

AHS Mascot Committee Meeting Minutes #6

Monday, October 4, 2021

AHS Cafeteria 7:00 PM

Attendees:

Miesha Acevedo, Libby Arsenault, Peter Campbell, Kristen Comeau, Kerri Dalton, Paul DiLorenzo, Glen Gearin, Paige Hanson, Hannah Schalck, Tom Waldron, Sam Wilmot

Members not present: Robert Capelli, Callista Chabot, Chris DiNuzzio, Steve Gross, Alexandra Labrecque, Marc Ouellet, Aidan Whittier

One member of the public present

Administrative Items:

- Minutes of all prior mascot committee meetings were reviewed and approved unanimously
- Glen read a letter from Phillip Shutel (AHS class of '71) in favor of keeping the current mascot and asking if we have reached out to local tribes in MA for their opinion. He believes we should hold on to our connection to the past. Letter will be added to the committee's shared folder.

Discussions and Task Items:

- **Survey**
 - Survey was posted on city website, social media, newspaper, and emailed to HS accounts; it was not announced citywide via the Mayor's notification system as discussed
 - Approximately 2,060 responses were received, including the accidental early responders, resulting in about 1,085 votes to keep the current mascot, 869 to change it, 67 undecided, and 39 who had no preference
 - Less than half of HS students took the survey; Paige expressed disappointment that not all teachers offered/encouraged students to participate
 - The majority of students that responded would like to see Native American studies included as part of the required curriculum in our schools; not just as an elective class
 - Tom offered to create a final report of the results, sorted demographically; Libby offered to code the open responses, looking for a theme; they will email their reports out to the committee in the next week
- **Recommendation**
 - Committee officially voted: 9 members in favor of changing mascot, 2 in favor of keeping it
 - Kerri will draft the final report with recommendation (to be presented to Elizabeth McAndrews) and email it to the committee for review and input
 - Kristen will organize the committee's shared folder to send with the final report (a hyperlink will be included); report and folder/drive should be made available to the public
 - Miesha made a motion to include a recommendation in our final report: Native American studies and current issues should be a part of the required HS curriculum, not just an elective; and taught in the lower grades if possible; committee voted unanimously in favor