos." A neutrino is an atomic particle that has no charge and no mass, and can easily penetrate the most dense matter. This would be a splendid image to encourage North High students to put forth their best efforts. And since atomic particles have no constituency (perhaps other than nuclear physicists), there should be no controversy regarding the use of this word.

"NORTH HIGH NEUTRINOS." Has a nice ring to it, doesn't it? As a German-American, I can find nothing offensive in this nickname, and therefore I can most heartily endorse it. However, with an open mind, I am willing to listen to other suggestions. Please keep in mind that whatever you suggest must not offend Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese, whites, males, females, Christians, non-Christians, Protestants, Catholics, Jews, agnostics, atheists, senior citizens, baby-boomers, the handicapped, short people, tall people, full-figured people, smokers, non-smokers and pickup truck owners.

SAM KNECHT--Wichita, KS

From: Crystal Glazier Rowell
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 1:15 PM
Subject: North High mascot

My sister and 2 brothers, as well as my 4 children are Wichita North High School proud alumni.
I am saddened to see the question of changing the mascot revisited. In the early 2000's, there was a public presentation which included Native America representatives, as well as people specifically chosen who wanted to speak in favor of keeping the Redskin mascot. This happened in the North High auditorium. The audience respectively listened to the Native American speakers first. When it came time for the speakers who spoke for keeping our mascot, the Native American speakers and their supporters, got up and walked out as a group.
They were so Disrespectful. They didn't even stay to listen to the passionate speeches given by people who had great reverance and pride as a North High Redskin. I lost all respect for that group of Native Americans. It's a shame that they could not show respect for opposing speakers.
I live in North Riverside, here in Wichita. I love hearing the band play "Warcry" across the river. As I drive over the Minisa Bridge and see the beautiful Artwork on the bridge and North High, I feel much pride, and gratitude that I attended North High. I think about the Indians who lived on the banks of the Arkansas River long before Wichita was settled.
Why can't we keep our mascot? There is so much history, both good and bad, which must be taught to our students and our community. Blotting out history is not the answer. If America continues to erase American and Native American history because it is offensive, how will our young and old learn about the courage that was needed to give us this great country?

If the mascot has to be changed, perhaps it could be a highly respected animal, such as Eagles, Wolverines, Cougars, Coyotes, Panthers, Bears.

I would prefer that the mascot name not be changed. Instead let the students and community learn and honor the heritage and history of the Native American people.

Thank you,

Crystal Glazier Rowell
1607 N Payne Ave
Wichita KS
Wichita North High Alumna 1973

From: Jason McCarthy
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 1:17 PM
Subject: Wichita High School North

I understand there is a meeting coming up regarding North High's mascot. I am a proud alumni and have nothing but fond memories of my time there. I graduated with Greg Victor. He is the Ponca Nation celebrated war dancer. His family has been representing North High and its celebration of his culture for as long as I can remember. If the Native American families who represent Wichita and North High want a change, we should all respect that. If they are not, and bunch of people without Native American blood are pushing for this change, there is no reason to even discuss the mascot change.

Thanks for listening to the people who represent the culture.

Jason McCarthy
North High 96
740 Ancient Oaks Dr
Holly Springs, NC 27540

From: Athena Spillman
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 1:22 PM
Subject: North High Redskin

My name is Athena Spillman. I went to North High .from 1974 to 1976 this is my school. I am a Redskin and will always be a Redskin. Changing the name is an insult to anyone who has gone to school there. I have family that has passed away that where Redskins as well and they would be very disappointed if the name was to be change. Just because people are hurt by the name is not a reason to change it. I know times are changing but not everything need to change. If the Indians have been ok with it all these years and I haven't heard anyone of them complain about the name. This is a historical school and should remain that way. People come from all over the world to see how beautiful are school it and with all the Indian faces all over the building would be wrong to change its name. I vote not to change the name of my school and all the things it stands for. Once a redskin always a redskin.

Athena Spillman
6529 W. Ocieo St.
Wichita, KS 67205

From: Roger K Cheatum
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 1:37 PM
Subject: North High School

USD 259 Board of Directors
As someone who has Native American blood in my veins, I am proud that one of my ancestors was a member of the Great Sioux Nation. My time at North High School embolden me to acknowledge that due to their positive portrayal and celebration of Native American images and their traditions. The North High symbols represent those high standards.
In our countries history, Native Americans have been poorly portrayed by Hollywood and sensationalist media. The have been portrayed as savages, drunks or downtrodden for the sake of personal gain, profit or notoriety. The negative images referred to by revisionist are mostly perpetrated by them. If you continually tell a person that they are not equal, they, and others, will begin to believe it. That negative message is only coming from the revisionists and the sensationalists for profit. I truly suspect a great many people have Native American genes without knowing of it. They should be taught to celebrate that fact. They should not hide or bury it because of a very few who would change or interpret history for personal gain or notoriety.

Roger K Cheatum, Class of 1961
4242 Hidden Lake Drive
Port Orange, Florida 32129
“Once a Redskin, Always a Redskin”

From: Delaine Hartman
Date: February 7, 2021 at 12:45:31 PM CST
Subject: Redskin Mascot Issue

I would vote for NOT changing our mascot. I'm a 1962 graduate of North and feel very strongly about the tradition the Indian forefathers set up for us at North. My mother was in the second class to graduate from North and had wonderful memories of when those students got to change from being East High Aces to Redskins. Our whole school architecture honors their heritage and proclaims our love for the Native American. Why in the world would we want to change that. Have we asked Native Americans who graduated from North about this?? Our classmate David Simmons was Blackbear's stepson. We honored him by purchasing the beautiful mural that hangs in the hallway at North (at least it did the last time I was there). Would that be put in the attic or what's worse destroyed!!!
Let's give this some more thought!!!

Delaine Hartman, Graduate 1962
4700 W 13th St N. #3109
Wichita KS 67212

From: Mary Ann Beattie
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 2:29 PM
Subject: North High Redskins

I graduated from North High in 1958 and I think it is time to change the mascot from the pejorative Redskins. There are better ways to honor the area's Native American history.

Mary Ann (Harms) Beattie
2672 N. Pershing St.
Wichita, KS 67220

From: Gaynell Magers
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 2:34 PM
Subject: Wichita H S North

Dear Board Member,

I am a 1963 graduate of North High and am proud to be a Redskin alum. This board should remember the history behind the Redskin name. The school is built on the banks of the little Arkansas River where Indians once lived. The building itself is a memorial to the Indian culture.
Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Gaynell Stees Magers
22970 Hideaway Ln.
Bend, OR 97701

From: Robert Scott
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 2:39 PM
Subject: Wichita North High Mascot change

I understand that some people think that North High should change their mascot and image because they think the term "Redskins" is demeaning to the Native Indian people. They obviously have never experienced the pride that every North High student has had as a North “Redskin” since the school opened in 1929. The magnificent architecture depicting the Indian heritage on the building is a testament to the pride of the Indian culture and North High School.

My mother graduated from North in 1937 and she was proud to be a Redskin. My sister graduated in 1964, I graduated in 1975, my wife graduated in 1976, her two brothers graduated in 1977 and 1978. We are all proud to be North High Redskins.

In all the years I attended North High, neither I nor any of my classmates or friends thought that the term "Redskins" was demeaning to the culture of the Indians. I for one am proud to be a North High Redskin.

In closing, it’s too bad that some at the Wichita Eagle is shoving this down the school boards throats right now during a pandemic and not allowing the public to speak at a school board meeting.

