



ORISKANY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



NEW MASCOT PROPOSAL
October 2023

Indigenous Mascot Timeline Summary

September 2010

Adoption of New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)

November 2022

NYSED Memo Release prohibiting schools from utilizing Native American mascots by the end of 2022-23 academic year

June 30, 2023

Boards of Education must commit, via resolution, to eliminate the use of Indigenous names, logos and mascots.

April 2001

Commissioner Mills calling upon communities to stop using Indigenous symbols, names or mascots

June 2022

Supreme Court affirmed the Commissioner's determination in McMillian et. al

April 2023

Final adoption of Commissioner's Regulation adding Part 123

June 30, 2025

Prohibited team names, mascots, or logos shall be eliminated.

Respecting the Past

Oriskany “Redskins” History

- “Redskins” nickname adopted late 1950’s.
- Meant to honor the Oneida Nation for their support with earlier colonial settlers in the Battle of Oriskany in 1777.
- Overall the Oriskany community understands the intent and respect of the moniker and how it is rooted in it’s proud heritage.



Need for Change



- State mandated DASA and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policies must be followed to avoid litigation.
- NYSED Board of Regents adopted Commissioner's Regulation 123 that all schools must commit, via resolution, to eliminate use of all Indigenous names, logos and mascots by the end of the 2022-23 school year.
- Oriskany BOE adopted the resolution in June 2023.
- Resolution shall identify a plan to eliminate all use of the prohibited name, logo, or mascot within a reasonable time, no later than 2024-25.
- Failure to comply with regulation may include removal of school officers, or withholding of State Aid.



- Hold forums to inform the community and educate them on why we need to “**Retire**” the mascot.
- Identify the impact of the logo/mascot throughout the district that will need to be addressed to become compliant with the regulation.
- Cost analysis and financial impact to replace logos, mascots throughout district facilities and team names on athletic uniforms. (\$32,000-\$40,000 ↑)
- Develop a transparent plan that includes students, staff, alumni, parents and district administration to change the mascot and/or logo for Oriskany CSD.

Recommendations



New Mascot Plan

- Transparency with all Stakeholders (Process, Timeline, Fiscal Responsibility, FAQ's)
- Develop a Mascot Committee (students, staff, community members, parents, alumni and district administrators)
- Develop a clear communication plan using multiple platforms to engage/update the community.
- Promote the Positives and Celebrate the Successes along the way.

Role of the Mascot Committee

- Define our goals and objective
- Provide direction for our plan
- Help develop our timeline for our plan and stay on track
- Help “filter” community ideas for the mascot name
- Inform and Educate various stakeholders on our process
- Make Recommendations to the Board of Education and Superintendent

Communication Plan

**Community
Forums**

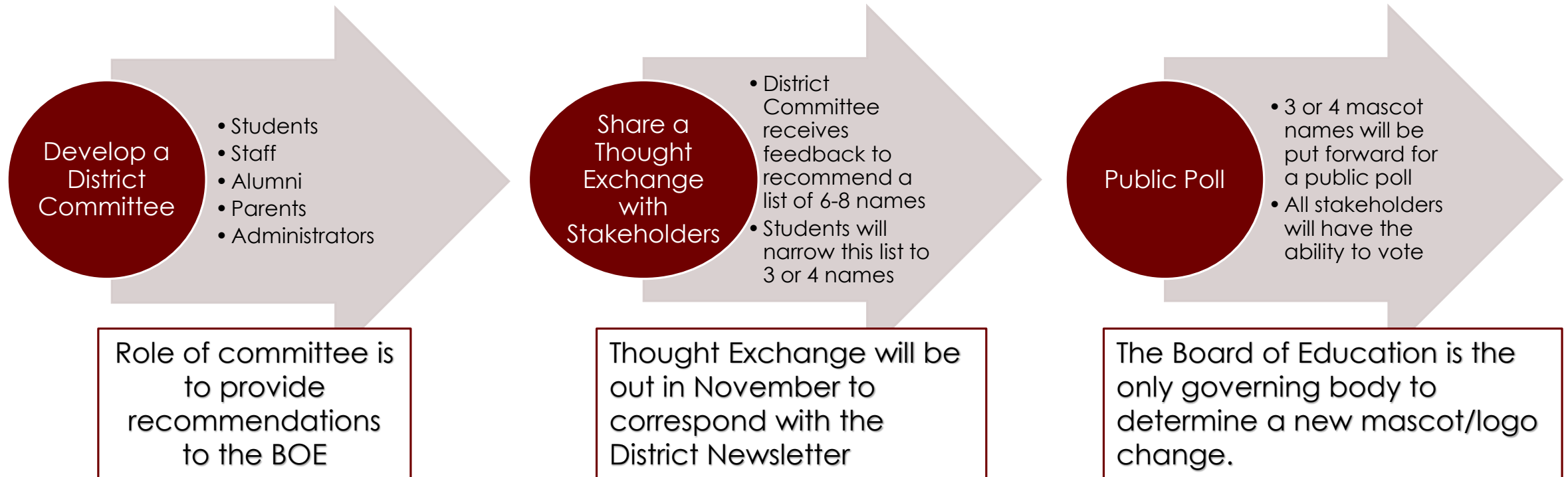
**Develop web
page on district
website for
FAQ's and
Updates**

**Thought
Exchange /
Parent Square
Survey**

**Various social
and news
media**

**Board of
Education
Meetings**

Possible New Mascot and Logo Process





Make it a Big Deal!

Promote the New Mascot
with the Community

- “Retire” the original Mascot
- Kick-off Event
- Logo Contest
- Embed the Mascot in Traditional Events
- Start a new tradition
- Make it Stick!
- Above all, remind them.....



We are Oriskany!