

North Hills Mascot Town Hall Survey Responses & Comments

May 16 - July 1, 2022

Overview

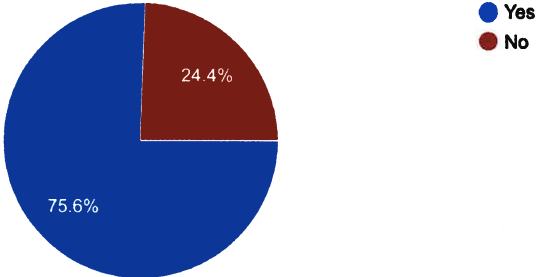
1,184 Total Responses

645 Comments

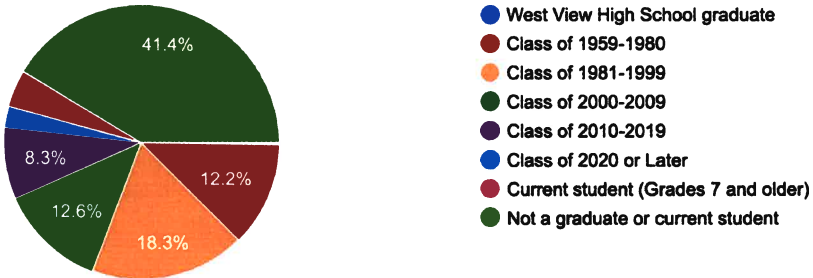
- *388 in favor of keeping the mascot*
- *244 in favor of changing the mascot*
- *13 unsure*

Charts

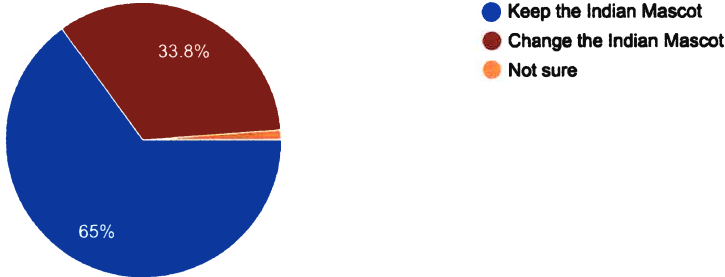
I am a North Hills School District resident, taxpayer or employee.
1,184 responses



I am a North Hills School District alumni or student.
1,184 responses



I believe the North Hills School District should:
1,184 responses




Comments

KEEP THE INDIAN

Residents/Employees (Signed up to speak)

1	As the cost of Education continues to rise it's another tax to pay for changing the Mascot which offends no one
2	Child and grandchild graduated from North Hills
3	I am a Native American. I'm not offended and believe that all Native American representation is disappearing and it needs to stop!
4	I believe money schools get from tax payers is best spent on education not changing mascots.
5	I believe that there is a path to respect our Native American community and maintain our north hills tradition. This area has an extensive history of Native American culture positively impacting us all and deserves to be shared
6	I don't see any insult to the native Indians! We do not represent any hate or harm to them! Disney is making millions of \$\$\$ on Pocahontas! I don't see them removing her from Disney! We are proud to be North Hills Indians! The money you will need to change EVERYTHING is astronomical! ridiculous! I am 1 of many that want to keep the Indian as our mascot!
7	I feel it's a honor to the Native Americans to use the logo.
8	I graduated from West View H. S., class of 1958, then Bethany College, 1962, then taught at Perry High School, 50 years worked in management positions in dntrn. Pittsburgh for 50 years. There is ABSOLUTELY NO REASON why the Indian mascot should be changed!! The name "Indian" connotes bravery, strength, determination, a warrior - it certainly IS NOT a demeaning, derogatory term! Secondly, I have paid Ross Twp. taxes for over 55 years and STRONGLY object to having these tax dollars be COMPLETELY WASTED on such a frivolous matter.
9	I myself am Cherokee Native American and do not find it offensive. I find it a great honor. All 3 of my children attend NHSD and are proud of their mascot. Please do not waste time, effort or funds on switching and deleting my family's heritage.
10	I think this is ridiculous this mascot has been in existence for years and you are wanting to change this now!!!! I was always proud of this school district and the way they conduct their self but now you decide to go along with the political opinion and change things. You need to stand up for this matter and not let others make decisions for you. Don't go along with the crowds. I raised 3 boys that all attended NHHS and was proud to be known as the North Hills Indians. I would think that Indians would be proud that someone acknowledged them as the strong people they are and that is the reason they used the Indian as the mascot. Look back at the history of the school. DON'T GO ALONG WITH THE CROWD!!!!'

11	<p>If the Indians are not upset why change. Also I think rebranding isn't fair to the taxpayers. The cost to change ALL the signs, gym floors and uniforms is a huge overhead. I can barely survive day to day now and am tired of paying for others peoples feelings. While I realize this is more or less a done deal. I hope the change is done as needed. For example, the floors are redOne only when time and new uniforms are issued according to the time line already in place and not in one large lump sum.</p>
12	<p>It is important to keep the Mascot because it promotes the positive aspects of Indian Culture. It was selected to uplift and be a positive example. A rallying cry to exceed standards of excellence.</p> <p>Removing the mascot does not provide healing to those that feel offended. It teaches our students to ignore conflict rather than taking time to understand and find common ground. Removing positive examples of Indian culture only serves to minimize their community not give it equality or greater recognition.</p> <p>I have not found a single story where someone was discriminated against or mocked because the Indian is the mascot at North Hills. There is overwhelming support to keep it.</p> <p>I am a 1988 alumni of the North Hills Fighting Indian Marching Band of Pride, Tradition and Excellence. I also have lived in West View/Ross for 52 years except for about 9 months in 1993.</p> <p>My daughter a current student pleaded with me to vote to not get rid of the Indian Mascot. Keep the Mascot and put it back on the uniform I still proudly represent. We need to stand up to the woke politically correct parts of our culture because not doing so will make providing a comprehensive education to our kids very difficult.</p>
13	<p>It is ridiculous to change the mascot! First off all it is not offensive and second it would cost way too much money!</p>
14	<p>Keep the Indian</p>
15	<p>KEEP THE INDIAN!</p>
16	<p>Leave it alone!</p>
17	<p>Please do not turn what is good into something bad. The cover of the yearbook states it well. Thank you.</p>
18	<p>Ross Township Historical Society's Admin</p>
19	<p>The parents are sick of you and your woke bs. Anyone who supports this should resign.</p>
20	<p>There are much more important issues for the board to be addressing than a long standing school Mascot.</p>
21	<p>This is frivolous spending of our tax dollars and the exorbitant amount of money that it would take to accomplish your goal of destroying our pride and tradition , our identity as a school would be better suited for the education of our students. Stop the wasteful spending. Buy some school supplies so that the teachers don't have to buy their own supplies for their classroom.</p>

22	<p>This mascot is only offensive to white, virtue signaling liberals. The inspiration behind the mascot is respectful and reverent. The Disney situation that took place is nothing more than a transparent scapegoat for fulfilling the leftist fantasies of various school board members.</p> <p>This all is unfolding in the midst of rampant bullying/assaults that are occurring on what seems like a daily basis in our schools. Instances of widespread vandalism and property damage in our schools. And tenured teachers being fired for sending illicit photos to students.</p> <p>Taxpayers just faced local tax hikes, are dealing with runaway inflation and getting crushed at the gas station. You all now what to embark on a mammoth financial crusade all to satiate your own perverse egos. This campaign is inspired by deception, by vanity and by a political agenda and any board members pushing this with what's going on in the district and abroad should resign.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p></p> <p>Class of 2009</p>
23	Would like to express my option for keeping a long standing and proud Indian mascot
24	You shouldn't erase history just embrace it. We are the PROUD North Hills Indians
25	<p>YOUR Current Insignia(s); / Mission Statement / Logo(s) And ALL Letter Head / Web - Site Banner / Subsequent Material(s); ALL Have The Designation Of: PRIDE • TRADITION • EXCELLENCE. I, And Many Other(s): Alumni(us) / Resident(s) / Business Owner(s) - Operator(s) And Many, Would Like To BELIEVE That WE Can / Could HOLD THE ENTIRE Current North Hills School Board [And ALL The Board Member(s)] To The AforeMentioned Standard(s). It Has Become Very DisHeartening To Believe; That There Is ANY Regard / Discussion / Motion Or Movement; To REMOVE The PRIDE • TRADITION • EXCELLENCE, Of The North Hills High School INDIAN MASCOT. Where Is It, That WE As A Community, Must Bow Down And Coward To The Pressure(s); That OUTSIDE / LARGE ENTITY(IES); Can Take OUR POWER / CONTROL, And Expect OUR COMMUNITY To FALL TO THOSE ENTITY(IES).</p> <p>T. Y. JDU</p>

Residents/Employees

1	"Indians" is not a derogatory term by any means; also as many pointed out rebranding is a very expensive endeavor. I would rather that money and time be spent on other more important things for our kids.
2	Absolutely keep the Indian mascot. Nothing but respect for the Native Americans and this honors them and is not offensive.
3	absolutely ridiculous!!!!
4	All family graduated north hills, I went to shaler and always remember the Indians beating us. Married to a north hills graduate, recently just moved in the north hills with 2 kids. Keep

	<p>everything the same, with all the controversys today with team names, it doesn't make sense. All sports teams are named after a fierce animal or person. Being called Indians is not disrespectful. It's actually a compliment. You don't hear team names being called the Pittsburgh poodles. Team name has to be somewhat intimidating. What I ask if for people not be offended, and it's easy for me to say that cause I'm not at all Native American or anything, but current and past north hills graduates are proud to be an Indian. Don't take that away from them. Treat it has a compliment. Keep the Indian pride alive.</p>
5	<p>As a parent and 20 year resident of North Hills. I would hope that the Indians name is kept my Father in Law and Son have gone to the school. Disney World has no say on our mascot and frankly they have also gone too far in pushing gender identity politics to elementary kids. The Indians name celebrates courage and bravery. I am sure there are other American parks where our band can play if Disney continues to push back against common sense.</p>
6	<p>As an alumni of NHHS, I know that the Indian mascot was chosen to honor the local American Indian tribes and was not meant to be racist in any way. I do agree with the decision to remove the Indian head logo from band uniforms, or any other items that would keep NH students from participating in certain events in order to showcase their talent and hard work.</p> <p>Maybe a new logo could be designed and implemented to replace the Indian head. There are many talented artists within the district - maybe a contest could be held where people can submit their ideas for a new NH logo. But, in my opinion, the name "Indians" could still be retained to continue to honor our American Indian tribes.</p>
7	<p>As I previously submitted my mother, myself, my husband and our five children are all proud graduates of the North Hills School District. We now have three grandchildren attending NHSD. The Indian mascot is very special to us, particularly those who have and are currently participating on various sports teams. We certainly hope that the Mascot we have had for many years will not be changed.</p>
8	<p>As someone who has some Indian blood in my heritage, I love our logo. It's not offensive. If we had some cartoon version of an Indian that was disrespectful I would understand. At NH we always took pride in that name.</p>
9	<p>Be mindful of school alumni whose pride in snd support of the school system may be diminished by a name change</p>
10	<p>By changing the mascot you would be taking away all of the effort that NHSD has done to honor all of the local Indian tribes up to this point in our history! That would be shameful! Shame on anyone that supports disrespecting the history NHSD has given to recognizing the various local Indian tribes!</p>
11	<p>Can you clearly define the budget impact of this decision?</p>
12	<p>Carole Baskins is a NA Tiger</p>
13	<p>Centuries ago, white people sought to erase Native American from memory. Today white people and various "activists" are attempting to erase their history again by removing their likeness from schools and teams, an honor that preserves their history. We shouldn't cater to guilty white people wanting to wash their hands of the uncomfortable truth of Native American history. Honor Native Americans by keeping the mascot.</p>

14	Changing the mascot is a waste of taxpayer funds
15	Changing the mascot will be a huge expense which will translate into paying higher taxes. Please consider the current economic conditions. I am sure there are more important issues the school board should involve themselves with such as providing a great education to students that become productive members of society. Keep the current mascot.
16	Changing, hiding history is not going to stop racism. Individuals should be educated about the past. In my opinion all of the changes occurring these days are simply taking learning points, and shielding any sort of questions, clarification, and education about the past of our area Being the entire Band ensemble has been purchased new uniforms, I'm pretty certain the decision has already been made. This was not only an extremely pricy move, but it erased how many years of history.
17	Compromise. Take it off the uniforms. Leave it on everything else. Add curriculum with information about local tribes, American Indian culture, invite conversations, tribal celebrations. Embrace don't erase!
18	Definition of "mascot" included symbol of good luck. Not derogatory. Do not let the few rule the masses.
19	Despite recent movements to change mascots for various professional and school teams, I feel that the name Indian does not reflect poorly upon the indigenous people, but more so honors them, their heritage, and their strength. Please do not change the school mascot.
20	Do not think we need to change the mascot, let's spend the money on equipment for chemistry and new maps and things we need to teach our children! American Indians started this nation! They are a dying breed! Let's not forget them!
21	Don't change it!
22	Don't go Woke for 2% of the population, the Indian Mascot is an honor to have.
23	Don't waste tax payer dollars and school funds to change mascot. Focus on supporting education and teachers.
24	Don't change the Indian Mascot, my family has gone to North Hills for a long time. The Indian is our mascot
25	Don't change the mascot and get my senior her yearbook with the Indian on it. How dare you try to screw up their senior yearbook signing. Low
26	Don't let the woke racist remove another image of a minority from public view. The fact that these woke racist can't stand to see a minority is a personal issue and should not be catered to.
27	Don't vote to change just to make a name for yourself on the board. I haven't heard nor seen a comment from one district native America Against our mascot. Only the opposite they are not offended - not portrayed in a negative.
28	First, I would like to see proof that Native American Indians have been outraged by our mascot all these years. Anything that reminds us of the history if our country should be maintained. Aunt Jemima should still be on the pancake mix. Uncle Ben should still be on his rice and the NH Indian as our mascot. Where does it stop? Why does the minority speak for the majority?