Robert Scott
2241 S. Cooper
Wichita, KS 67207

From: Lewis and Susan Cooper
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 2:43 PM
Subject: North High Mascot name change.

To whom this may concern;
I am very troubled with today's cancel culture and proposed name change for the North High is Wichita, Kansas.

I, as well as most of our family, have attended North High and am very proud of the heritage of the brave and valiant people of our ancestry and history. We loved being named after such great people and continue to believe we were honoring them with our spirit of excellence they possessed.

We need to embrace our past both good and bad and learn and strive to do the same to fight for right and be proud to be a Redskin forever.

Name changes are very costly and the betterment of the school is questionable.

Please vote no on the proposal to remove the Redskins as our mascot.

Thank You
Susan Simmons Cooper class of 1964
13216 Oakwood Rd
Zimmerman, MN 55398

From: Rule Olson
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 3:06 PM
Subject: Continued Use of North High "Redskins"

Belated news of the renaming of Wichita North High comes on the day that my children's Springfield, MO schools are to consider changing the name of Kickapoo HS [9-12].

NONSENSE !!

The names were chosen to Honor the Wichita and Kickapoo tribes. North High's Building & Bridge feature Native American motif. Must we rename the mascot "The Oxen"??

Big Bear Bosin [?SP], a neighbor & friend of my father, came to our games, is the author of our War Chant, & has given fantastic support for the library. Is it not disrespectful to change names bestowed in historical respect & honor?

Cancel Culture is a fad, hopefully to be short lived!

E. Rule Olson MD [Vice President 1951, President 1952]
8710 E. Buckhorn Ln.
Rogersville, MO 65742

From: Joyce Adams
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 3:13 PM
Subject: Changing Redskin name.

I graduated in 1964. Giving in to the cancel culture is just one more way our history is trying to be erased. There are many tributes to the Indians on our school building as I'm sure you know. Don't give in to bullying!

Joyce Adams - proud Redskin.
2561 S. Skyline, Springfield, MO 65804

From: Craig Steward
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 3:24 PM
Subject: The Forced by threat of Lethal Weapons removal of North High School mascot name Redskin

To the Board of NON Native American and NEVER Victimized by the word Redskin Board representing USD 259 meeting Monday February 8, 2021 to determine whether a Forced by Lethal Force Legislation by means of police will be enacted removing the Mascot name REDSKIN from North High School. Please do not engage in Censorship, Anti Free Speech and Hurtful Perpetration based on misguided Revenge and Hypocrisy Forcing the Change of The North High School Mascot name Redskin. The Mascot name of North High is Not comparable to racist slur or derogatory words or meanings. Their are No Virtuous Institutions in American which North High has been and Is existing with a Mascot word or meaning that is meant in definition or purpose to be hurtful or derogatory. This includes institutions like The Washington Redskins. Is there a Wonderful institution as North High that Exults and Honors Native Americans that have as their mascot names ragheads, coons and chinks!? Those words have no association with a historic icon of Positive that North High IS. Those Negative Ethnocentric words were and are presently offensive and mean to be offensive. The word Redskin has changed its meaning and definition since 150 years ago as North High uses the word Redskin. The word Terrific used to mean Terrible, now it is a Wonderful term. Do a study of the word Redskin origin and you will find it was Never a CONSENSUS that it was derogatory to the Native Americans 150 years ago but along with the evil of used as a racial slur and derogatory ALSO a term Defining the hue of Native Americans skin for an identification purpose as we experience filling out many government forms with white, black, hispanic etc. What is the issue here is Revenge and Hypocrisy MOSTLY from White Americans with a Dem/Left agenda. Supposedly there are victims HURT by the word REDSKIN used by North High to Exult and Honor Native Americans along with the architecture of the building and bridge. North is NOT using Redskin as a derogatory term and More importantly for the definition of racial slur or hatred. Why would victims of the horror of being conquered want to HURT Thousands of people who are Exulting and Honoring them simply because of the word Redskin that ISN'T being used by North High as perpetrating evil? How many actual cases AT NORTH HIGH have there been on Record of the North High population originators, staff or students FILING a Complaint experiencing Victimization resulting from the word Redskin!? This whole issue is a FALSE NARRATIVE of the Democrat/Left Ideology that is working to establish a New World Order the Bible defines as Babylon the Great which the AntiChrist will eventually rule. The purpose of this Forced Change by means of government legislation and the threat of lethal force executed by the police and military is to Falsely define the Virtue Legacy of All things on the earth as a Blight. The Dem/Left Movement is working to establish a New definition and compliance of human conduct. This compliance will resemble a combination of the EUROPEAN COMMUNITY and CHINA. The Covid Crisis is being manipulated by the Left Evil Movement to establish Human Rights and Human Liberty to become and Is Presently becoming a Total Control of human existence under a Mark of the Beast Biblically defined as 666. The Forced Change WILL come including FORCING the Change of Redskin, it is All Scripture Prophesy. The World Not North High School in Wichita, Kansas is under attack resulting from the spiritual war between the Holy Spirit and the Satanic spirit represented by Left Ideology.

Craig Steward
9202 W Central Park Ct
Wichita, Kansas 67205

From: Nathan Bishop
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 3:46 PM
Subject: Comment on North High mascot discussion

I ask the Wichita school district to follow the example of so many other districts and sports organizations and retire the North High Redskins mascot. Across the country, it is a term that's heralded by a white majority as an honorific while the majority of native nations call for its retirement. I went to the University of Illinois that used Chief Illini as the mascot for most of the school's history. A large number of the alumni threatened to withdraw support from the University if the mascot was retired, saying the Chief was central to honoring the heritage of the university and nothing was wrong with it. I see a nearly identical situation here in Wichita regarding North's mascot.

But it's the outcomes that matter, not intentions. When a white or any non-native person dresses up in ceremonial headdress and cartoon face paint and parades around at sports events to amp up the crowd, how is this any different than institutionally sanctioned blackface? When the crowd performs a tomahawk chop and chants a stereotyped melody, how is this not a mockery of tribal traditions? When the imagery is just of a stereotyped icon rather than any actual historical figure, how is this doing anything other than perpetuating the stereotype of the noble savage? U of I chose to retire Chief Illini as the mascot, not because the intentions of the alumni were suddenly discovered to be disingenuous, but rather it was recognized that institutional support for an icon that in practice dehumanized oppressed populations was simply and plainly not in the university's interests. Please make the clear decision that the Redskins mascot is not in the Wichita school district's interests.

My daughter is likely going to attend North next year as a freshman. I hope she could be the first class who enters under a new banner, one that we ALL can be proud of.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Nathan Bishop
902 N Spaulding Ave
Wichita, KS 67203

From: Robert Bachman
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 4:02 PM
Subject: North High Redskins name change

I am a North High Alumni along with a brother, father, aunt, uncles and cousins. I received a great education at North High. The friendships I formed while in high school are still strong. Some that only started in high school have grown stronger over time. It was an honor to attend a high school with such a rich history. It was an honor to be a North High Redskin. It was an honor to celebrate the Native American history of North High and Wichita, Kansas. Hopefully we can keep at least part of that alive. I can accept that Native Americans object to the use of the word. I don't accept that there is any North High student or alumni that ever used the term to be derogatory. I believe the honor given to the Native American culture is far outweighed by whatever disrespect a small group of people are alleging.

I will respect the decision of USD 259 and discontinue the use of the term if that is what is decided. Based on all of the changes that have happened around this controversy recently there is probably no other choice. I don't believe there will be a significant change in anybody's life because of the decision.
Thank you for your service to our community.

