

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Dr. Jenkins.

A roll call followed with the following members being present: Shannon Jenkins, Kathleen Amaral, Chris Oliver, John Nunes and Mary Waite

Also present was Dr. Gifford (superintendent) as recorder

Dr. Jenkins described the format for the evening. She stated opening statements would be made by speakers in favor and speakers opposed to the Indian logo. These people would be allowed 10 to 15 minutes. Speakers in favor of the Indian logo were Chris Pereira and Jacob Ventura. Speaker opposed to the Indian logo was Dr. Lesalle Hall.

Dr. Jenkins directed anyone wishing to speak to state their name and town of residence. She said each person would be given approximately 2 minutes. She noted the meeting would end at 8:30.

Mr. Pereira, Mr. Carney and Mr. Ventura spoke in favor the Indian logo noting the symbol was created out of respect by a member of the Aquinnah tribe: Clyde Andrews. They also noted the tribe has Federal recognition. Mr. Ventura stated no single tribal government has said it is opposed to the Indian logo. Aquinnah tribe members who are residents of Dartmouth unanimously approve of the logo. All speakers stated the focus on the Indian logo has taken away from other work that the school department has to focus on such as mental health and test scores.

Mr. Ventura suggested this is a tremendous opportunity and offered a compromise:

1. Establish a formal partnership with the tribe
2. Review consequences relative to inappropriate behavior such as Tomahawk chops
3. Review opportunity to review curriculum: i.e. projects, plaques
4. Maintain the Dartmouth Indian: as Edith Andrews stated "it's an icon"

Dr. Hall from UMASS Dartmouth and President of the NAACP: spoke in opposition to the Indian logo. He noted the mission of the NAACP is to erase hatred, racism and bigotry and to advocate for justice. He stated the community has heard the pain of indigenous people. He suggested the implementation of a K-12 curriculum and called for the select board to create a taskforce focused on preventing the erasure of Indigenous People.

Dr. Hall stated the goal is not the erase the Dartmouth Indian. The goal is to educate and consider the views of all tribes in determination of the symbol. He stated this is a moral issue and should not be settled by a vote but by education.

The meeting continued with numerous community members commenting both for and against keeping the Indian logo. Sample comments included:

- The logo is not a mascot. It is a symbol.
- It was developed with pride.
- The logo is of a warrior. What would a young child think of it? Is that all the Native Americans are known for?
- Other schools speak of how they are offended when we play sports.
- There is no study that says a logo is harmful. Don't remove history.
- Americans are recognizing how racism exists in subtle ways.
- Eliminating the Indian logo does not eliminate the culture or history
- Suggest enhancing education. Maybe putting plaques around town.
- The Logo is a sense of pride and sign of strength. We need to enhance the curriculum.
- Consider formal guidelines relative to athletic uniforms & the use of the logo. Celebrate NA history.
- Consider the use of an external mediator to resolve the issue.
- Shift focus to important issues such as mental health. This is about the Woke culture.
- Noted the school committee did not run on eliminating the logo. Members need to abide by the April 5th vote.
- For 50 years NA have been asking us to stop using logos and mascots. Consider a display case.
- Wore the logo on my uniform with pride.
- There is room for common ground.

Public comment ended at 8:22

Motion to adjourn by John Nunes

2nd by Mary Waite

Unanimous vote to adjourn.