



Superintendent's Update

SPECIAL NOTICE

Wells-Ogunquit
Community School District

May 1, 2018

James P. Daly
Superintendent of Schools

Wells High School

MASCOT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Purpose of the MAC

The purpose of establishing the Mascot Advisory Committee (MAC) was to review the importance and influence that a school mascot has in building and maintaining school spirit, identity, and unity.

Process

The process began with Superintendent Daly asking for volunteers. The MAC is comprised of community members, students, coaches, and administration. The first meeting took place on December 13, 2017. The committee was tasked with gathering information and becoming educated around the use of Native American imagery as a school mascot in order to make a recommendation to the School Committee. At each meeting, printed resources and reference material was provided. Other committee meetings included a presentation from an indigenous peoples panel and a discussion with Mr. Harry Tomah, long-time WOCS D teacher and coach. A sub-committee for the community forum was formed, which consisted of six (6) members. That sub-committee met twice and presented their recommendations to the full committee at the April 11th meeting.

Focus

Throughout the process the MAC has heard powerful words and stories. People have shared their differing opinions, points of view, and historical interpretations. Separating the emotion of the racial accusations made by a Lisbon parent last October from the issue of mascot imagery was something the Committee worked hard at and has been able to accomplish by taking part in the process described above. The MAC made a decision that their work would focus on the use of the Native American imagery and the Warrior nickname was not an issue.

PUBLIC FORUM

Tuesday, May 8, 2018
7:00 pm – WHS Auditorium

Purpose of the Public Forum

This community forum is not a voting opportunity, but rather a chance for the Committee to continue to gather information in order to help make an informed and thoughtful recommendation to the School Committee.

Format

The Indigenous Peoples panel and a few members from the Mascot Advisory Committee will begin the forum.

Who is eligible to speak?

- Residents of Wells and Ogunquit
- Wells High School alumni
- Invited Indigenous Peoples representatives

In addition to any local or regional press in attendance, a film crew led by **Megan Grumbling** ('95) and **David Camlin** ('96) will be recording the public forum in its entirety.

Megan and David are producing a documentary about the history of the Warriors' name and current discussion around the use of Native American imagery.

Any meeting attendees interested in sharing their thoughts about the mascot on camera are encouraged to approach the filmmakers before or after the public forum.