Robert Bachman
5005 N Sandkey
Wichita, KS. 67204

From: Becky Batchelor
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 4:25 PM
Subject: North High School Mascot

As a graduate of North High School, I am writing in response to the change being proposed concerning the traditional "Redskins" name and mascot. I will begin by identifying myself as part Native American, as my grandmother was of the Miami Tribe. My best friend through high school was half Native American also. Attending a school that honored our culture and heritage gave us pride and influenced the way we viewed our contribution to society.

As traditions of our people were recognized and emulated through activities and events, they were never conducted or presented in an offensive manner. From the gym classes canoeing on the Arkansas River, the spring Water Festival keeping alive the traditions of seasonal celebration, to the war chants sang to rally our sports teams to victory, all was a reminder of the legacy left by our forefathers.

By removing the names and traditions from North High School, it erases the last vestures of the people who dwelled on the banks of the great river flowing outside its doors. So much of Wichita's history and existence center around the Plain's Indian Tribes and people. The city has honored them with statues and art, as well as a cultural center, not to mock or minimize their existence, but to respect and immortalize the culture and part of history that made Wichita the great city that it is.

I wish to retain the heritage of Native Americans as honored by North High School.

Becky Batchelor
Class of 1974
PO Box 333
Glen Haven, CO 80532

From: Jim Saville
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 4:40 PM
Subject: North High

I think the name should be changed to Americans; after all they were the original Americans.

Jim Saville
236 S. Florence
Wichita KS 67209
North 58

From: Stephanie Welk
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 4:43 PM
Subject: North High School Mascot change

To whom it may concern:
Can we PLEASE stop this nonsense and not jump on the “cancel culture” bandwagon?

Stephanie Welk
4701 N Portwest Circle
Wichita KS

From: Amy Hamm
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 4:49 PM
Subject: North High Mascot

Good evening!
I quickly wanted to provide my opinion on the changing of the North High Mascot. This mascot has been part of school history and culture since the beginning of time and should remain as such. Mascots are not chosen to demean anyone or any group. They are chosen for strength and power. This is no different. There should be NO CHANGE to the North High Mascot.

Sincerely,
Amy Hamm
3202 Bayview St
Wichita, KS

From: Linda Bell
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 4:51 PM
Subject: North High Redskins

I am sure you have already heard from many people who want to retain the Redskins mascot name for Wichita High School North. I also implore you to retain the name.

I attended Wichita North High School and was always proud to be known as a Redskin. Unlike most of my classmates, I have an American Indian heritage and my great-great-great-grandfather was a Chief. There was never any shame in the word Redskin. Rather, it was a badge of honor that recalled the very earth that was part of our proud people and the beautiful color of our skin. Almost 100 years of pride infuse the very bricks of the school building and bridge nearby. If you erase the Redskin name, by falling prey to political correctness, you erase the very essence of the proud people who lived here on our prairies. Those Redskins were warriors when needed, peaceful when left alone and providers who utilized what their Mother Earth gave them. Most importantly, for the people of Wichita who may too easily forget, they deserve to be remembered and honored by retaining the name Redskins. Please do not take this away from us.

Thank you,
Linda Bell
2503 N Meadow Grove Circle
Wichita, KS 67205

From: Roger Miller
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 5:26 PM
Subject: Mascot name

As a North High alum, I sincerely feel the name Redskin is a name of honor to Native American Indians. I have always respected the Redskin name and it, in no way, is derogatory or insulting.

Have you seen what the students do to honor the Redskin at pep rallies, etc?

It is part of history and cannot and should not be removed because of a few who dislike it. No matter how you act, you will not change or erase the history and honor of the American Indian. It's a disgrace to even try.

Roger A. Miller
Class of 1964
4824 N. Hedgerow St.
Bel Aire, KS

From: Jesse Micheal (Lawhon) Seery
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 5:30 PM
Subject: Redskin Mascot

I am a North High alumni. I am writing you as a promise I made when I was a student there. The North High mascot of Natives should not be changed. The school has a very rich tradition surrounding the mascot, changing the mascot would be a waste of public funds, and those who oppose the mascot make their arguments using false information.

The origin of the North High mascot has it's roots in the Civil War. The Riverside area of Wichita was inhabitated by an Indian tribe the city was named after. They fled to the Wichita area to escape persecution and help support the Union in winning the civil war. When Wichita needed a second school we decided to continue to honor the tribe by decorating our entire school with native imagery. We are the only school in Wichita that requires learning to canoe to graduate. Many of the schools rituals and traditions are based on this mascot.

Those who oppose the mascot oppose it for two reasons. The first being they believe that only schools on reservations have the right to use the term. This would require a remodeling of the entire school and removal of all the statues along with a remodeling of the bridge on 13th street. We would have to redesign the logo and come up with a new school motto. This is money that we do not have. It also removes the historical significance of the school. These same people have no problem with Non-Native imagery being used in other schools such as with Notre Dame. They incorrectly assert that Natives are being associated with animals but ignore all the human mascots we used aside from Natives.

There are some though that take only issue with the term Redskin. There is a popular legend going around that Redskin refers to the scalping of Native Americans. This is being pushed by the media but holds no ground in reality. Redskins was a self-identifying term that Native Americans used to differentiate between themselves and what they called whiteskins. The only time in history Redskins say a more negative connotation was at the same time that Indian likewise saw the same amount of negative connotation because public opinion of Native Americans was very low. We have moved beyond that and the public no longer holds negative views by the speaker towards Native Americans. This was when the school mascot was determined.

Alumni of North High take great pride in the school mascot and the school itself has always had a great pride in the mascot. Those who wish to see the name changed are ignorant of the history, holding faulty information as fact, or don't interact with the school at all. Regardless of what the school board decides, those of us who engage with the school will always know "Once a Redskin, always a Redskin." I ask that we do not change the Mascot.

Thank you for your time.
Jesse Micheal (Lawhon) Seery
1031 N Edwards
Wichita, KS 67203

From: Laurie Dickeson
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 5:58 PM
Subject: Wichita High School North mascot

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my support for changing North High's mascot. I was born and raised in Wichita, and graduated from North High in 1978. My three siblings are also North High graduates: 1969, 1973, and 1975. I recognize the great affection many former and current students have for our beautiful school and its traditions. However, despite that affection and the sincere conviction of those who hold it that the term is not derogatory, the racial epithet used for North High's team and its mascot is indeed an offensive slur to many people and a perpetuation of ethnic stereotypes. Those who have nostalgia for this term are not entitled to decide that others have no right to be offended by it. In 1968, the National Congress of American Indians launched a campaign to address stereotypes of Native Americans in media. Since that time, more than 40 sports teams have taken a step forward and moved past the idea of using Native Americans as mascots. Last July, after a long and very public campaign to convince the Washington, DC, football team to change its name, the team and the National Football League finally announced that the name would change. And in December, the Cleveland Major League Baseball team announced that it would end its use of "Indians" as its name and mascot. In 2013, USA Today compiled this partial list of colleges and universities that have changed their teams' names:

• Stanford University – Indians to Cardinal (1972)
• University of Massachusetts – Redmen to Minutemen (1972)
• Dartmouth – Indians to Big Green (1974)
• Siena – Indians to Saints (1988)
• Eastern Michigan – Hurons to Eagles (1991)
• St. John's (N.Y.) – Redmen to Red Storm (1994)
• Marquette – Warriors to Golden Eagles (1994)
• Miami (Ohio) – Redskins to RedHawks (1997)
• Seattle University – Chieftains to Redhawks (2000)
• Louisiana-Monroe – Indians to Warhawks (2006)
• Arkansas State – Indians to Red Wolves (2008)
• North Dakota – formally dropped Fighting Sioux in 2012. No nickname currently.