29	Focus on more important items. I've saw 5 fights filmed in the middle school this year. Don't cave to the small amount of hateful people looking for fake issues. We will support you, just crush this now
30	<p>For those who say using the Indian mascot is racist, I disagree. I do not see prejudice, discrimination or antagonism being used but rather an image that represents a population that was strong in pride and strong in their traditions. Our region is proud of its heritage and founded on the traditions of many cultures. To remove the Indian mascot would be a dishonor to their legacy.</p> <p>I've lived in Ross for over 35 years and I'm a parent of two North Hills alumna and one current high school student who strongly support keeping the Indian mascot. They have worn the Indian mascot attire knowing it represented the pride and tradition of North Hills.</p> <p>I'd like to borrow Dr. Barkovich's quote from the 2022 yearbook, "This nation was founded on one principle above all else: the requirement that we stand up for what we believe, no matter the odds or the consequences. When the mob and the press and the whole world tell you to move, your job is to plant yourself like a tree beside the river of truth, and tell the whole world – No, you move."</p> <p>I'm standing up for what I believe in, and what my family believes in, and that is to keep the pride and tradition that the North Hills Indian mascot represents and to tell the naysayers to move. Just move on and allow the school district to focus on more critical issues such as the health and safety of our students in the classroom, cyberbullying and those suffering with food insecurities.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
31	Foregoing the mascot is just another way to white wash America and its history. The North Hills Indians name is held with great pride and in no way disrespects Native American. Keep the Indians! We Are North Hills!
32	<p>Frankly, this is a tempest in a teapot.</p> <p>The function of a mascot is totemic: to personify the team's spirit, strength, valor, courage, and skills. The warrior culture of the American Indians certainly meets those qualifications. The US Army pays tribute to the those aspects by naming their helicopters after their former foes: Apaches, Commanches, Blackhawks, and more.</p> <p>If the North Hills Indians name offends anyone, it is a reflection of them, not disrespect for the Indians.</p> <p>If it is decided to change the name--a poor decision in my opinion--may I humbly suggest that the team be called the North Hills Huszars? As an ethnic Hungarian, I can assure you that no Hungarian would be offended and would, in fact, be honored at the recognition of the virtues, endurance, courage, skills and achievements of this light cavalry. However, if you do this, be sure to spell the name correctly (Huszars, not Hussars) since it is a Hungarian original.</p>
33	Giving in to the "woke" is getting out of hand!! Enough of this crap!!!!

34	Have some backbone and keep the Indian Mascot. Eliminating the Indian is eliminating Indian culture. NH's Indian is NOT offensive. Stop going WOKE.
35	Hello my name is [REDACTED] and I am a current teacher at North Hills High School and have been an employee of the district for over ten years as a coach, teaching assistant and teacher. I am also a resident/tax payer as well as a graduate of the class of 2008. I believe in the North Hills motto of Pride, Tradition, and Excellence, and believe that the Indian mascot is a very big tradition at North Hills. I do not feel we need to change the mascot, but I can see why people believe that we need to make a change. Though I do not think we should change the mascot, if that is the inevitable decision, I believe we as a district need to use it as an opportunity to come up with something completely unique. Should we decide to change mascots, I would very much like to be a part of the team that comes up with the new mascot. Best regards. [REDACTED]
36	How many requests were made for a replacement high school yearbook, (with respect to cover art)?
37	How ridiculous this is trying to change the name of a high school since it's beginning... seriously people need to focus on important issues like feeding the poor, helping the homeless etc. not such trivial issues as this.... stupid!!
38	I always admired the Native American culture more because of the mascot at my school. I always payed attention in history or social studies classes because "that's my schools mascot!" I truly and strongly believe that removing the mascot will only further divide students and their parents in this already toxic political and social culture that we are living in. As someone that grew up admiring Native Americans because of the North Hills Indian, please reconsider removing the mascot. This actually does a lot to help kids think about cultures that are different from their own!
39	I always thought the Indian represented the pride. "Pride, Tradition and Excellence" I was proud of the school I went to. We chose NH because it is a great school district. I don't think we should remove things. Education is important, why was the Indian picking all those years ago, educated - what really happened, hear from both sides of the community (Indian) why do some want it removed and why do some want the mascot to stay.
40	I am 1/32 Cherokee Indian with family on Dawes Rolls. I think it is an honor to keep the Indian mascot to always remember what the Indians have been through (Trail of Tears) and to honor them. Removing the team name Indians is like trying to remove history we want to keep and remember
41	I am a past football player and team captain. Additionally I have served as President of the swimming and diving association parents association. I contend that our beloved Indian should permanently remain as a sign of our history.
42	I am at a loss for words that the district would even consider such a waste of taxpayer dollars to appease a minority of whomever proposed this change

43	I am not a resident of the school district but I am a business owner in the district so I do pay taxes to the school. And a graduate of North Hills in 2007. The Indian has never been offensive and still to this day is not. It is part of the history of the area and should remain as such. I was EXTREMELY proud to wear the Indian on the back of my band uniform when I was at North Hills. I wore it with pride and am still proud to say I was a North Hills Indian!
44	I am not on board with the Indian being disrespectful. It has always represented strength and pride, hence why it's been used so often. And I feel it's money misused! We should be investing in the safety of our children and teachers in our schools. I'm sick of all the whining in this country and from these parents!!!
45	I am part American Indian. I have always thought of our "Indian" mascot as a way to honor native American heritage. It would be a shame to change our traditional school mascot based on some misconceived notions that it is insensitive to native Americans. I don't find it offensive in the least.
46	I am part Native American and my daughter is more than 35% Native American. Neither she nor I are offended or feel it is prejudice the district has an Indian for a mascot . This is part of our school district history. You cannot remove every single thing that is offensive to someone. There would be nothing left! I myself am sick of all of this crap, trying to make everyone "feel good" Our country is falling apart and we're deciding whether a drawing of an Indian with a head dress should be removed from every piece of paper etc (which by the way would be extremely costly and billed to all taxpayers through higher school taxes) and changed to something that makes everyone feel better. We need to stop!
47	I am part Native American Cherokee tribe. The mascot offends no one in my family. Class '07
48	I am the parent of 2 (2nd grade, 6th grade) children (my 3rd child to enter K in 2024) within NHSD and the daughter of 2 alumni (1972, 1975). I think the mascot is part of the history of the school and the area we live in. In my opinion, I see nothing wrong with still keeping the Indian mascot but updating to the correct term of Native American.. The North Hills Natives has a great sound and wouldn't stray from who we are as a community both historically as well as present. Thank you.
49	I am very keen to the issues of racism that are feared with keeping the mascot, but I believe that it can be kept if done in a respectful way
50	I appreciate that opinions are being requested. I am hopeful that the elected school board officials proceed according to their constituents wants. Without this division of a great district is imminent.
51	I ask anyone for changing the mascot to please explain how a generic term like "Indians" is offensive? All sport teams use these type of names as a sign of respect for Native Americans - and certainly not in a derogatory way. I think anyone using commonsense knows this to be true. The only impact from this type of self- censorship is to remove all/most Native American symbols from our current culture, which i would view as a negative. Please do not "follow the crowd" with this shortsight decision.

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52	I believe and am satisfied that our Indian Mascot Represents Our Country's Heritage, by Honoring The Native American Indians' Culture as the Foundation of Our Nation.
53	I believe that the mascot is to honor the Indians that were located in the North Hills area and also that it would cost too much to change or remove the mascot. Personally I was always proud of the mascot and did not think it was derogatory at all.
54	I believe the history of the naming of the School's mascot plays a huge part in why the Indian should remain. There was no dishonor, bigotry, or disillusionment when the class came together to name their mascot. It was out of honor, respect, and reverence for the natives that once lived right here and even in our North Park. The beautiful illustration of the North Hills Indian is not derogatory. Why should we throw away history? We should hold true to it and use it as a tool to open conversations and a path to teach a history that is quickly being erased. Not everything should be paired down to a Nike swoosh or a simple font. If you take it away, you should strip away "Tradition" from the tag line, Strength, Pride, and Tradition.
55	I believe the Mascot should stay, the money that will needed to be spent on changing every single item, from the uniforms, to the school signs etc., is ridiculous, that money should be used for better education, school supplies, making sure that the students and staff have what they need to provide each and every student a education that they deserve. Most teachers rely on parents providing the extra supplies to classrooms. It could also be used to help provide extra curricular programs for students who maybe struggling with issues that are not being addressed currently. I am 100% against the changing of the North Hills School District Mascot. Think of the money spent by doing this and what other amazing purposes this money could and should be used for.
56	I believe there are bigger issues within the district.
57	I believe there are other things best to have the money spent on than worrying about changing a mascot. The Indian has been there since the 50s. It was never meant to be offensive. Look at the origins! Shouldn't we be more concerned about transportation, staffing, and security than about whether or not someone may or may not be offended in this "woke" day and age by something that was never meant to be offensive!
58	I can think of more important things to spend time and my money on than the changing of the mascot. If "disney" doesn't like it, then maybe our band shouldn't play at disney! No Indian cares one bit about this, I guarantee it!
59	I can't believe we would be so racist as to remove our mascot from our school which reads "pride tradition excellence" because it represents an Indian which is used to honor the Indians who lived near. I really thought we were better than this.
60	I do not believe that we should change the mascot due to the tradition and the high standard that we hold the Indian, I do not believe that it is derogatory.
61	I do not feel the mascot is offensive. It was created to honor the local Indian population. It is not a depiction made in poor taste and it would be a real shame if we allow our current political culture to cancel something that was created to honor the Indigenous culture.

62	I do not feel with inflation, rising gas prices etc. that tax payers should suffer this burden of changing a mascot at this time. In the future, we should revisit it. At this current time, we should leave it be. There are so many other issues in our community and district that need attention right now. But putting a financial burden on tax payers because of high emotions is not an appropriate move to make at this time.
63	I do not see any reason to spend any money to rectify a problem that does not exist. North Hills School District can be proud to carry on the Indian Mascot and the historical origins from which it was derived. I do not see anything negative or derisive in having an Indian Mascot.
64	I don't agree with (1) the ridiculous cost of new uniforms (2) and those uniforms no longer having the treasured Indian icon which was a dishonest step toward the schoolboard's next attempt to rid of the harmless Indian icon. Keep the Indian and stop the madness and division.
65	I don't understand why everyone is pushing to remove history. Some parts of history may be cringe worthy but shouldn't we all learn from the past? As long as we consult with current American Indians from tribes who were in our area historically and represent the mascot appropriately moving forward there should be no problem. We can not sanitize history. The school board should not be freely throwing away tax payor's hard earned money to change the mascot when most of the community would prefer to keep it the same!
66	I don't believe in the cancel culture. Using "Indians" as our mascot was to show reverence for their fighting spirit, and honor them, not disgrace them. Removing statues and changing names is more disrespectful than to keep it. Live, and learn. You cannot erase history or the past.
67	I feel only Native Americans have the right to pressure the district to remove the mascot if they feel it to be offensive and not some over indulgent individuals.
68	I feel that we should keep the Indian mascot. There is nothing negative or degrading towards Native Americans when it comes to our mascot. The school motto is pride, tradition, & excellence and I feel that is what NHSD shows and I don't think any Native American would be upset about this. There's so much history here and I don't think we should erase that. I also feel that all of the money that would be put towards all of the mascot changes would be a waste. If anything that money could be used in other ways that would actually benefit the kids and that's who we need to think about. I truly hope we can keep our mascot.
69	I feel the tradition of the Indian is important to reflect/ honor the land that the high school sits on. To remember the history and to respect the history. When I went to North Hills they took us behind the school, and we would look for arrowheads. You felt an honor to represent the people that fought on that hill. I was in Band and wore that Indian on my chest with pride. I remember them taking the Indian from the old uniforms and putting them on the new band uniforms that tradition meant something, still means something to me to this day. Playing go Indians and seeing the players get pumped up and the fans ready to battle and fight to win. Now my boys play that same song and it means something. The tradition and honor of that means something. My boys now play hockey and are very proud to take the ice wearing that Indian on there chest and they understand the meaning behind it. You represent that Indian on the front. They fight for the puck and fight to win and fight to score. It is also an internal battle with yourself. To keep going and to push yourself and your team to protect your land(court, field, or rink) Now with all of that being said the cost to the tax payer to replace is quite an undertaking for the tax payers, especially at this time.