Martin Luther King, Jr., reminded us that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." The fact that our country's long journey toward civil rights, equality, and dignity for all has made progress but is not yet over is demonstrated by the fact that this part of the struggle continues. I would remind the Board that this issue was discussed nearly a quarter-century ago in Wichita, at a public hearing resulting from the recommendation of USD 259's Committee on Desegregation to change the North High mascot. The arc of the moral universe bends toward justice not on its own, but through the efforts of those who pursue that goal. I am hopeful that this time the Board will take this step forward that we may continue our path toward justice.

Thank you for inviting public comment.

Laurie D. Dickeson
2318 Sulgrave Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21209

From: Anita Martz
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 6:03 PM
Subject: Redskins

Please keep the Redskins mascot and heritage. The history and the beauty of our school is like no one else's.

Anita Martz class of '70
9922 W Westlakes Ct
Wichita KS 67205

From: Gilbert L. Adams
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 6:38 PM
Subject: Wichita High School North

We have taken the land and now we seem to want to take any honor in any fashion except Black Bear Bosin's statute that is and a honor to him and the Indians. My daughter in law is 3% Indian and hates to see the loss that is going on in history. After reading the book 1984 which indicates you may be removed from history in the future. There are so many things going on in our lives we need to think about besides name on a school and how hair is worn. What has happen in the world the last 100 +/- years is history while good and bad should not be forgotten. I am a graduate of Wichita North High in 1952 an always will be proud of it.

Gilbert L. Adams
5541 N. Legion
Wichtia KS

From: Cindy Watson
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 6:53 PM
Subject: Debate on North High Mascot

Dear School Board Members,

I am a graduate of Wichita High School North, Class of 1976. I have many good memories of my time in high school and now live just two blocks from the school. When I was in high school the band major wore the full head dress, the cheer leaders and dance teams had fringe and we did all kinds of “Indian” movements without thought of how it might be perceived or whether or not it was respectful. It was the 1970’s and while our culture was beginning to be more aware of cultural diversity, we were not yet there.

Forty decades have passed since I graduated and I have had an opportunity to become more aware of what is appropriate and what is not in terms of cultural identity. I am absolutely sure that when the mascot was chosen no disrespect was meant. However, I am also sure “Redskin” was never a term of honor. Mascots are supposed to be strong and fierce, hence the choice of “redskin” for a mascot to match the beautiful architecture and to portray a school that is strong and warrior like.

I believe the name needs to change. It is offensive to Native Americans. It is offensive, period. There is no way to make the name appropriate. It doesn’t matter what alumni think or the dominant culture thinks, it IS inappropriate and offensive. The headdress was retired years ago when it became clear that it was not honoring tradition, but was using it in a way that was culturally inappropriate.

Years ago we didn’t know better, now we do. When we know better, we do better and we can do better. Many schools have changed their mascots in light of new information and in order to not offend. The world did not come to an end when the name changed. In the years to come the current students and students who follow will still be proud of their school, their relationships and their class identity.

It is past time to change the name. It may not be popular with everyone, but it is the right thing to do. I am a proud alumni, not because of a name, which I don’t use any more, but because of the wonderful teachers and staff and coaches and friends that have made those memories sweet. Please do the right thing and let’s come up with a new mascot that does not degrade our Native American brothers and sisters.

Sincerely,

Rev. Cindy Watson
Senior Pastor
First United Methodist Church
330 N. Broadway
Wichita, Ks 67202

From: Rob Winslow
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 6:59 PM
Subject: We are the Redskins

As a North High graduate of 74, I encourage the school board to respect the tradition of the Redskin name to be continued.

The striking Native American symbols on the exterior and inside of the school evoke pride and respect for our great tradition and namesake, the Redskins.

Changing our name to appease others is a disservice and disrespectful to the Native Americans this school is named after.

Our state name Kansas was selected as a tribute to the persons living here, the Kaws or Kansa tribe (people of the south wind).

When respect is paid by naming a school or state after a great heritage and group of people, it is disrespectful to those it was named for to change the name.

The Redskins is a name that should remain, to pass on a proud and long standing heritage for future generations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob Winslow
6507 E. Rockwood Rd.
Wichita, KS 67206

From: Jane Knight
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 7:45 PM
Subject: North High Redskins

To the School Board Members:

I am a proud 1961 graduate of North High School. Our school has been richly steeped in tradition since its beginning. As students, we have been so proud of being Redskins and honoring American Indians. The architecture honors their culture as well. This is our history! Please honor our mascot tradition as we continue to honor this heritage.
Thank you!

Sincerely,
Jane Benedick Knight
13206 E. Bridgefield Place
Wichita, KS

From: Debbie Page
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 7:48 PM
Subject: Name change for North High School mascot

We are members of the class of 1972. We loved our time at North High school and we are grateful for the education we received there. Part of what we learned at North High was that the world is big and wonderfully diverse, and that respecting others is a high value. We understand that the BOE is considering dropping the term “Redskin” from North High. We think that is a good, and long overdue idea.

The architecture of the building, with its Native American symbolism, is beautiful and we have fond memories of supporting our teams as members of the Pep Club and the marching band. That said, our fond memories, and pride as North High alumni, will be further enriched if the degrading terminology is dropped.

Thank you!
Debbie Slentz Page & David Page - Class of 1972
6428 Winter Run Dr. SE
Ada, Michigan 49301

From: Kathy Ray
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 8:11 PM
Subject: Wichita North mascot Public Comments for Board

I am a 1969 graduate and have always been proud of my high school with its tribute to its history.....
“The Indian theme used throughout the design of the building is more than a matter of choices - the Indian was responsible, indirectly, for the founding of North High School.

In the 1860's the Wichita Indians moved here from Oklahoma to escape persecution for their support of the Union cause in the Civil War. They settled near the junction of the Big and little Arkansas Rivers in what is now the Riverside area. In 1867 the United States government sent Company 'A' of the 10th Division to the forks of the Arkansas to protect the incoming cattle drivers from the Indians. After the arrival of the Army troops, white settlers came to the Area and a small settlement began to develop. The school had fourteen students enrolled and was located at Twelfth and Jackson Streets. North High School is located on the site.

By 1929, the population of Wichita was so great that the only high school (East, built in 1922) could no longer accommodate the city's high school students. Plans for a new high school were begun. A fifteen-acre land site was purchased at Twelfth and Jackson Streets and three architectural styles, Romanesque, Gothic, and Modern American, were presented to the Board of Education - the Modern American style was selected for the new school.

Bruce Moore, an artist who graduated from East High School, designed the decorative portions of the building's exterior. Using his knowledge of the site's history, Mr. Moore used a Pioneer\Native American theme for his design. He constructed the original small-scale figures of plaster. Full-sized figures were then made and arranged to tell the story of pioneer days; the Indian chief, scout, hunter and teepee represent the Indians' story; the buffalo, eagle, plowman, sunflower, and state seal symbolize the early pioneers.”

Instead of allowing that history to go by the wayside, educating students and the public about the tribute before any decision is made concerning the mascot would be appropriate.

Sincerely,
Kathy Ray
12748 Circle Drive
Shawnee Mission, KS 66216

From: Gerry Bradfield
Date: 2/7/21 8:07 PM
Subject: North High Redskins

Once a Redskin, always a REDSKIN! A a 1963 graduate., a number of Letterman's Club, Honor Roll student, I can assure you our tradition,, architecture. Bridge can surpass almost every high school in America. For you to even consider taking our pride away is a total travesty. Have some courage and preserve our legacy. Thank you.

Gerald C. Bradfield
226 Aaron Drive
Andover, KS. 67002

From: Charlotte Haupt
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 8:48 PM
Subject: Wichita High School North mascot name

I believe it is time to retire the term “Redskins”. It is a derogatory term for Native Americans. We have stopped using derogatory terms for other groups such as the Chinese, the Italians, the Irish and others, so it is well past time to stop using “Redskins”.

We need to realize that there are individuals that may feel uncomfortable or less than first class citizens when the term redskins is used to describe them. The term is objectionable and racist whether used to describe a general group of people or individuals.

The North High experience is so much more than the name of the sports teams. The education, the friends, the teachers and more contribute to the whole experience. We would still have the most unique and beautiful high school in the U.S. The school would still have other unique traditions such as the River Festival.

Do the right thing, change the name, retire the “Redskins”.

Charlotte Haupt
North High Graduate 1962
25 E 53rd St
Kansas City, MO 64112

From: Robert Watson
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 9:12 PM
Subject: WICHITA NORTH HIGH REDSKINS

I am sending this e-mail to express my support for keeping the North High mascot "The Redskin" as it has been for at least over 75 years.

My roots in Kansas go back almost 150 years to my Great Grandfather. I am 86 years old and I lived in Wichita for the first 30 years of my life.

The word "Redskin" was not chosen to offend anyone and should not be viewed as so. The architectural design on North High and the North High bridge was meant to honor Native Americans. Over the years students with white skin, brown skin, black skin, or what other color skins that attended North High, have identified themselves as "Redskins." I fail to see why others find this offensive. I think that the term honors the Native American race.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? The answer to this controversy would be found if you asked all the living North High students the question that you are considering tonight.

I am not sure who or why some people are pushing this issue for change. If they didn't attend North High, they did not experience the history, the friendship, the joys or the sorrows that every Redskin shared with other Redskins.

Every person is entitled to their beliefs, and every person is entitled to express their opinions; but sound decisions are not based on who yells the loudest and the most often.

In the over 90 years that North High has been in existence, I would guess that over 70,000 students have attended. How many of these students would you think will want to do away with our Redskin's heritage. THE ANSWER SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN YOUR DECISION TONIGHT!

Thank you for allowing me to express my support for allowing the "Redskins" to remain a North High tradition.

It is my hope that young boys and girls attending Wichita North in the years to come will have the same opportunity that I have had, and that is to be a proud North High Redskin.

I will always be a Kansan from Wichita and a Wichita North High North Redskin.

Robert A. Watson (class of 1952)
3710 N.W. Green Hills Rd.
Topeka, Kansas 66618-1523

From: Francene Sharp
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 9:33 PM
Subject: North High School Redskins

The Wichita (pronounced Wi-CHEE-ta) Indians camped along the Arkansas River years ago. During the Civil War, camps of soldiers were located around 13th and Waco --
oops! Waco! There's ANOTHER INDIAN NAME! Hey, we better change that, also!

And the Arkansas River -- in history it is stated that the name honors the KANZA INDIAN TRIBE. Hey, there goes another change needed for old Wichita. Oops! We need to change that now as it is named for the WICHITA INDIAN TRIBE.

And we honor the Indians of ALL tribes with a beautiful memorial on the top of our State Building in Topeka. (So what do we put there in exchange? Maybe a 5G tower?)

Items worth knowing/remembering/honoring are why we assign special names.

By studying the actual history of Indian tribes, you will note that when they went into war, they died their skins red. This was a warrior color and it is why they were called Redskins by those that they warred against. It was a badge (color) of HONOR!

How many more places/things are located, locally, and throughout the State of Kansas (oops, there's that Indian name again) that HONOR -- HONOR -- HONOR our NATIVE AMERICANS?

When you take away the history of an area, you demean not only the area but the people. And that is why we have had too many statues, symbols, monuments, graves, etc .destroyed and ravaged within the last few years -- even in our own area of Wichita, Wi-CHEE-ta.

North High Redskins is OUR badge of honor. Let us honor our local people with pride.

Francene Davis Sharp
1820 Arkansas
Wichita 67203

From: Jane Dooley
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 9:37 PM
Subject: Change North High Redskins to North High Stars

Dear Wichita School Board Members,

I am a proud member of the Wichita North Alumni Class of 1970! My father graduated from North in 1947. My mother graduated from North in 1948. My brother graduated from North in 1972. Many aunts, uncles, and cousins graduated from North High as well. My family has a long connection with Wichita North High School.

Fast forward to 2021. Now that we know better, it is time to do better.

It is time to retire the word ”Redskins” in names, cheers and logos at our amazing school. I would also suggest retiring the well-known “War Cry” too. The student body in the current classes can come up with a better cheer and dance for games and pep assemblies using the new name.

I would like to suggest the name “The Wichita North High Stars”. This phrase refers to the North Star in the sky. It can be tied to the name of the school newspaper, “The North Star”. It can also be tied to our state motto, “To the Stars Through Difficulty”.

No architecture, murals or art should be changed at all in, on or around the building.

Thank you for considering my suggestions. Now is the time to change this piece of history that is associated with our great school.

Sincerely,
Jane Dooley
4745 N. Baja St.
Wichita, Ks. 67204

From: Angela Quintana Oropeza
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 9:50 PM
Subject: Public comment for BOE meeting 2.8.2021

Good evening,

I am taking this time to email you regarding the North High mascot. It is beyond time to change the mascot to something that can inspire pride in our community rather than embarrassment and disgust.

Upon further research on the topic of the history of North, I discovered that the people that were supposed to be honored by the mascot name decision were forcibly removed from their land and moved to a reservation in Oklahoma. How is the name an honor? How is this a conversation that is still happening?

Please do the right thing. Please make the swift decision to remove the name and start the processing to determine North High's new mascot. We deserve to have a mascot that we can yell out at pep assemblies and wear on our clothing. The time is now to do the right thing, something that should have been done a long time ago.

Sincerely,
Angela Quintana Oropeza
942 N. Murray
Wichita, KS 67212

From: Joe Stevens
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 10:03 PM
Subject: North Hi Redskins

I was a graduate of North High in 1954. I was always proud to call myself a Redskin and NEVER looked upon it as racist!! I was fortunate to play three year on the varsity basketball team and in my senior year, we won the Kansas State Basketball championship! Our entire team never showed nor had any problem by the name Redskins. In fact, in my junior year we had a true natural Indian who was on the team as well and there was NO negativity about him being a team mate!

To us and my school mates there was never any derogatory towards him on the Indian race!
I am sure that I can speak for my team mates and students at that time at North…..that we considered ourselves as a part of the Indian nation!

It would be a shame to see the education board make the change in to exclude the long standing name of Redskins from being used! Again, at that point in time, and I do also think that even at present time, most all of us back then and today are still proud of being called a Redskin! Please do not “cave in” to those who would want to change our proud heritage!