	<p>That money could be used elsewhere to protect our kids and keep them safe. It could go to educate the students on the history of the land. Help Native American donate to Native American of pa. Taking away the history and forgetting and changing the history will not make it better. You are only hurting the future. As a Native American myself that is what I am afraid of and offended by.</p>
70	<p>I had written a very long comment regarding changing the mascot to appease those whose feelings are hurt by the name, but chose to not submit it as I realize that it doesn't matter to those individuals and they'll always choose to shout and be angry about something that doesn't impact them. Frankly, to be offended on behalf of another population because you don't think that they can speak for themselves, is the definition of privilege and is actually very insensitive of those groups. I can't believe that with all of the things going on in the world today, that we are discussing the name of a high school mascot. No one named us "The Indians" to offend anyone and I'm sure they never thought that 80 years later, we'd be arguing over political correctness.</p> <p>I don't believe that the mascot should be changed unless the request comes from Native Americans. It is culturally acceptable to refer to them as "American Indians" provided that they are ok with it. It is not acceptable to change what you address them as based upon someone else's feelings hearing the word. Additionally, a rebrand will come at great expense to the taxpayers and in this day and age, there are more important things to be spending tax dollars on.</p>
71	<p>I have 4 kids in the school district and own multiple properties in the township.. I feel there are a lot more important issues to burn up time and money on than changing a mascot</p>
72	<p>I have been a member of north hills my entire life. I also now have three kids that graduated from North Hills. I feel we need to keep the Indian. It is not a negative statement. It is positive and what we stand for.</p>
73	<p>I have pride being a North Hills Indian. I feel the money used to change our mascot can be used to keep our schools more safe.</p>
74	<p>I have shared custody of a child attending North Hills school district, Is which is why my address may not reflect being in district. I feel it's appalling to get rid of our country's history by getting rid of brand names, team names, status and mascots. Realistically there's a very small amount of people who actually find offense and care to complain, the rest are just catering to appease those few who do for a self pat on the back. We as a society should not be catering to the 1%. Deleting history is not good for anybody. There's a good phrase that goes something like those who forget their history are doomed to repeat it. We wouldn't want that, so why are we forgetting it?</p>
75	<p>I honestly am just replying and reaching out because first of all I really believe there are many other more important issues to be concerned about in the district instead of a mascot. I also would rather my tax money go to more important things in the district. It will be very expensive to replace a mascot. We already had To raise taxes this year to cover new band uniforms for the sake of eliminating the Indian design. I can only imagine how much it would cost to replace every sport and cheerleading and other band uniform , repaint over the mascot or change signs and score boards and anything else that has the mascot on it. I think it's extremely unnecessary and irresponsible to do this right now when people are already struggling financially and the money can go to a ton of better resources for students . Please reconsider.</p>

76	I honestly feel that the school district has more important things to focus on currently.
77	I love that the Indian Mascot symbolizes strength and perseverance.
78	I may decide to register to speak.
79	I pay taxes I can move and pay elsewhere KEEP THE INDIAN
80	I previously sent a response yesterday; however, I wanted to note that I am a parent of 4 current students in 7th, 5th, 3rd and K. That option was not available in the alumni or student drop down box but is important to capture as we have a vested interest in the matter and are not just acting as a taxpayer. Thank you.
81	I read the FB comment by the gentleman that gave us the history of the mascot. Keep it as it was intended...a tribute to Indians.
82	I started school at Northway elementary as an Indian and graduated in 2001 as an Indian. I am proud to be a North Hills Indian. When I first heard NH was going to take the Indian logo off of the band uniforms, I had 2 thoughts. First is that it's probably not going to stop there and second, this is a form of bullying and it's coming from a big business. The school district should not let any business or other party bully them into making a change that has been the mascot for many years. It's not right to past and current alumni and future alumni should get the opportunity to be a NH Indian. I don't see PETA going around making teams from local to professional making them change any animal mascot. NH has a motto, "pride, tradition and excellence". Let's continue to be proud to be the Indians. Let's keep the tradition of being Indians. Let's continue the Indian spirit excellence that this school district is known for. I can't see the school district having anything but the Indian as the mascot and I for one hope that it stays that way.
83	I think it is an honor to represent the Native American Community. I don't want to see North Hills fall into this mindset of erasing history....stay strong
84	I think it's ridiculous that this is even a debate.
85	I think it's ridiculous that we would get rid of the mascot which has been long-standing. Never was an issue before and now we are considering changing during a time where families are hit hard in the pocket by the poor decisions the Administration (President) has made. Inflation is skyrocketing, our taxes just went up and the cost associated with this will raise taxes more....for something that really doesn't bother the majority of people. Ask Native Americans themselves what they think and if they're offended. The ones that I have discussed with are not
86	I think the cost implications are a downside. The money could be spent on things for the kids like more mental health support.
87	I think the Indian mascot should stay because it is our history and if we change it, we are erasing our history.
88	I understand the want to remove the Mascot from the school, however I believe that in doing so we would lose an important part of the school's identity. It symbolizes much more than a cultural group. Courage, strength, resilience, and wisdom is what the symbol means to those who are alumni as well as current students. When I look at the mascot I see courage, strength, and wisdom and that is what I will teach my children see as well.

89	<p>I would like to voice my support in keeping the Indian mascot contingent upon approval by local association of American Indians:</p> <p>The Indian mascot was not chosen to represent the school arbitrarily as a means to have a fearsome, warlike figure. It was chosen to celebrate the nobility, spirit and resilience of the people who first lived in the West View and Ross area. These specific qualities are ones that meant a lot to me as a student and mean a lot to me as a teacher in the district. I have always hoped to live up to those qualities that the Indian mascot is supposed to represent.</p> <p>If the Indian mascot remains, I'd propose that a commitment from the district, teachers, students, community and alumni come with it so that its association with the district remains a positive one. Some possible actions toward that goal could be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An elective social studies course studying American Indian History with a focus specifically on Western Pennsylvania could help make a learning opportunity rather than one where an important culture be further forgotten. 2. A museum or dedicated space within the district dedicated to Western Pennsylvania American Indians could be built to celebrate local American Indians and their historical relevance to the district. 3. A commitment to advance and support American Indian causes and associations could be established. 4. Any image of an American Indian associated with North Hills needs to be historically accurate to the area and also represent American Indian in a positive (not warlike or savage) way. <p>It is significant that the area that the school district encompasses has significant historical ties to Western Pennsylvania American Indians. Most notably, the root of the Venango Trail starts in the north of Pittsburgh and runs directly through the community. In that spirit, I hope our community chooses to embrace this opportunity to find a better passage - a trail that does not eliminate Indian mascot as a part of the North Hills District, but a trail that provides the community the opportunity to learn and improve it.</p>
90	I would love to make a public comment but will be on vacation. Will this be streamed?
91	I would never again support this district and will move after my youngest graduates. That's how ridiculous this topic is!
92	I'm proud to have been apart of the North Hills Indians history so keep the tradition going and don't make a change. It will always be The North Hills Indians to me.
93	If it is decided to change the mascot, I suggest "North Hills Sky Hawks"
94	<p>If the mascot change "passes" I would assume it would start to be faded in immediately; with that being said the budget for this up and coming school year is already passed so it gives the impression you have already made a decision so why make people feel like they are included in the decision? And where is the money coming from? Would it not be better spent on education and school safety because I am sure the Indian mascot weather changed or not doesn't make me feel any safer as a employee. Nor does it teach young minds to not give into peer pressure in life it only shows what my dad would say when I was growing up squeaky wheels get the most oil.</p>

95	If the original tribes didn't have a problem with us honoring them by naming our mascot an Indian then why should we disrespect them by changing our mascot. We shouldn't let people that are not now nor ever were a part of our tribe to tell us what to do
96	If you decide to remove it. Whatever works, so suggestion: I love a English bulldog. How about "north Hills Bulldogs". And can I suggest recruiting my English Bulldog Ruby to be the mascot. Makes sense if people are arguing about a mascot 🐶🐶
97	Indian is not a derogatory term like Redskin... and the graphic is not derogatory like the Cleveland Indians baseball logo was chief wahoo. No reason to change it.
98	Indian mascot has been a tradition for years you can't change it it doesn't offend anyone
99	Indians is not racist! It's a group of strong people!?
100	INDIANS WERE PROUD TENACIOUS WARRIORS AND I CONSIDER IT A HONOR USING THEIR NAME TO REPRESENT OUR TEAMS AND SCHOOLS. THERE IS NOTHING DEROGATORY CALLING OURSELVES NORTH HILLS INDIANS, AND FRANKLY THIS SHOULD NOT EVEN HAVE COME UP IN DISCUSSION, WE HAVE MORE IMPORTANT ISSUES AND I THINK THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME. ALL FIVE OF OUR CHILDREN WENT TO NORTH HILLS SCHOOLS.
101	Indians were the first settlers in our country and deserve to be remembered.
102	Instead of spending money on a new mascot, let's focus more on bullying and drug prevention.
103	Invest the time in more important subjects such as student safety and education.
104	It is out of pride and respect and Remembrance!
105	It should be viewed as showing respect to Native Americans. All this everyone is offended stuff needs to stop! Like I said, it shows respect not disrespect.
106	It will be very expensive to remove everything from school. Make a slow change to a new mascot over time totally insane to remove and try to remove all at once. Let's think about the time and money this will take. Let's show some support for the support staff that get lost with everything they do to honor our teachers. Teachers should be honored but so should the little people who help run our schools , clean and feed our children .
107	It's my last year at north hills and I'd rather finish out my years here as an Indian.
108	It's Ridiculous that this mascot is even being considered to be changed.
109	It's tradition. It's something for others to fear when playing against us. It's an honor to have an Indian as a mascot.
110	Keep it! THERE IS NO HARM IN KEEPING IT. Absolutely none. Changing it creates a host of issues, from uniforms to fight songs to all school merchandise. Stop inventing problems!
111	Keep it. There is nothing disrespectful about it. Stop giving into this PC nonsense. Who cares about Disney anyway? Way to woke.
112	Keep our mascot
113	Keep the indian

114	Keep the Indian
115	Keep the Indian - find something better to change if your anting to put your names on something. And let my senior get her yearbook!! I paid \$88 for this book and I want the Indian on it.
116	Keep the Indian logo!
117	Keep the Indian mascot
118	Keep the Indian mascot and move on to more important things, like not raising taxes and less time spent on iPads.
119	Keep the Indian mascot, it's a NH loved mascot
120	Keep the Indian!
121	Keep the Indian!!
122	Keep the Indian!!!
123	KEEP THE INDIAN!!! When I went to school, the mascot rode in on a horse and wore full headdress...always so exciting
124	KEEP THE INDIAN!!!!
125	Keep the Indian. Don't let cancel culture keep winning.
126	Keep the Indians!
127	Keep the mascot
128	Keep the mascot
129	Keep the Mascot and continue to instill in your students the pride of being a North Hills Indian!
130	Keep the mascot, do you realize the hundreds of thousands of dollars it will cost to change it. Tax payers complain yearly about our taxes going up and what do you think they will say about this. Our children education is the most important item when it comes to our district so focus on that. I could care less what our mascot is as does my kids who are students. This will not affect them or their education. Won't make test scores go up by changing the Indian. The focus needs to be on education, mental health, stop the bullies, not the mascot.
131	Keep the mascot. Enough with the wokeness & cancel culture.
132	Keep the mascot. No one in over 60 years has touched this or thought it was so racist. Stand up for the 99%. Stand up to the Pride. Tradition and focus on the excellence. If Disney had a problem with it then the school district should have said okay we'll go somewhere else. Disney has their own moral & social issues to work out. The Texas drill team made a totally inappropriate chant, but that has nothing to do with our school. Yet they made a movie Pocahontas? Present the number of Native Americans here that are actually offended. I for one know a women who wants it to stay. Back the numbers of the majority. Send a poll to each household and make the results open & transparent. Keep the Indian.

133	Keep the mascot= pride, tradition & excellence. My 4 children go to NH, and are proud to be NH Indians!!!
134	Keep the north hills Indian
135	KIDS GRADUATED FROM HERE AND THEY SAY HELL NO TO THE CHANGE!!
136	Mascots are chosen to represent a competitive, intimidating, and winning culture. The Indian mascot was chosen out of respect and admiration for the spirit of the Native American tribes that called SW PA home and the fierceness for which they protected their home. While we know that the name "Indian" was out of misinformation, the term is used to identify this spirit.
137	Mascots symbolize something you are proud to represent. The reasoning of the former West View High School choosing the mascot years ago was out of respect for their rich history. The Indian name and logo have never been used by North Hills in a derogatory manner, and as long as the school continues to understand the initial reason the Indian was chosen as the mascot, and also brings awareness to Native American culture (like the Chicago Blackhawks), I see no issue with keeping the current mascot.
138	Maybe we should be more concerned about the fights that continue to happen; or the drug usage in the school; or the fact that we are no longer a top school yet other districts around us are? Our kids can't sign their names in cursive - or balance a checkbook; they can't do basic math like counting back change or doing some personal finance. But hey - let's worry about a few "Karen's" out there who want to change the mascot because they feel offended? Maybe I'm offended by their lack of finding something worthwhile to complain about? Our school board and administration need to get their shit together and get our district back to what it used to be - a good school with proper education and focusing on the right issues!
139	Money spent on more important things to help the education of the students is much more important. I personally know an active Native American and her husband is an alumni of North Hills and she has me send her spirit wear all the time.
140	My children graduated from North Hills High school and they prefer to keep the mascot.
141	My children graduated in 2000 and 2003. Proudly wore the Indian Marching Band uniforms!
142	My children were all North Hills grads and it's absolutely ridiculous to change the mascot!
143	My granddaughter will be a 3rd generation NH INDIAN graduate. My mother was a NHHS secretary. We are proud of our Indian Mascott which symbolizes strength, courage, and bravery.
144	My great grandfather was full Cherokee. I believe NH's use of the Indian and its history has been done in a respectful way and out of admiration. If you were to change anything, add some education for the students to understand it's use and to be proud. Bring in some local Indians/tribes to speak. I also believe this is being consider for the feelings of a few and not the many (nationally) and if we choose to change it to an animal it will not be long before animal right activists protest on behalf of the poor use of an animals image. People are too easily offended by things they don't like instead of simply not liking them. If it is changed just be NH and no mascot.

145	My husband and children are Buffalo Ridge Cherokee and we are all proud to be North Hills Indians. Please reach out to the Native American Guardians Association for help with education, rather than eradication of history and culture. Also, please remember there is a difference between a mascot, which is inappropriate (person dressed in native headdress, etc., appearing at games and events), and a logo/emblem, which is historically respectful. No one endorses the mascot. But insignia and name are welcomed by most American Indians and should be honored. Please put personal politics aside and listen to the community you represent and the community reflected by the name/image. Thank you.
146	My kids are in the middle and hs..keep the logo...please
147	My Mother, sister, brother, husband and our five children are all graduates of the North Hills School District. The Indian Mascot means a lot to all of us and we feel it should continue to be held in high esteem for NHSD. WE WILL ALWAYS BE NORTH HILLS INDIANS. Go Indians!!!
148	My understanding is that the mascot was originally chosen after WWII and was chosen as a respectful tribute to the fighting spirit of Native American Indians by a population of returning WWII veterans. We cannot continue to respect that spirit or the sacrifices of those veterans and indigenous people everywhere by eliminating the Mascot. The Mascot is a beautiful silhouette of a Native American. What could possibly be offensive about it?
149	NH has always taken care to honor the NH Indians mascot and should continue to do so. The Indian mascot represents the pride we have in our community and as a person of indigenous descent I am sincerely proud to see NH honor the people and the history of this land. Please keep the Indian the symbol of North Hills.
150	NHSD should keep the Indians mascot. It is a reminder of the heritage in the area, as well as that of the indigenous people inhabiting our great country, by serving to also honor and embrace diverse and inclusive values. Mascots serve to create a culture, and in doing so, unify the students and community of the North Hills to rally together. The Indians mascot has long since symbolically served to equitably integrate a group toward a common goal whether it be in scholastic achievement, sportsmanship pursuits or even community. When choosing a mascot, it's important to choose wisely. If any group doesn't feel connected to its mascot, the school spirit could quickly fizzle and you lose that sense of camaraderie that unites people in the first place. Keep the North Hills Indians mascot.
151	No
152	No don't change it. A mascot is a symbol and can bring good luck.
153	None
154	None
155	North Hills "Indians" - Stand tall!!!
156	North Hills Indians Forever
157	North Hills Indians forever!!

158	North hills is all about pride, tradition, and excellent. We take pride in being the North Hills Indians. There is nothing racist about the Indians, we are instead embracing their culture and tradition.
159	North Hills is not North Hills without the mascot!
160	North Hills Schools show nothing but respect for Indians. There's no tomahawks, indian chants or anything that could be deemed disrespectful. The Indians Mascot is something to be proud of, especially how we as a school represent it. Changing our mascot does nothing but appease a small minority of "woke" individuals/ companies and cause unnecessary tax payer expense. The timing is terrible since our taxes just went up and the cost of EVERYTHING is sky rocketing through the roof. Has there been a study done to see the actual cost to remove our Indian Mascot from everything in North Hills School District? We are already \$180k in on that cost, so it has to be in millions.
161	Of all the things this district should be concerned about the mascot isn't one of them. Leave it alone.
162	Our children should be taught where this mascot originated and the rich history of our region. Will we change the names of our three rivers as well?
163	Our mascot isn't offensive and people need to stop being dramatic. I take pride in being a North Hills Indian alumni.
164	Our mascot stands for pride, tradition, strength, and, integrity, and unity no one should be offended by those standards
165	Please consider keeping our Indian Mascot. We look to this symbol with respect and admiration. There is no ill intent and in my heart I believe that our Native American friends know that to us, this is a symbol of admiration, that we have a fighting spirit, and the tradition of pride and excellence that we have always stood for.
166	Please consider the costs that we can use to better education for all vs only benefiting extracurricular activities- band, sports etc
167	Please continue the Indian mascot tradition. What should I tell my young sons as to why it changed? It is racist to honor Native Americans and we should erase them completely from our history? I think we should refer back to why this mascot was chosen in the first place. Thank you
168	Please do not bow to ridiculous cancel culture non-sense. Keep our North Hills Indian!
169	Please do NOT conform like the rest of the world. Set an example to be strong and brave and courageous. Everything an true North Hills Indian was raised with. Focus on bullying issues, and how to handle those more swiftly. Or school lunch fees and lessening them for the 2022-2023 school year, due to our state of inflation. Please focus the hundreds of thousands of dollars on making our kids safer and happier; a field trip! Not on a school emblem so we can fit in at Disney. Where most families cannot even afford to go anymore, or send their kids to Disney. Focus on cost effect issues for next school year. Not this mascot issue.

170	Please do not make this change as it is going to cost a lot of money to change all of the uniforms and signage. We are already strapped for money as is. Gas prices, inflation and a future tax raise? Please focus on our children's education and not a mascot.
171	Please don't change tradition
172	Please keep the Indian mascot
173	Please keep the Indian Mascot
174	Please Keep the Indian mascot. It is a tribute to the Native Americans who lived in our area, and it's tradition. I am not a graduate, but my daughter does attend the middle school currently. I did my student teaching at Northway Elementary before it closed. I was a substitute for the district for several years as well. Please keep the mascot.
175	Please keep The Indian as Mascot for north hills! Its part of the history of who we are. It is insane to change it. It was not created to offend anyone- and North Hills will Never be anything but the Indians!
176	Please provide clear results of this survey, please provide the SIGNIFICANT cost that will be passed on to your taxpayers from changing the mascot and address why you are comfortable increasing our taxes for those who adamantly oppose changing it which I'm going to guess will be the majority - please provide concrete fact based evidence on how the indian was selected - please provide all requests from the Native American community to remove the mascot this doesn't mean a broad statement sent in general this means requests directly to North Hills School District
177	Please, please stop spending my money "needlessly" !
178	Pride and Tradition. True Indian Attributes
179	Pride and Tradition our mascot is a clear reflection of our motto
180	Pride, tradition, and excellence! Go Indians!
181	Proud to be an Indian!
182	Proud to be North Hills Indian
183	Rather than removing the mascot and the history of the pride of our district, why doesn't the school board work with ancestors of the tribes that lived on the surrounding land or historians who know the tribes and create a curriculum for each grade in the district to learn about the Indians who were here, and how our mascot was chosen, and why it was drawn in the dignified way in which it is depicted. To remove the name and mascot removes the history that will be lost forever. To honor is to remember and hold up the name with dignity which from my 13 years in the North Hills is all I have ever seen this district and its students do. If members of the local tribes have expressed issues with any disrespect to them, then we should work with them to find ways to honor their history and incorporate lessons into the K-12 curriculum. Simply changing everything that was created from pride and respect because it is now a hot topic on someone's political radar is a travesty.

184	Rather than wasting taxpayer money on changing the mascot why not use that money for the educational, mental health and safety/security needs of the students.
185	Ridiculous debate, embarrassing
186	Save the Indian! Say it loud, say it proud! We are NH!
187	Should have never been considered.
188	Spend money on mental health, improvement of testing scores and safety awareness . Not changing the mascot.
189	Stop giving into the 1% and keep the Indian . There is no reason to change the mascot we aren't offending them we are honoring them, we do more harm by getting rid of it.
190	Stop spending my money needlessly!
191	Taxpayer money could be useful elsewhere
192	<p>The "Indian" has been the mascot forever and I believe that it's symbolic for community and the North Hills School District as a whole. When Covid struck the community and we had to shut down, it was that "North Hills Fighting Indians" attitude that like the fighting Indians, we never gave up and we kept fighting to keep our students, children and staff of the North Hills School District, as well as our community to "not give up."</p> <p>I believe as well as many others that the District was and still is being caught up in a huge political, and cancel cultured division. It's not just the District that isn't caught up, but every little thing that people see fit to satisfy their own personal agendas. Social media has had a profound negative influences within the community we serve tirelessly. Myself and as well as others have discussed the issue at hand and found that "Native Americans" are actually honored that our District has an "Fighting Indians Mascot." It is actually the people who are not personally satisfied with themselves who are causing this outrageous call. Keep the Mascot. We are educating students, children, and not adults!</p>
193	The board/administration's effort and the resident's tax money should be spent addressing the district's declining accedemic results, not appeasing the small group of residents who are offended by the mascot. In no way will changing the mascot improve test scores or the other problems our schools have.
194	The cost with taking this away is way to high when we need to stop bullying and help with kids mental health!
195	The district has more important issues that our tax dollars can be spent on.
196	The history of the Indian mascot has always been one of strength and pride. That is why the Indian was chosen...for strength and pride.
197	The Indian always represented school pride. Don't understand how this is insulting.

198	The Indian has always made me feel proud. I feel like it is a great display of integrity and hard work. I hope the district chooses to focus their energy on other urgent topics like mental health, school safety and curriculum.
199	The Indian has been North Hills mascot for as long as I can remember!! We need to keep the Indian!!
200	The Indian head is not used offensively and it was originally a sign of respect and it's used for strength. It isn't hurting anyone and will cost millions to fix everything at school.
201	The Indian is part of our history and should not be changed. Additionally, there are so many more important educational and safety items that the money that would be used for rebranding could be used for. Changing it would be fiscally irresponsible.
202	The Indian mascot comes with a long standing tradition of pride and excellence. I believe even with the blessing of native americans. This logo is not offensive and is worn with pride not only during their school years but for the rest of their lives.
203	The Indian mascot is meant to honor, not disparage, Native American history and heritage. It is an example of pride and unity. It was never meant to belittle. It is no more offensive than the Fighting Irish, Vikings, or Fighting Scots, all caricatures of a particular group of people. Keep the Indians mascot.
204	The Indian mascot is North Hills, do not replace it! PRIDE, TRADITION AND EXCELLENCE!!!
205	The Indian mascot isn't portrayed in a disrespectful way. It shows honor and pride and I believe we should keep it
206	The Indian mascot represents PRIDE and STRENGTH. There is nothing offensive about it! In this time of unprecedented INFLATION, what is OFFENSIVE is the fact that this School Board would even consider spending over half a million dollars on changing an image that has no need to be changed.
207	The Indian mascot represents strength power and respect. It is not disrespectful to the Culture!!!!
208	The Indian mascot represents the school proudly for years. If the proposed change is for those who are offended or political reasons, then you're offending those requesting to keep the Indian mascot.
209	The Indian Mascot was never created in a negative way to show any disrespect towards the culture and history of the area. It was meant to honor and bring pride to our history area and school. We learned all about the history and why we were Indians while in school at North Hills. Educate the current generation as to why an Indian was chosen. To erase this symbolism would be a disservice to all.
210	The Indian name is not offensive and should be kept. We have been the North Hills Indians for so many years and it has always been a source of great pride! Keep the Indian name, please!!
211	The Indian name is not offensive and they logo is not showing the Indian people in a negative light. It is not a character of the Indian people. It shows the Indian peoples heritage. Lets not get rid of the name and logo and erase that native Americans were never here. North Hills Indian proud.