Joe Stevens
5 Norfolk Dr
Eastborough, Ks 67208

From: Amy Becker
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 10:04 PM
Subject: Rich Tradition

To School Board Members,

I am a proud 1991 graduate of North High School. Our school has been richly steeped in tradition since its beginning. As students, we have been so proud of being Redskins and honoring American Indians. I learned so much about the Native American culture while I was at North High. The architecture honors their culture as well. This is our history! Please honor our mascot tradition as we continue to honor this heritage.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Amy Knight Becker
1300 Concord Ave,
Southlake, TX 76092

From: Kerry Sims
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 10:14 PM
Subject: Wichita North High Redskins

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been made aware that you as a board are considering changing the name of the Wichita North High Redskins to something else. I would beg you NOT to go through with that decision. I am a 1975 graduate of North High and have always taken pride on being a Redskin. I currently live in Dallas, TX but have also lived in many places around the world for my career. I have always shared stories and pictures of North High and talked about the Redskin student body I graduated with. I am also on various social media sites where we have groups and boards called The Wichita North High Redskins class of 1975. Please do not take these irreplaceable memories away from us, as we NEVER felt our name was meant offensively, but instead a source of pride as we were considered strong, courageous, and would fight and succeed no matter what just like the admired and feared Redskin!

Kerry Sims
3606 Vineyard Way
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

From: Bonnie Roark
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 10:40 PM
Subject: North High mascot

We are North High graduates, 1963 and 1969. We support changing the North High mascot. We can still honor our school's traditions and at the same time respect the culture and traditions of the people represented by our school's art and architecture. I think it is not up to us to decide whether someone should or should not be offended by a word that we now know can be hurtful to some.

Bonnie Roark
Nick Roark
9610 SW Diamond Rd
Augusta, KS 67010

From: Laura Berlin Fisher
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 10:50 PM
Subject: North High School mascot

Hello...

I am a graduate of North High, Class of 1963, and I am concerned about the possibility that our school will be forced to change its mascot. When I was a young girl I could hardly wait to become a Redskin at North, as several of my older siblings had attended school there. Two of my brothers were varsity basketball players there, and one was also a varsity football player at North. I myself lettered in sports, an honor not bestowed on very many female students back then. I loved being in Pep Club and proudly wearing the club uniform with a beautiful Indian Chief on the front of the top part of the uniform. Never once have I actually heard from a Native American that they have an issue with North High's mascot, and yes, I have known several Native Americans in my lifetime. Please don't join in with the current cancel culture movement to do away with something that is part of my identity and also that of many others. I am proud to be, and will always be, a Redskin.

Laura Berlin Fisher
4750 N. Cobblestone
Wichita, Ks 67204

From: Sidney Rowe
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 11:15 PM
Subject: Redskins mascot

I am requesting that the school board will limit time to discussion of the topic without making any decisions Monday night. I am opposed to changing the name or culture of Wichita North High School's mascot. Four generations of our family, including a member of the Sac and Fox nation, have been proud to be a North High Redskin. I am asking that a committee of North High alumni be selected to continue this discussion and make recommendations to the board. To have only outside input is a disservice to those who hold our school in high esteem. I'm concerned about what would come next, getting rid of Black Bear Bosin's art that he personally donated to the school, and the other artifacts, then would the outside beauty of the building be erased, the Kiva gathering place renamed? Thank you for listening to us former students.

Sidney Rowe
2868 W. Columbine Ln
Wichita KS 67204-5321

From: John Barkett
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 11:21 PM
Subject: North High Mascot Change

Dear Wichita School Board:

I am a third generation graduate (1973) of North High which includes my mother's siblings and cousins as well as a great Uncle in the first class. My extended family has had a long involvement with North High and the Wichita Community contributing major businesses and many professionals which have significantly built up the Wichita Economy.

I am writing that it is now time to change the symbol of North High from that of Redskins to a symbol and mascot that gives dignity to the Native American Heritage of my school. The name Redskin has a history of derision and prejudice to Native Americans in spite of school traditions that sought to give honor tp the Native Americans of our community and state. Those who do not understand the back story of this term are either ignorant of its history or are afraid of changes.
Changing from Redskins will not end any of North's traditions regarding its connections with Native Americans. In fact a more dignified and non-racist image will only enhance its relationships with the Native American communities in our area and beyond.

If done correctly and properly there should be no need to consider taking out any of the Native American Murals and stone work at North. Positive changes could include but are not limited to the Braves or the Bisons (after Butch).

My recommendation is that it is now time to leave the use of Redskins behind, move forward and select a more culturally appropriate, and dignified image for North High.

Sincerely,

The Reverend John Barkett
6223 Perryton St.
Bel Aire, Kansas 67220

From: Lana Johnson
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 11:31 PM
Subject: Yes, change the name

To: Honored Members of The School Board,

Yes, I know we need to voice an opinion, if we have one, before Monday. I used to proudly think, once a Redskin, always a Redskin. I will probably always think that, but I really didn't stop to think how it might be affecting our Native American population. I'm proud I'm a little piece Cherokee. I've always wished I was more.

I think if we had a new name, and kept the beautiful artwork interior, and masonry work on our bridge and buildings, and incorporate the two, now is absolutely the time to do it.

I was thinking about this in the night a few nights ago. Redskins. North High Redskins. Somehow it didn't sound that bad, until I thought, what if they named the school mascot something that affected me personally, derogatory, shameful. I would not be the same proud student, I'd feel ashamed, or embarrassed, or bullied. Perhaps I'd feel angry, or inflamed. A mascot should make ALL students proud. I'm trying to think of new names while keeping the beautiful art, if it isn't hurting an entire race of people. Native Americans Never were Indians. Our Native Americans have been treated so badly, in their native land, I don't believe we have the right to continue to use an offensive name, even if we had no ill intentions, but just ignorance.

Now, I'm thinking about new names. Maybe: Native Pride. The Native Pride
Wichita High School North, Native Pride

With my best respects,
Lana Henry Johnson, class of '66
2926 N Halstead
Wichita KS 67204

From: JL Selby
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 11:37 PM
Subject: Hate Speech/Imagery

Is it acceptable to refer to America's Indigenous people as (forgive my offensive racist language) redskins?

Answer the question!

JL Selby
2405 Redbud Ln
Wichita, KS 67204-5350

From: Rebecca Minard
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 11:43 PM
Subject: Wichita North High Redskins

I am a 1970 graduate of North High. I am a North High Redskin. I am writing you to ask you and the school board to leave things as they are now and have been for so many years. This “cancel culture” is ridiculous. I have talked to many Native Americans about the name Redskins being a problem and they think it needs to be left alone. How much time has been, and will be, spent changing everything thing some people find offensive? It speaks to where our Society is going which is not a great place. It’s time for common sense to come back. I think we will never ever satisfy everyone but if you look at the history of North High you will see that for many years the name Redskins was not a problem. There is no reason for it to be now.

Thank you so much for reading this. I truly hope it helps.

Rebecca Minard
Class of 1970
2490 SE 70th St
Leon, KS. 67074

From: Teddi McCullough
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 12:21 AM
Subject: North High Mascot

I am a Wichita North high school graduate from the class of 1974, my three children graduated from North high as did all my siblings and my father.

My two sons are Native American and have voiced their opposition to the North High mascot for years. I too believe it is past time to change the mascot.

The term Redskins is offensive and hurtful and derogatory to Native people and it's wrong to continue to use it. It does not have to be offensive to everyone to be offensive to someone.

Sometimes traditions have to change when we know better we must do better.

I am urging you to vote to change the name of the North High mascot.

Thank you,
Teddi McCullough
833 Litchfield
Wichita, Ks 67203

From: Lori Swaggart Keating
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 1:46 AM
Subject: North High Redskins

My name is Lori Swaggart Keating. I graduated a very proud Redskin in 1984.

Has anyone on this board actually researched the beginnings of this? How native Americans have been respected through North high over the years? The beautiful works of art around the school? The Minisa bridge? What that word means? It's a disservice to delete what makes our school so very special. Research this please.