212	The Indian stands as a symbol of pride. We here in my family are proud to have kids who have graduated and are currently attending North Hills. They are proud to be a North Hills Indian. We will always be North Hills Indians.
213	The Indian warrior, historically brave, skilled, and a role model in his culture, is an admirable mascot and represents integrity and strength. This tradition should continue in North Hills. Avoid portrayal in "caricature-art style" that could be perceived as insensitive and demeaning. Appropriate artistic portrayal should be the criteria for representations of mascots in all schools and professional sports.
214	The Indians were in the north hills area before we settled it. By having them as our mascot acknowledges that and honors them. By removing their image as mascots erases their history for the next generation.
215	The Mascot is an honor to have. Why do we keep trying to erase the past? Residing where the Indians once lived, I think it's a wonderful thing to pay our respect and honor by keeping the Indian head as a reminder of our past. My daughter is in marching band and they have always honored and never have they disgraced the Indian. Please think outside the box about what this means to those who are of Indian heritage.
216	The mascot is not a comical representation but rather an honorific one that recognizes the history of this area. Numerous Native American groups have come out and said they don't consider the term offensive when used this way. Rather than change it, why don't we spend a bit of time better educating our students and our community on the history of this area and the Native American contributions. I can see much better ways to spend the significant time and money that this will cost - ways that will actually benefit people.
217	The mascot is to honor Native Americans not disrespect them
218	The mascot should remain the same and uphold the NH tradition.
219	The mascot, as is, is an important part of our school's history. Changing the mascot is just buying in to the "politically correct" faction of our community. I do not agree to tearing down history. Thank You
220	The money that would be spent to rebrand the entire district could be spent so many different ways. We could hire more counselors or school police to ensure our student's safety, given the times and recent events.
221	The money that would be used to change the mascot should be used to educate the students. Is that not the mission of the school?
222	The name is meant to be a tribute to the Indians that lived on the high school property and were buried at the corner of 6th avenue and Rochester Road.
223	The north hills school district has been nothing but respectful with its mascot. Native Americans are a proud and noble people who are represented as such. Don't erase them from history or lessen their importance by removing them because some people think that they'd be offended. My great grandmother (who I did get to meet) was a proud Choctaw Indian, and I believe that she'd have loved our use of her people.

224	The school board should concern themselves with more important and pressing matters. This is absolutely ridiculous that the board is concerned about this. North hills has always been a tribe and we always will be!
225	The school district better announce who the party(s) are that are asking for the mascot to be changed. We have the right to face our "accusers". After all we are being "accused" of some type of racial injustice. There should also be a number (as in count) related to the party(s) who are asking for the mascot to change. We have the right to know if we are against 3 people or 3000 people. And once we know the number if we the "accused" democratically outnumber them and vote to keep the mascot, this better be put to rest.
226	There are bigger issues to worry about than the mascot being an Indian. It is not derogatory.
227	There are more important issues the school district should be focusing their funds and attention to. At this time we should not be adding any extra expenses to the budget. The school should review why the Indian was selected as a mascot to start with
228	There are much more important things to worry about than the mascot. I have Native American ancestry and do not find this offensive at all. Many Native American are proud of this. Debating the mascot is ridiculous. It's a slippery slope if the school changes the mascot.
229	There is no need to change the Indian mascot. It stands for pride and tradition. It in no way harms anyone.
230	There is no need to change the mascot and with inflation the way it is, it would cost the taxpayers a ton of money just to change the name and image. My husband and I say no change and I certainly hope the school board listens to the taxpayers.
231	There is no reason at all for the North Hills logo to be removed. We have had it for years and years even decades. My whole dad's side grew up being a fighting Indian and for that to change now is unacceptable. My hopes of graduating as a proud North Hills Indian will be taken away. It is not fair to the parents and students that our logo is taken away. We are North Hills Indians, proud and strong.
232	There is nothing remotely offensive about an Indian mascot!
233	There is nothing that North Hills does with their mascot that should be deemed offensive. In fact, it's just the opposite. To me there is pride in the Indian mascot. It's a reason to celebrate Native American heritage, not remove it. But seriously, doesn't the leadership and school board have better things to worry about and spend money on?
234	There's absolutely nothing disrespectful with the current mascot name. I wouldn't be offended if the mascot name was "AMERICANS". SO WHY WOULD ANYONE BE OFFENDED WITH THE MASCOT NAME OF INDIANS.
235	This has been the Mascot for decades, back when my mother went to North Hills, back when McKnight road was barely two lanes, even back when many more Native American Indians were present in this area and only now people have a problem with it. It is absurd to fall into the way the world has become and change this icon because people whom it doesn't even stand for are offended. The same people that will just find something else to complain about once they move past this. I'M offended that our community would even consider taking away our Mascot

	and the incredible amount of power, strength and dignity that it brings to our community. It saddens me to see what people have become and shame on us if we let this happen.
236	This has been the mascot since the school opened and this school is known and recognized as the Indians!
237	This is disgraceful if you remove the Indian mascot! Go back in history and read why it was chosen by the Class of 1944.
238	This is not where our money should be spent.
239	This sensitivity is getting a little silly and I know it's driven By the president of the school board. I'm sick of her pushing her opinions and views on everyone. Look at the current state of the country and tell me this is something we need to be worrying about currently. You want liberalism and to be woke you're always going to have issues. My name is [REDACTED] and feel free to share my comments with anyone.
240	This should never change. Northhills stands for the Indian mascot. I hope you are all using this petition to make your decisions on this matter. But there's way other important issues to deal with at North Hills school district than using taxpayers money to change a mascot. For example We need funding for the kids vaping and using drugs in school, updating the whole North Hills high school and middle school Buildings, Focusing on education. Those are all the things that I am way important than a mascot.
241	This was FINE in the past, let's focus on more important topics!!!
242	<p>To provide some perspective, I am a proud graduate of North Hills High School (class of 1970) and have owned a home and paid property and earned income taxes since 1978 following completion of military service. I have one grandson who also graduated from North Hills and two other grandchildren who currently attend schools in the district. All three of these grandchildren have participated in sports and other activities over the years.</p> <p>As noted above, I support retaining the Indian mascot. Some of my reasons are detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an academic environment, mascots provide an opportunity to drive a sense of unity and increase school spirit principally related to athletic teams and events. They are not prominent in academic-related and extracurricular activities such as forensics, debate, science competitions, concert band, clubs, etc. These activities are associated with the school district – North Hills – in the same way as its reputation for academics. • Also, I do not believe the Indian mascot, or any mascot truly has a significant impact on parents' decision moving to or from the North Hills School District or having their children attend schools in the district. In my view, the policies and values related to academic excellence and overall student well-being that the North Hills Board and administration has put in place and continuously seek to improve are the key deciding factors. • Many commercial enterprises including several professional sports teams rely very heavily on their mascots for branding and marketing purposes. While changes made by the Cleveland baseball and Washington football teams were certainly in response to social pressure especially given the sensitivity and use of their native American mascots, the changes were focused on sustaining and/or driving revenue for the organizations. These decisions in my view were

	<p>strategic business decisions and are funded by the companies with the goal of generating higher returns. For local school districts such as North Hills, the costs of changes to mascots or logos must be funded with limited resources – taxpayer dollars with no truly measurable return to the taxpayer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As I believe the impact of any mascot to be incidental to the overall success of the students in the North Hills School District, the costs of such a change estimated at about \$500,000 not including labor, installation, and development of a rebranding project (per Dr. Mannarino’s June 9, 2022 presentation) do not appear warranted. This is especially true given a pending real estate tax increase approved by the Board in May, inflation at a 40-year high, gasoline prices hovering at almost \$5 per gallon, and those seniors in the district on fixed incomes watching a significant reduction in their retirement accounts. • Rather than incurring costs on a new mascot project, spending such funds on additional student safety measures, expansion of mental health counseling for students still trying to recover from the desocialization resulting from Covid, or the ongoing bullying threat posed by social media all appear to be superior investment opportunities. <p>While I view the North Hills School District rather than an Indian mascot as the brand encompassing pride, tradition, and excellence, I am not insensitive to the challenges of having an Indian as a mascot in today’s environment – as exemplified by the marching band’s recent experience at Walt Disney World. However, I would suggest an approach that could retain the Indian as the North Hills mascot while eliminating any logos, chants, costumes, etc., that could be viewed as disrespectful to native Americans. As such, North Hills would be honoring both tradition and their important role in our American history.</p> <p>I appreciate the opportunity to share my views and suggestions with the Board,</p>
243	<p>To the School Board Members of North Hills School District, My name is [REDACTED]. I am a 1963 graduate of North Hills High School. I also have a grandson recently graduated and a granddaughter who is a senior this coming year. I am writing concerning the current Indian logo consideration. I can think of no better way to honor and respect our Native American Indian population than the logo we have. It is honoring and respectful, as it should be.</p> <p>We can bend and buckle to the social pressure of our culture or stand strong and proud by representing a people group that is part of our heritage. Why not show our students what it takes to stand with honor, integrity and character instead of becoming an example of bending to “group think” division, pressure and divisiveness.</p>
244	<p>Unless the native americans complain the woke and snowflakes should learn the history of the land and why that name was chosen.</p>
245	<p>Unreal that this is even up for discussion. Indian means brave.stoic. Dedicated. Strong. Proud. This “woke” behavior has to end somewhere. Let’s not teach our kids to be offended by everything. It’s toxic behavior</p>
246	<p>USE ANY AVAILABLE FUNDS TO PROVIDE MORE SECURITY IN EVERY SCHOOL FOR OUR GRANCHILDREDN AND STAFF SAFETY PLEASE! WE IMPLORE YOU!</p>

247	Use this as a learning opportunity to teach people about the culture of the American Indians, and how to respectfully represent this culture with pride and dignity. Much cheaper than rebranding the school.
248	Waste of taxpayer Money. This will cost WAY more than you think... Also will be very divisive, a change will alienate more people than it will include. Silent Majority vs Vocal Minority Dynamics on display. Good Luck! Thanks! Go Indians!
249	We as a district have an Indian mascot that stands for integrity, pride, tradition, belonging, and strength all qualities of the Indian we should be proud to uphold and no one should try and make our mascot stand for anything else I see these qualities as an honor to uphold Instead of hiding the Indian away why not teach the history behind it and teach respect for it North Hills we are better than following the pack let's make our Indian mascot shine and something everyone will be proud to have represented by educating and demonstrating the qualities of the Indian communities that we believed in for so long
250	We can't continue to erase recognizing Native American history. Our mascot is not derogatory and it honors the warrior spirit.
251	We have better things to spend our tax dollars on then rebranding the school. The characteristics that we want our students to represent when representing the Indians are all positive ones. There are more important things to worry about at this point.
252	We shouldn't allow a few virtue signaling zealots to change NH tradition. Review the comments about this topic on Facebook - the great majority wants to keep the Indian mascot. The mascot HONORS our native people. Keep it. Go Indians!
253	We still own property in North Hills and pay local taxes and NHSD income taxes. This WOKE agenda has been carried far enough. The Indian Mascot is a salute to the Native American history of Pittsburgh - and is a sign of respect and admiration for Native American Indians.
254	We take pride in our mascot. It is not used negatively but in a positive way. The emblem is not a negative reflection on any tribe. We are proud to represent them.
255	We will be away that week, but wanted to be sure my opinion was noted. Thank you so much.

256	<p>What a great opportunity to EDUCATE ! I encourage the school board to to EMBRACE the INTENT of the Mascot and not ERASE our History.. The intent of the Mascot is to honor Native Americans === Lets do just that ! Join with the Council of 3 Rivers American Indian Center (12 miles from the High School) to EDUCATE our Children in Native American Culture. My daughter helped lead THON that raised ~19k -- give some of that to The Council or donate to the National Native American Veterans Memorial</p> <p>I would contribute time and money to have my alma mater =--- My 3 kids alma mater - be a unifying force in this challenge and stand side by side with out Native American friend to collaboratively strengthen our communities</p> <p>additionally -- if the cost to remove our mascot is anything near the \$100,000 Bellefonte HS estimated The majority of tax payers would consider it financially irresponsible especially in a recession (https://www.lockhaven.com/news/local-news/2021/10/rebranding-will-cost-basd-more-than-100000/)</p>
257	Who is going to foot the bill to change all the signage, letterheads, etc?
258	Who is this offending?This is stupid.
259	Why change it now when most of our family members our Indians it's just something every kid that goes to north hills looks to be once an Indian always an Indian!
260	With all that is transpiring at this time what "genious" would waste time with such a ridiculous matter?
261	<p>Worry about things that matter.</p> <p>Sincerely, everyone</p>
262	You need to reorganize your priorities as board members and stop with completing your own agenda. It's not good for the community as a whole.

Non-Resident Alumni (Signed up to speak)

<p>1</p>	<p>I graduated from North Hills in 1990. Keep the Indian Brave as the mascot because it was chosen as a sign of respect by West View Junior High School back in (I believe, if memory serves) 1946. The West View Historical Society Facebook page had a wonderful article about this a few years back (and I have faith that if I am off on my facts, that someone from the historical society with help me out with a correction).</p> <p>I am proud of our Indian mascot. It is the reason why I developed a fondness for Native American cultures and was motivated to support the Navajo Nation as a member of my wife's group Operation Face Mask Washington County in 2020 by sending them 500 fabric face masks during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. My work as a Knight of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal organization to which many Native Americans and First Nations people belong, has involved ongoing support of the St. Peter Indian Mission School in Bapchule, Arizona. My uncles, both dead now, also graduated from North Hills, and they were very passionate enthusiasts of American Indian culture; no doubt because they, too, were North Hills Indians.</p> <p>Had it not been for the positive influence of the North Hills Indian mascot, and the magnificent cultures that it represents, I doubt that I would have been so inclined to help Native Americans as an adult. But, how could I not, when the Indian has been such a part of my own historical DNA thanks to my being raised in the North Hills School District. The North Hills Indian mascot has always been a part of my identity. It represents the drive for us all to become the best versions of ourselves. Please, North Hills School Board members, do not give into misguided pressure from the woke mob. They are crazy and don't grasp the very real damage that they are doing to our nation. North Hills Indians, by God's Grace, now and ever and forever. Amen.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>If people were fighting to end having cowboys as mascots, this would still be absurd but at least it wouldn't be as hypocritical. Both are mostly lost cultures and neither should be forgotten about. Embrace representing Native American culture and don't pretend like getting rid of the mascot is actually a solution to whatever you think the problem is.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>If society and the school can no longer cherish and show positive value to the our mascot, then it should be changed.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>It is a historic Mascot that many alumni are proud of and it should be kept</p>

5 June 21, 2022

NHSD Borad Members:

I attended NHSD Class of 1987. Do not change the name of our Alma Mater! The mascot name is not a mascot at all, it is rather, a life of independent thought and spirit given to all who attend NHSD!

The Native American, head dress of the chief, represents love for of the tribe, those who came subsequently. I became a native American brave, upon living with native Americans, i.e. Chief Atomahawk's, nomadic exiled leadership that was placed in chains, and forced to flee Evil Republicans, 1980's to present, free Leonard Peltzer: American Indian Movement, Four Term Governor of California - Jerry Brown (Democrat) freed Chief Atomahawk, and we are still attempting to free Mr. Leonard Peltzer, THEY HAVE NO EVIDENCE AT ALL, I will see all of you at the Rage Against The Machine concert, July 29, 2022, if my schedule has and opening.

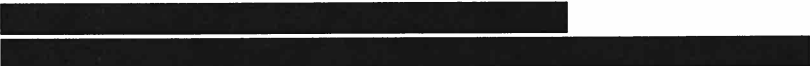
I had the honor of speaking for Chief Atomahawk, his throat was cut out by the Vietnamese when he severed the government that he hates, specifically evil Russian-Republican Traitors and Evil Chinese-Republican Traitors from the northern geographies, who hover like computer drones over us, standing, as we sit on the ground because they would not give us a bench to sit on or an American (Native) made carpet, as opposed to an "elevated stair seat," or foreign "made exercise mats."

Those traitor guns, need targets and reservations, they prefer their target to be a female, so they tell the brave pens, to shut up, be quiet, and erase your history, by eradicating your long time STANDING ROCK spiritual name. This isn't a playbill from drama class - although Hef did invite me to the grotto! DO NOT CHANGE THE NHSD mascot name or symbol:

INDIANS!

Otherwise, the fat lazy cowboys will rule you forever, as you toil under their yoke!

Fiercely Written,



A class member in the Students For Fair Admissions v Harvard Corp., to attend Harvard University on full academic scholarship. (Fierce reality ethics written - I will not pleasure Justice Thomas's wife, she is too fat for me, even though, she got in my line, as I toiled for this government and the previous ones that I hate! I know better, then, they don't have the excuse to kill me! (Covered up vehicle accidents!)). I remember Hunter Hurst, one of the first from our Alma Mater that they attempted to kill that way, 1982?

6 Keep the mascot of the Indian! The school is all about pride tradition and excellence! I graduated in 2003 and proudly wore that Indian on the back of my marching band uniform for 5 years!! Extremely proud to be an Indian alumni.

7	Our Indian mascot is one of pride and strength. It is the bust of a warrior not a character like Chief Wahoo of the Cleveland Indians. Leave it alone.
8	Please keep our mascot. NHProud means being proud to be an NH Indian! Many in the community have seen the mascot as tribute. If you want to do anything, include more diversity programs for native Americans or more curriculum to educate.
9	Stop the nonsense, Indians forever!!!!
10	The Indian mascot honors the native American inhabitants that populated the North Hills area before the area was settled. Keep the mascot to remember the whole history of the area as opposed to just remembering the post European history.
11	The north hills Indian mascot is a staple to the school district, removing it will destroy a sense of pride for alumni who care deeply about the history of our prestigious school.
12	Why change the mascot? What is wrong with the Indian? Because some people, after ALL these years decided to be offended by it? We should be proud to say our mascot is an Indian. We need to stick up for what is right to keep us the North Hills Indians!

Non-Resident Alumni

1	"Indians" are part of our great history both with NHSD and our great nation. Keep our mascot preserved!!! Once an Indian, always an Indian no matter how far I live from NHSD now. 🙏 Go Indians!!!
2	All of the things this country has changed or got rid of as far as labels and statues ect. have not made any difference in how things are-keep the Indian for sure!!
3	As a graduate of NHHS, and a former editor of the yearbook, it saddens me to think that the Indian mascot would be abandoned. While I was attending high school, the entire student body had the utmost reverence for Native Americans. It was a great honor for a senior to be chosen as the mascot with all it entailed. Please keep the mascot and the respect associated with it. Sincerely, ██████████ Class of 1971
4	Ask a true Native American if it offends them. Then you have your answer on what to do. It's that simple.
5	be leaders and not followers
6	Being related to cousins who are of the Native American nationality, I have presented this debate to them. Their response was that the "Indian" mascot is not being used with any disrespect towards the nationality or ancestors of the descent. It is rather being used with honor such as when the sports teams compete at high levels and receive a victory. This is only one of many great examples of the respect the mascot the "Indians" receive. The action of changing the

	mascot should have no need to be taken, but instead perhaps a discussion on the honorable, we'll respected history of the Native American Indian ancestry.
7	Better to be remember the Indian tribes that occupied Western Pennsylvania, than for them to be forgotten. I live in eastern Montana among the Northern Cheyenne tribe. They call themselves Indians, not Native Americans. This is a total non-issue for majority of Indians themselves. The Indians who say that they have a problem with it are looking to exploit it for money or 15-minutes of fame.
8	Both my Sister and I are graduates of North Hills and I just attended my nephews graduation at Marterelli Stadium this month. My Mother retired from the North Hills School District in 1994. I enjoy coming back home to memories. Way to many things are changing in this world and people are losing connections to their past. Many generations of families have attended North Hills and are proud to be N.H. Indians
9	Both my wife and I graduated from NH in 1968. As retired high school teacher of 39 years with HBUHS Dist, and living in Southern Calif. since 73, In am sad, but not at all surprised, to see your school district going down this path. A complete waste of time and money! Unfortunately, many on school boards throughout this country do not have the courage to make decisions that truly matter. Remember, to vote those who do not represent what the majority want- OUT at the next school board election.. Go Indians! My wife will simply return her comment as NO CHANGE in mascot name.
10	Class of 1999, I will always be a proud North Hills Indian.
11	Crazy after all of these years, now it offends someone?? Use your efforts to help the students. Re: bullying, etc.
12	Do not cave to political pressure.
13	Don't surrender to "wokeness"! The Indian mascot is a celebration of the courage, toughness and dedication of a people.
14	Don't destroy memories
15	Don't take away the pride tradition and excellence of the north hills Indian!!!
16	For you to change long-held traditions for the feel good "flavor-of-the-month" you will impact alumni from having deep connections, possibly impacting where they send their children to school. Furthermore, in teaching History myself, this is an unacceptable move to ERASE deep cultural & tribal educational opportunities. If you read the actual statistics on Native Americans who report being bothered by these changes, they are NOT in favor of change. By keeping the Mascot, it is a way to REMEMBER their history. It is a conversation starter. It's a pathway for children to deeply explore the past of an "Indian" and to ask questions & to study multiple perspectives. It's a curriculum builder for the School District. I think you are going to regret it if you change the Mascot, not to mention how much MONEY are you taking AWAY from Education and diverting to re-writing history for a SMALL number of individuals who claim to be offended and who claim to "represent" the Indian, which they do not. After monetary, educational, and mental struggles and losses from COVID is this really your priority? So have you rid the entire school district of bullying and fights? Is that a goal? Is that a primary reason for changing the Mascot? Are you making a statement that multiple perspectives, differing opinions & cultural customs cannot be discussed in a public school? It seems as if the "squeaky wheel" is being heard, rather than the actual majority. Morally I feel it is wrong but to be even more rational, the LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY you are going to have to spend is sickening and those estimates are always lower than anticipated. Please consider

	keeping the strong, highly valued North Hills School District Indian as the Mascot &/or "shelf this" so that you can let this idea marinate a bit longer. Thank you for reading my comments. ~ [REDACTED].
17	How do you just change your school mascot ?? The Indian has served us well for all these years. We are very well known as North Hills Indians. It's not broken.
18	<p>I asked a Seneca from NY if he or other Native Americans he knew had any problem with school using an "indian" as their mascot. Did he see it as honoring his people or was it offensive I asked?</p> <p>His response was that he has no problem with "Indian" but that he has an extreme problem with "redskins" because it came from a name given to his people who were literally skinned alive as a form of torture. He said usually a large thin layer was taken from their backs and used to make lampshades. He had tears in his eyes and trembled as he told me about his ancestors torture. So Redskins NO and Indians YES.</p>
19	I believe this whole thing is a ridiculous to do over nothing. The mascot needs to stay the same. You change it, you're trying to erase why it was originally chosen.
20	I do not believe changing the mascot will have a positive benefit that would outweigh the massive cost of changing and renaming the school and respective property.
21	I have always been proud of the Indian mascot and do not believe it is derogatory
22	I now live in Indian Territory. Most Indians here would be proud to have team named as such. Most do not think it derogatory but reflecting the respect and strength of an Indian warrior. TH 69'
23	I strongly disagree with changing mascot of school.
24	<p>I think it is utterly ridiculous to change the mascot. Supposedly I have Cherokee Indian blood in me and I am not offended that the school mascot is an Indian. I am proud of the NH INDIANS. I marched with the band as a majorette my three high school years. My mom was an alumni of class of [REDACTED], 2nd in running of May Queen! All five of my children went to this school district and 2 of my grand children also and graduates recently from NHHS. We just can't let these few change things that are dear and near to our hearts when so many are against this. Everyone one I speak to feels this way.</p> <p>Please don't be afraid to stand up to these people that want to wipe out what our school has stood for and it's great Mascot! Pretty soon nothing will be left in America! So so sad.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
25	I'm proud to be a NHHS Indian! Just because someone got butt hurt by the word Indian instead of being proud of this school district is just stupid!!

26

I'm a proud 1995 Alumni and parent of a current elementary student.

To understand what this topic is about is to deny the history of the North Hills/West View community which did not really have its major growth until after World War II.

Paraphrasing John Schalcosky the founder of the west view historical society,

“The student body of West View High after living in an era torn apart by World War II, witnessing their fellow classmates go off to War and to never return, struggled to select an appropriate mascot that would represent the fighting spirit felt by all in the community. West View students did not need to be reminded of the war so they found little desire for a military theme/mascot. Well aware of the deep Native American roots in West View & throughout the North Hills, they unanimously approved the "brave", the "warrior" - a representation of the history of the area and the spirit of the "Fighting Indian".