A very proud Redskin

Lori Swaggart Keating
4316 W 9th Street
Wichita 67212

From: William A McHugh
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 1:53 AM
Subject: North High Mascot

While I am moved to comment on the issue of the North High mascot, I would like to emphasize the opinions of current students, particularly those of native American descent, should take priority over that of alumni such as me.

In thinking about this issue, I cannot help but observe that more than a half century before the building of North High, all native Americans were removed from the state of Kansas, except for those in a few reservations in the northeast part of the state. Whether the intent of naming the North High team the Redskins was to honor the native American heritage, or to capitalize on the supposed warlike nature of those people, I cannot say. However, nothing will atone for the wrong done, and I think that the issue needs to be framed within the knowledge of these wrongs.

While the references to the native Americans are baked into the building and the school's DNA, I do think that the time has come to at least retire the name Redskins. I know that this will be difficult to many students and alumni, but the term has historically pejorative connotations, and (I believe) is not as respectful as many would like to believe.

I appreciate that this is going to be a difficult decision for the Board, and I appreciate their consideration and thoughtfulness.

William A. McHugh
Class of 1966
1540 W. Albion, Apt. 1E
Chicago, IL 60626

From: Angela Martinez
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 1:58 AM
Subject: North High mascot

My thoughts are that this is an opportunity to honor the history of Native American heritage, not erase a culture of pride that a community of Wichita students over the last almost 100 years have come to know as a part of who we are. The school is home to many Latino students whose ancestry includes that of Native American heritage, including my own family. I felt a special connection being able to attend a school that I felt was a part of me

I do understand that we have reached a time in history of America where sometimes some things need to be changed that are offensive to a race or culture because of the true history but THIS is an opportunity to demand change in curriculum that needs to begin educating all Americans about the true history of America.

Until we bring to the forefront the atrocities imposed on many people of color as well as celebrate the contributions, success and progress of these same people of color, changing a logo, name, mascot will mean nothing...that's just erasing time in history UNLESS it's a monument of a person who caused great harm to people like some monuments in the South. Let the Native Americans decide on this issue

Thank you

Angela Martinez
PO Box 2454
Wichita, KS 67204

From: John D Sherwood
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 5:54 AM
Subject: Letter

To: USD 259 School Board
903 S. Edgemoor
Wichita, KS 67218

And

Suzanne Perez
Wichita Eagle
330 N Mead
Wichita, KS 67202

Dear Ms. Perez & Members of the Board:

I'm a 1957 graduate of North High school and would like to respond to the letter of Suzanne Perez published in the paper on January 29, 2021.

The selection of a mascot for any team is done to invoke fear, honor and respect in ones opponents thus Lions, Tigers and Bears NOT the skunks, rats or worms. They are selected because they are brave and courageous. They are selected because they are great warriors, fighters and respected thus Vikings, Titans and Patriots NOT the good for nothings, drunks or ne'er do wells.

The Redskins were selected for these same reasons and has been the mascot of North High for almost 100 years and has been respected, honored and feared by all their opponents. This has been a proud tradition throughout its history.

Redskins is NOT a "derogatory, insulting, offensive or racist" term and is not "repugnant" to anyone, except Ms. Perez.

Therefore I would encourage you Not to even consider the issue of changing the North High mascot from the Redskins. "Once a Redskin, always a Redskin."

Yours truly,

John D. Sherwood
9630 E. Clubhouse Ct.
Wichita KS 67226

From: Ashley Pray
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 6:58 AM
Subject: North high mascot

To whom this may concern,

I am a 2002 graduate from North High and pride myself as a Redskin alumni. I was a cheerleader for 3 years and played soccer for 4 years as well. I still feel that North High gives great homage to the Native American culture. And to wipe it away would be a disgrace. I hate the cancel culture that we live in today. Instead of getting rid of our heritage why can we not give it the honor it deserves. Teach our children the true history of our great nation and the role the Native Americans played. I believe a mascot should be revered and who better than a Redskin.

Please keep the Redskin name!!

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Ashley Pray (Miller)
3700 Roselawn Dr
Denton, TX 76205

From: Marcus Loganbill
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 7:09 AM
Subject: North High School mascot; BOE Meeting Monday 2-8-2021

I taught for 25 years at Wichita West High School. I remember the debate over the North High mascot back in 1998, when Ralph Teran was principal. I remember visiting with some of my Native students who were in favor of retiring the mascot. This is certainly not a new issue – here we are 23 years later. Now, because it has become a "national issue" and others are making changes, we are finally once again considering changing a racist mascot. I wish we could say that we here in Wichita had led the way in making this change. As was the case over 20 years ago, there will be those who argue on the side of "tradition". What about tradition? We have a devotion to our school and its history. We've always been the R------s. Agreed – that is tough to deal with. It involves abandoning a significant symbol tied to one's devotion, one's loyalty, one's pride, and even one's honor. How can a community possibly neglect and consider abandoning years and years of tradition -- of being R------s? An honored tradition at North High School might be lost. Believe me, Indigenous Peoples around the world know what that's like. Having one's time-honored loyalties, pride, and honor removed is something with which they are all too familiar. A dominant white society has taken almost everything away from First Nations Peoples – their homes, their lives, their lands, their language, and their culture. Children were taken from their families, and were forbidden to speak their own language. Native American's spirituality was ignored; they were reduced to "savages". The mantra was to "kill the I----n but save the man". Manifest Destiny crushed the very essence of what it meant to be Kaw, Osage, or Wichita. Although ignored by authors of our history books, these injustices toward Indigenous Peoples are acknowledged by most people today. We have robbed hundreds of tribes of their dignity. And so we're saddened about losing our "tradition"? Let's face reality -- We have created our tradition at the expense of another's.

A second argument for keeping a racist mascot has always been the idea of honoring the Native American. We say, "we have no <u>intention</u> of degrading or demeaning Native Americans by choosing R------s as a mascot. As we put on our sweatshirts, voice our cheers, and display Go R------s throughout our school, I am certain we are not thinking in that moment of the Kaw tribe. We are not thinking of, much less honoring – the Cherokee, the Chickasaw, the Kiowa. <u>And that - I maintain - is the problem.</u> If we were thinking of living breathing people of Native American descent, we might reconsider our words and actions. Our 70+ years of use, has created a "brand", a "label" an "identity". It becomes engrained into our culture and has created a tradition which we value and to which we pledge our loyalty and in which we take pride. We are the R------s.! Once a R-----n, always a R-----n! As time passes, we "don't think about real people behind the symbol; it's just our mascot – like Eagles, Grizzlies or Wildcats. We aren't really honoring a people; and we don't really <u>intend</u> to degrade a people, yet we are indifferent as to how Native American Peoples may be affected by our use of R------s as our mascot. Through the years of use, the R-----n mascot is relegated to some past notion (I would call it a stereotype) of what R------s were. That image is not accurate regarding Indigenous People of the past and it is most certainly not accurate as to the reality of Indigenous People today. This has occurred, not by design or intention, but by lack of awareness and concern. Past wrongs slip from our memories. We become indifferent to historical reality and to the integrity and dignity of a people living in two worlds. In creating our caricatures, we are not intentionally pejorative, but neither are we being thoughtful.