This passage directly from the 1944 westvian yearbook, (the precursor to the now Norhian yearbook which I'll touch on in a second)

“We think of the unconquerable spirit of the Indian Warrior as symbolic of West View”

But this leads us to today:

Our North Hills school slogan is Pride, TRADITION and Excellence. The chief Indian mascot holds a lot of Pride, Tradition and Excellence, for the whole community, and every student, and alumnus.

But now in this cancel culture world where the important lessons of the past are being forgotten, leaves the future with no foundation to build upon.

The chief Indian mascot has been a fixture of our community since it was adopted by West View high. It should be “Built to Last” not thrown out like last week's garbage.

BUT now 5 woke board members will use whatever excuse they can to change or remove our Pride, TRADITION and excellence from the school and OUR COMMUNITY. 2 of you are Alumni of this district. You do not stand up for the traditions of this school you let “Disney” dictate our traditions, as the excuse to remove the Chief Indian from the band uniforms.

Then you blame a student over the Norhian yearbook issue.

Saying

“The image was not approved by any district or building administrator....”

Im sorry but there is NOWAY that image went to production without someone in administration knowing about it.

But you already have your 5 votes, Cause it only takes a simple majority. 5 people should not have that power to remove it, it should be unanimous or nothing.

	They raised our tax mileage already in order to pay for the removal of the Indian. If the 5 of them get their way to remove the Indian, because really nothing we say matters for or against. Let history remove them from office. We are North Hills!!! Not the 5 of You!!!
27	I've not once heard someone use Indians in a negative context during or post graduation. Do not ruin things for the many on account of the few.
28	If the district is interested in pursuing change, I really suggest the board engage members of the Seneca, Lenape (Delaware) and Iroquois Tribes and continue their input. I also would like the board to run cost estimates for it's taxpayers as they deserve to know the true Dollar amount the district plans on wasting on the changes that could otherwise be spent on Student resources, academics, Building/Facilities Maintenance, etc.
29	In my opinion you would be dishonoring the history of our area by changing the mascot. The Indian stands for bravery and strength. We need to stop canceling everything. We need to stop catering to the few and stand North Hills Indians strong.
30	It was with respect that the North Hills School system chose the Indian Mascot! It's a part of history and should not be changed. There was no problem with this until being politically correct was a cool thing to get behind. As an Alumni the Indian is a part of my life. I ask you to stand up to the pressure and continue the tradition until a tribal nation comes forward and asks for the change.
31	It's long overdo to retire the name indians
32	It's a mascot, it's been that way for YEARS! I will always be a proud INDIAN of North Hills High School. If Disney was so upset by it then the band can have event outfits and game outfits. Don't ruin the tradition that North Hills is known for, all because people cannot handle a mascot.
33	Its only negative if the district let's it be negative. Promote the positive of the strength the mascot represents.
34	KEEP AND RESPECT THE INDIAN!
35	Keep the Indian!
36	Keep the Indian!
37	Keep the Indian!!
38	keep the mascot!
39	Keep the mascot. Spend the money needed to change it on other educational programs.
40	Know a few Native Americans who had no problem with high schools using the symbol
41	Leave it as The Indian, but use an actual Indian man. As in someone who has ancestry to the country of India.
42	Leave the mascot. In no way is this offensive. The Indian represents proud people.
43	Love the Indian!!!
44	My class our Indian was played by a black man...
45	My dad graduated from west view high school, I'm glad he's no longer with us to see this debacle of changing the mascot. Our children education is more important than us being the Indians.
46	My dad was on the board and more concerned about the budget and important things instead of this ridiculousness! Keep the Indian! It is a symbol of pride and respect and honor!

47	<p>My husband recently retired and we moved out of the district. I graduated in 1976, we raised our 4 children in Ross township and they all graduated from NHHS. It's ridiculous to change the mascot. There were many graduating classes before mine and the Indian was the mascot. It would be awesome to have a life where the only thing wrong is the schools mascot. People need to get a life.</p>
48	<p>Native American deserve representation too</p>
49	<p>Native American vs. American Indian: Political correctness dishonors traditional chiefs of old Details Written by Native Sun News Editorial Board Parent Category: Life Published: 12 April 2015 Who decided for us that we should be called "Native Americans?"</p> <p>It was the mainstream media of course. One day a reporter was interviewing an East Coast Indian and the reporter said, "Indian" and the East Coast Indian said, "No, we don't like to be called Indians because we got that name when Columbus thought he landed in India: We prefer to be called Native Americans."</p> <p>"Well," the reporter replied, "I am of Irish descent but I was born in America so therefore I also am a Native American." And so when the story was published the Indian people were labeled as Native Americans. The white media had finally pulled one over the indigenous people.</p> <p>The Lee Enterprise newspapers, and there are several of them in Indian Country, decided to cut this down even further and they told all of their reporters, editors and publishers to just use the word "Native" when referring to Indians, or to be politically correct, Native Americans. So when you read an article that goes, "He was a Native Rapid City guy" that doesn't mean he was Native, it just means that he was native. In fact everyone who lives in Rapid City is a native.</p> <p>The activist Russell Means preferred the name American Indian. He would say that just as you have Mexican Americans, African Americans, or Asian Americans, you should have American Indians.</p> <p>During the activist days of the 1960s and 70s the U. S. Government responded to the activists' protests by proposing the term "Native American." And so the anti-government activists decided to accept the name Native American, a name suggested by the United States Government, a government that they despised. Say what?</p> <p>The other arguable explanation was Columbus's use of the term "una gest in Dios" or "a people in God" which was reduced to "Indios" for every day usage by the Spaniards and later was further changed to "Indian" as the word moved north. And what's more we hear that in 1492 Columbus could not have thought he had reached the Indies because at that time there was no Indies, but they instead were called Hindustan.</p> <p>That sad part of this entire fiasco is that so many of the so-called "elitist Indians" have allowed themselves to be bullied into using the name "Native Americans" and even "Native" by a white media that seems to have set the agenda for what we should be called.</p> <p>One elderly Lakota man from the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation said recently, "If some</p>

	<p>Indians want to be called Native Americans or Natives, let them be called that, but I was born an Indian and I shall die an Indian.</p> <p>So if you travel to any Indian reservation out west you will soon discover that nearly all of the indigenous people refer to themselves as "Indian," especially the elders who are still fluent in their Indian language. As Chief Oliver Red Cloud said a few years before he died, "I am Lakota and I am Indian."</p> <p>As an Indian newspaper we must be very careful that what we call ourselves is not dictated to us by the white media. We have been Indians for a few hundred years and the name carries our history. Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull and Little Wound (Read their quotes) all called themselves "Indian" and they said it with pride. Should we dishonor them by saying they were wrong?</p> <p>Political correctness be damned: We will use "Indian" if and when we choose. We will not be intimidated by the politically correct bunch or the white media.</p> <p>The Native Sun News Editorial Board can be reached at editor@nsweekly.com</p> <p>The Native Sun News is based in Rapid City, S.D.</p>
50	Natives showed great pride in defending their communities and native lands and many NH alumni fell in love with the identity of being an Indian. We took on the stereotype of being resilient from our mascot! We bled on the fields and courts and classrooms to be the best we can be. Proud to be a NH Indian!!!
51	NHHS class of 1971. Proud band alumni. Please keep the Indian as it was chosen as a symbol of the bravery of the indigenous people of the NH area. Please focus on the education and nurture of students instead of politically motivated rhetoric. Thank you.
52	No Indians have complained about the name and I'm pretty sure it was created to honor the local natives not degrade them.
53	North Hills Indian is a strong and powerful mascot that we admired and respected. I lived on a Native American reservation (Crow) for a while and believe this mascot does not disrespect the culture but instead celebrates Native Americans and honors the Indians who lived in PA and had a fighting spirit.
54	One of the dumbest ideas ever to come out of the North Hills School District
55	People are offended by everyone and everything- Indian mascot is a sign of a respect and power and bravery- quit bowing down to crazy left
56	Please do not accommodate the minority let us be proud of our history
57	Please don't change our mascot. I'm so tired of all the "politically correct" rhetoric.
58	Please keep the Indian Mascot!!!
59	Please maintain the Indian mascot and avoid the expense for taxpayers of replacing all of the items that would need to be changed!!!
60	Pride, tradition and excellence. I urge you to revisit the historical meaning behind our mascot. This is not offensive, it's pride. I'm sure you can reach out to the Ross township historical society to help you .
61	Really? This is bullshit over Disney? Come on!

62	Society needs to stop forcing things to be offensive.
63	Spend your time and money on things that matter! The kids and the security of the kids.
64	The American Indian is a representation of our US history, our Western PA history. The mascot is Indian Chief - not poking fun but honoring an almost forgotten people. There is no malice...not poking fun at skin color or costume - just respect. Why change this?
65	The Bureau of Indian Affairs is a federal agency. If this is a title that has yet to be changed, then I think this should be more than appropriate. North Hills has never used this as a derogatory term, and instead pays tribute to the people who once inhabited the land. The level of investment to change something that is only challenged socially is irresponsible use of taxpayer money and undercuts the culture of the district.
66	<p>The continued knee jerk reactions to political pressure from a small audience on social media illustrates perfectly the politicization our education system has become</p> <p>This is only an issue because a few people have allowed it to become an issue as opposed to addressing more pressing and relevant issues</p> <p>The constant social focus of the board and district is exactly why I do not return for reunions or other school related events</p> <p>Move on to something that affects the education and physical well being of the students, and can actually positively impact their lives as opposed to this ludicrous and ridiculous righteous posturing for a few Facebook or Twitter likes and maybe an article in the newspaper about this virtue signaling</p> <p>There are far more people proud to be a North Hills Indian than there are people embarrassed by a quality and respectful logo and name</p>
67	The idea to change this is ridiculous. The Indian is a respected symbol & in no way is it being ridiculed or used in a derogatory manner. I was proud to be an Indian.
68	<p>The Indian has been with this high school since its genesis. The 1944 Westvian yearbook gives an explanation of why they were West View Indians and why that tradition should continue as the North Hills Indians. World War II was still raging and the students at that time expressed this perspective, "The first major problem was the selection of a theme. In appealing to the Class for suggestions, we found that there was little desire for a military theme. West View students were well enough aware of the reality of war and did not need to be reminded of it. However, we have not forgotten West View's part in the war; we bore that in mind in our dedication. For our theme, we finally rallied around the "Totem" of West View and selected our school emblem, The Indian. We think of the unconquerable spirit of the Indian warrior as symbolic of the West View "Spirit of '44." Join with The Indian, then, for we are "on the trail.""</p> <p>Judging by this public meeting, it sounds like the North Hills School Board is considering conquering a spirit that has been in every West View and North Hills High School graduate since 1944.</p> <p>I had that same unconquerable spirit of the Indian warrior when I graduated from North Hills High School in 1982, and that unconquerable spirit was with me throughout my 20 year honorable career in the United States Navy. In my younger days, I wore my North Hills Indians t-shirt while</p>

	<p>visiting Arlington National Cemetery, Edinburgh Castle in Scotland, and King's Cross in London, England, among other notable landmarks, and it was a favorably recognized emblem of North Hills High School in the suburbs of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. While I have moved away and lived most of my adult life away from Western Pennsylvania, I still take great pride in identifying as a North Hills Indian.</p> <p>I am proud that my alma mater chose to remember and honor the Native Americans who used to roam the countryside that now house our hometowns, schools, churches, and businesses. You can try to argue that the Indian mascot has outlived its usefulness and is derogatory toward Native Americans but if you subscribe to that thought process, then you also have to admit that the homes now built on formerly Native American lands are symbols of disrespect toward them. I don't think any of you plans to make reparations to Indians by tearing down your houses and schools, and giving the land back to their tribes so I don't think it would be a correct decision to remove the Indian as the North Hills High School mascot. Simply put, the Indian is the mascot of North Hills School District and the buildings that occupy the North Hills School District are emblems of what was taken from Indians before any of us were born. Removing the Indian as the North Hills mascot may seem like the right idea but in truth, it is a shameless attempt to hide from the past and not learn from history.</p> <p>Some final thoughts and a recommendation that I'd like to share. The mascot of Florida State University is the Seminole and the university maintains community and financial relationships with the Seminole Nation. There are numerous indigenous and Native American groups on Instagram that sell their goods including Native American themed t-shirts that have far more imposing likenesses than the North Hills Indian. Most of these groups advertise to support them and buy their goods but there is no mention that they verify if you are Native American when selling to consumers.</p> <p>Rather than removing the Indian as mascot, I recommend that North Hills School District create a historical research project for the current high school students to learn about the heritage of the North Hills Indian. It would involve students researching what Native American tribes lived in the areas that are now North Hills School District. Then the students could research if there are any descendant groups for these tribes and open communications between the tribes and North Hills to see how maintaining a relationship could be beneficial to both. Learn from the past and embrace it, instead of burying it, hiding from it, and pretending that it didn't happen. Thank you.</p>
69	<p>The Indian is a representative of a proud warrior spirit. It is not and never has been a derogatory term. It was chosen out of admiration of the Native American Indians and their heritage. Let's not make it something it's not or change history.</p>
70	<p>The Indian mascot was originally named after the native Americans who lived in the current West View area, before the high school was moved from West View to Ross. It was done out of respect and to pay tribute to those who came before us. Changing the mascot would cause our history to be forgotten. Keep the mascot, fight as they did to protect their land, and keep their memory alive.</p>
71	<p>The Indian mascot, in my opinion, has always been a symbol of pride and strength. Though I am not of Native American heritage, I have never thought our schools mascot was derogatory or degrading to those who are. It would be nice if the board would speak with some local people who are of Native American descent and see what their thoughts are before changing a mascot/name and spending all kinds of money to do so if it's not a necessity.</p>