How do we return the long overdue dignity and respect to Indigenous tribes of the Americas? As I discuss my concerns with those willing to listen, the question which arises is, "what can be done?" "We can't possibly return 'everything' back to the tribes. It's hopeless." On the contrary there is much we can do, and we are morally obligated to do it. We can return the respect for and the dignity of the Navajo, the Arapahoe, the Cheyenne, the Sioux….. In my opinion we can begin by eliminating all Native American mascots from all our schools. I urge the Board of Education to begin a concerted effort to return the power, the honor, the glory, and the dignity to our First Nations People. One small step will be eliminating the overtly racist R-----n mascot from North High School.

Sincerely,
Marcus Loganbill
11602 West Kenny
Wichita, KS 67212

From: Michelle Simmons Gilchrist
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 7:19 AM
Subject: North High Redskins

Dear Board of Education Members:

I am proud to call myself a Wichita North High Redskin. Three generations of my family have graduated as North High Redskins, my parents, myself and siblings, and all four of my children. (Class of 1950, 1952, 1978, 1981, 1984, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2010), as well as many other aunts, uncles and cousins. When my children were young and I was looking to purchase a house, my only non-negotiable requirement for the realtor was that it had to be in the North High school district.

North High Redskins is not a mean or derogatory name, it is a name of pride! North High Redskins is and always has been a very diverse school, whether Caucasian, African American, Native American, Asian or Hispanic, built on a culture of inclusiveness of all, regardless of race, religion, gender or anything else that divides us today. North High Redskins is built on a culture of understanding and respect, understanding our differences and respect for each of our fellow students as individuals, as well as being a part of something much bigger. The Wichita North High Redskin culture is one of inclusiveness, pride, history, spirit and very rich in tradition. You will not find another high school across our great Nation whose student body, past, present and future that has the sense of pride that a North High Redskin has, unless of course you vote to remove that opportunity from our future Redskin graduates. In a world today where many of our teenagers find it difficult to find something to be a part of, something that they can carry a torch of pride about, please don't take the Redskin pride away from them. Being a North High Redskin builds characters to be proud of, inclusiveness, understanding, respect and compassion for our fellow beings, something North High graduates carry with them into our world today!

There will always be those who want to stir up trouble and claim something is offensive, but where does it stop! It is being said that people should not be mascots, what will be next South High Titans, West High Pioneers, the list can go on and on! You can find offense in any name if that is what you are looking for, you can also find pride in that same name, it all depends on your perspective. What about taking a different approach and look at the positive side, rather than the negative side, I challenge you as "leaders" in our education system, why not display the positive culture the North High Redskin name carries with it, rather than the negative that a few are trying to portray!

Unless you have walked the halls of North High, attended a North High Redskin pep rally, or shed tears of joy while watching the war cry dance, you will never understand the words "Once a Redskin, Always a Redskin!"

Michelle Simmons Gilchrist
1212 North St. Paul St.
Wichita, Kansas 67203

"Once a Redskins, Always a Redskin!", Class of 1978

From: Martz, Steve
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 7:25 AM
Subject: North High School Redskins

Please retain the moniker “Redskins” for Wichita High School North. While I have no Native American lineage, the name Redskin has always caused me to recall with respect and admiration of the Native American basis for the décor and traditions (head dress, drum beats, Sports Fight Songs, etc.). Additionally, as a 1970 graduate of North High, I personally now identify and feel I am synonymous with the term “Redskin” and take pride in it. Remove the name and you harm me and my heritage.

Should the decision for removal proceed, despite the feelings of generations of North High Redskins, I would ask that you carry it out to its fullest extent. Remove all likenesses of Native Americans from North High School buildings and the surrounding bridges, structures. It would seem to me that such likenesses, with their scowling, fierce expressions are equally offensive. Do so now, lest you face debate of such an issue ten years from now.

Steve Martz
9922 W. Westlakes Ct.
Wichita, KS 67205

From: Sharla Brummett
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 7:31 AM
Subject: North High Mascot

Dear Board members,

Last year you told those of us who wanted a say in this that it was tabled until the public could be a part of the meetings again. What has changed that you don't give any warning of this meeting or keep your word?

This last year has been one of loss, I am asking you to table this until a time when students, alumni, and Wichita can have a fair say in the decision. My daughter is a Junior at North and unbelievably proud to be a part of that heritage. She and others I have seen posts from don't want to change their Mascot. To a lot of us, it is a source of pride and history.

I fear the cancel culture that is working to erase our countries history is trying to erase all of our histories. Without these school mascots and monuments to great people, how are we to teach our children about them? We have to honor our ancestors and keep teaching our history, the good with the bad.
I also feel that if you do this, you should also get rid of the Pioneers, they are the ones who drove the Native people out of their homes and lands. Just a thought to consider.

I also want to know who is going to pay for all the changes that have to be made with this possible decision, like the uniforms and all the Redskin things around the school. And, don't get me started on the most beautiful building in Wichita.

I hope you include my letter and actually consider that this is a community issue not just a school board one. The feelings of everyone need to be taken into account, not just the ones that want to take this source of community and pride away.

Thank you,
Sharla Brummett
6311 Beachy
Wichita, KS 67208

From: Giizhig Rutledge
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 8:01 AM
Subject: Change North High School's Mascot

Hello, my name is Giizhig Rutledge and I was born and raised here in Wichita. I am a twenty three year old Ojibwe, Meskwaki, and Dakota man. Growing up, my parents taught me to be proud of who I was but I always had issues with my identity due to negative stereotypes and wrongful portrayals of my people in society. This problem isn't just something only I have experienced though. There are so many studies that show how these wrongful portrayals harm Native youth all over America. These mascots also harm non-Native children too, by instilling ideas of Native inferiority and racism. An educational institution should not uphold any sort of discrimination or racism. Indigenous Americans have never been given a say (until recently) about how they are portrayed to the masses. Please be on the right side of history and change the name to something NOT racially targeting.
Miigwech.

Giizhig Rutledge
348 N. Custer
Wichita Ks

From: Stephanie Skillman
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 8:01 AM
Subject: Redskin mascot needs to change

Members of Wichita USD School Board:

Now that the honesty of our Native American history is known, it is with due respect time to change this insulting vulgar verbiage and mascot image.

I am a 1971 graduate of North High School and even then did not appreciate the fake face paint, unauthentic costumes and arena game war hooping. I'd been to enough pow wows and around the Indian culture to know that this was clownish ignorance.

The colonels changed their mascots back in the 60-70s(?), we can too. I'd personally like something suitable to change and still utilize the beautiful native building/bridge design motif and even the Indians that lived in the area. It seems Adidas even offered years back a discount to help with changes.

Redskins presents piles of bloody bounty scalps and carcasses, a tragic horror.

Thank you for starting to review these cultural changes.

Stephanie Skillman
916 N. Woodrow Ave.
Wichita, KS 67203

From: Ken Ryman
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 8:01 AM
Subject: North High team name.

I believe it is time to apologize and rename our school team. It is insensitive to continue to use the name. It doesn't honor the Native people. Especially since the urban legend is that the site you now sit, 1868-1870 was an army cavalry Camp Beecher. To make sure "the Savage indians" didn't harm the "townspeople of Wichita". But the official plaque is at 12th & Jackson So I urge you to please consider a new name quickly.

Kenneth Ryman
400 W Central Ave, Apt# 3123
Wichita, KS 67203
North High Graduate 1991

Note: The guidelines for E-mail Public Comment in the BOE Agenda require all messages to include the following contact information: First and last name, street address, city, zip code, and daytime phone number. Phone numbers are not displayed in this file. Voicemail messages, messages from unidentified cellular devices or unidentified e-mail accounts, and/or e-mails that did not provide above required contact information are excluded from E-mail Public Comment.