72	The mascot is offensive to Native American culture. It is time we evolve our thinking and include some compassion. This would be a great lesson to teach the students at North Hills that there is always time to fix a mistake we have made.
73	The mascot is tasteful and respectful and not at all intended to be offensive to any Native American. It is representative of North Hills' pride, tradition and excellence.
74	The mascot of Indians should stay because it represents the strength and wisdom of Indian tribes that North Hills School District has absorbed years ago and carried these strengths & wisdoms throughout generations. We ARE North Hills Indians Proud!
75	The motto beneath NHHS states PRIDE TRADITION EXCELLENCE. 1 PRIDE: having a top notch education 2 TRADITION: past embedded American Indian history of the North Hills area (hence the Indian mascot) 3 EXCELLENCE: excelling in a traditional education above the standards and not distracted by caving into political influence
76	There are more important issues. This is ridiculous.
77	There are more important things you should be focusing on and changing the mascot should be at the bottom of your list
78	This has always been a staple of our school. We are proud of our Mascot! Never have any of our Alumni been disrespectful and now we have to conform to be "politically correct". Shameful!
79	This has been my mascot for years I love it it's been the mascot since my grandma was in elementary school you should look at as a good thing that we respect them
80	This insane practice of undoing our history has got to stop somewhere. Our mascot was the Indian, and always will be in my eyes.
81	This is a complete and total waste of time.
82	This is absolutely ridiculous ! Please do not give in to the craziness of today's woke society .
83	This is ridiculous people are causing a stir because of a mascot that has existed for years! Students who openly participated in band with me are now saying how "offensive" it is. Come on! This new world caves to what people they THINK ARE OFFENDED. My sister in law lives in the district, is of native America descent and is not offended by our mascot. We've had conversations and she laughs about it. This country needs to grow a backbone and say NO. No. Is a complete sentence! I'm damn proud of that mascot and the school it represents. Take our tax dollars and spend it on PROTECTING THESE CHILDREN, than a mascot.
84	This should never have been an issue!
85	Tradition !
86	Was always proud to be North Hills Indian alumni! It's a long time school tradition never hurt anyone please keep it!
87	We have never felt the Indian was derogatory and would love to keep the tradition we've come to know and respect.
88	Why are you bending to the Woke 2%? Has there been any complaints from indigenous American Indians in the past 50 years? Disney? The company that has been "grooming " children for decades. Shame on you North Hills. No backbone!

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You are taking away a piece of history from those who attended North Hills. An Indian is a brave and intelligent warrior. A symbol that represents our school and the students who fill it. We must stop with this "everything is offensive" propaganda. Keeping the Indian is showing a great deal of respect to the Natives and whom they are. That others want to be like them. Keep the Indian and teach students more about their people, tribes, and culture. Not erase it from peoples memories. There are more important things to discuss and fight about. Changing the mascot is not one of them. Please show your worth as you sit in those seats and let's move on to more important issues.

Thank you for your time. [REDACTED]

CHANGE THE INDIAN

Residents/Employees (Signed up to speak)

1	<p>As a Native American the use of Indian or Indian imagery by schools or sports teams is offensive. We oppose to the use of Indians as mascots. The biggest defense of Indian mascots is weak. They claim that we are honoring Native Americans. If all Native Americans felt honored, then that argument would bear some weight, but most DO NOT feel honored. My children (your students) do not feel honored. The overwhelming majority of Natives want Indian mascots gone from school and professional teams. The bottom line is that if any mascot is truly offensive to a culture that mascot should be removed. Human beings should not be appropriated for any reason. We should not be afraid to change. Now is the time to change. Let's lead the school to the right side of history.</p>
2	<p>Go with an animal mascot</p>
3	<p>Here is a great website that talks about why this change is important, the impact not changing it has, and the resources used by others making the change. The information provided is real data-driven resources including national position statements and research articles. https://www.ncai.org/proudtobe</p> <p>I am an NH 2003 alum and a parent of a student in the district. I have no connection or tie to the mascot because I have a life beyond high school. It's outdated and offensive to some so it is time to make a change. Our district should be a place that feels welcoming and inclusive to everyone. When students feel safe, supported, and respected they can focus on their education. Additionally, we should be teaching our children to be well-rounded people who learn acceptance and respect for others. I know that is my job as a parent, but I want to be in a district that mirrors those values.</p> <p>Additionally, many people claim they don't want it so we can't use "their" tax dollars. I personally didn't want all of the recent investments in the football field or band uniforms, when I know our district soccer complex is not accessible and outdated. We don't get to dictate how every penny of our taxes is spent, we are allowed though to vote for elected officials who can represent our interests. The community has selected our school board and they should be empowered to make the right choice and use the funds as needed. I think it was very evident in the last school board election that the majority of voters did not vote for hate on the school board, but for respect and forward thinking.</p> <p>Finally, besides everything I listed above, it is truly quite embarrassing being in a district where we have white people claiming Indian Pride!! As the great Maya Angelo said, "when you know better, you do better"</p>
4	<p>i am a Seneca Nation tribal member and graduate student in Nursing at La Roche college</p>
5	<p>I do not think that the district can afford a large expense, so I favor phasing the mascot out as things are replaced under normal maintenance schedules.</p>

6	I have three children who attend or are going to attend West View Elementary School. I love everything about the district except the mascot, and I think we can do better. I'm grateful that this topic is being brought up for discussion!
7	I know La Roche up the street has the same mascot, but The North Hills RedHawks has a great ring to it.
8	I spoke with a local Native American family that is offended by the stereotyping and appropriation of the Indian mascot. That is all I need to know. We don't have the right to use a people's culture without their consent. I grew up ignorantly chanting "Ooga, ooga, ooga" and mocking traditional indigenous dance and clothing, and that is wrong. There are many options for mascots that aren't offensive. North Hills Hawks? I realize that replacing signs and uniforms is expensive, but it is our responsibility.
9	I've grown up knowing the Indian mascot, but had a hard time tracing the origins. Best I could find is that it was implemented post WWII as an homage to the Indian warriors. I genuinely appreciate that the community has so much pride in their schools and their mascot. However, without having a clear understanding as to why this is the mascot makes it seem like more of a character than an homage. Recently learning that for Native Americans this is a religious symbol, especially being used by people not of the religion, doesn't feel right anymore. There are many other options that signal a source of pride that are perhaps more relevant to the area. Thank you for your time and consideration.
10	If a Major League Baseball team sees the problem of having an Indian mascot, so can a suburban Pittsburgh high school.
11	In my mind, if a mascot is offensive in anyway or harmful to a subset of individuals it should be changed. It's the right thing to do. Mascots should be independent of race, religion and ethnicity. Due to the cost, I would like to see incremental movements to eliminate the Indian mascot. Thank you for your time and all you do for our community.
12	Is there an order to how/when people will speak at the meeting? We are a thriving school district that models safety, respect, and responsibility. Using a marginalized group of human beings to represent luck is racist and against everything we stand for as a community. We teach our students the importance of valuing those who are different from us. Our students learn respect and empathy for others. Our country is only now beginning to understand the intense impact of Native American boarding schools. While our intentions are good - wanting to represent strength and leadership - now it is time to make a shift. "Do all the good that you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." Maya Angelou
13	It's time to change. There is nothing wrong with change, especially when done in an open and honest manner. The world keeps changing and it's time that we catch up.
14	Just because something was done yesterday doesn't mean we need to continue.
15	Let's please find better ways to honor indigenous people.

16	My kids are at West View Elementary. They're still early on in their time in the NHSD so maybe our perspective isn't the same as those with older kids or alumni. We moved here specifically to join North Hills even before our oldest was in kindergarten. I've never been completely comfortable with our mascot. As professional sports teams have started to change their mascots away from Native American themes, it's become more and more uncomfortable staying the same here at North Hills. Why hold onto a mascot that might make some feel alienated, even if that number is small and it means letting go of something others connect to? I think changing the mascot is an opportunity to engage the community to rediscover who we are and what mascot embodies us all. We cheer "We are North Hills!" Changing mascots would not change that. It would not take away our pride in our school.
17	My son who attends NH MS and he wants the mascot to be North Hills Tigers. Just thought I'd throw that out there lol
18	North Hills is already behind the times on this one. With schools, teams, and communities around the country changing names and mascots, North Hills needs to follow suit, not cling to racist traditions in a predominantly white district. Native people are people not mascots.
19	Thank you for hosting this
20	There are plenty of other mascots that would capture the current spirit of the community and are culturally sensitive to marginalized communities, such as Native American. Change is necessary to remain relevant so it's a great time to create a new mascot and identity for the school. I did not graduate from NHHS, but I started elementary school at Oakwood Ridgewood Elementary in 1979, so I was a former student.
21	Two professional sports teams - in the highest profile leagues in the country - have recently come to the conclusion that, yes, if we offend people with our "nicknames" we should do the right thing and change them. As a resident with a child in the NHSD, I feel terrible saying that we are an "indian," and am lucky she's not old enough that I have to explain the offense... yet. There are so many good nicknames out there to use as mascots and the PR opportunity of announcing and promoting a new, positive name outweighs any reason to hold onto something offensive because, "it's what people grew up with," etc etc. Finally, I understand there will be a cost to the district to have to change assets when the nickname changes but I say, it's worth it. Thank you for listening.
22	We could orient the mascot into a Pittsburgh-themed mascot, like the Jack Rabbits or something similar. That way, it shows pride in both our school and our city as a whole.
23	When a mascot takes the focus off of the achievements of the students and schools, it needs to be changed. It's not worth potentially isolating anyone and making them feel lesser than just to keep the mascot that we've had for decades. It's absolutely time for a change.
24	While there's no question the mascot was chosen with good intentions in the 1940's it's since been made clear by every national Native American organization that mascots like ours are harmful and they have respectfully asked that Indian mascots no longer be used. It would be unkind not to listen to these organizations and would also potentially rob our students of future opportunities (like what almost happened in Disney World). Time to do the right thing and change it.

25	You can not re write history, and the Indians name has deep tradition in this area, but we should be getting with the times. I propose a name change to the north hills knights, after John McKnight , who in 1809 along with 30 other residents of pine township petitioned the courts of Allegheny for the formation of a new township (Ross)
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Residents/Employees

1	<p>- Which Indian tribe does the "Indian" mascot represent? The mascot somewhat resembles that of an Indigenous person of the Great Plains (e.g., the Blackfoot Nation, the Cheyenne, the Oglala Lakota Nation), as opposed to an Indigenous person of the Northeastern Woodlands (e.g., the Shawnee, Lenape, tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy), who would have been present in modern-day Pittsburgh. At best, the use of the current mascot is historically inaccurate. At a minimum, I would assume that a school district which prides itself on academic achievement and excellence would want to be historically correct.</p> <p>- Even if the mascot historically accurately represented the Indigenous peoples who once inhabited western Pennsylvania (e.g., the Shawnee, Lenape, tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy), it does not take away from the fact that those peoples (and many others since the 1400's) suffered genocides by people of European descent. What does NHSD currently do to teach those lessons of history related to genocide, conquest, and cultural assimilation? More specifically, what does NHSD do to present that history from the perspective of the Indigenous peoples?</p> <p>- Given the above context: How does using a non-descript "Indian" mascot for a school (with students of mostly European descent) "honor" the Indigenous peoples of western Pennsylvania? (For reference, per the Census Bureau (https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/rosstownshipalleghenycountypennsylvania), over 90% of Ross Township residents identify as being of European descent -- i.e., "white" -- whereas nearly 0% of residents identify as being of Indigenous descent.)</p> <p>- Prior to a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review article from 2022-06-17 (https://triblive.com/local/north-hills/north-hills-school-district-holding-town-hall-to-discuss-indian-mascot-future/), I could not find any information related to the history of the "Indian" mascot. (I now know that the Indian mascot dates to 1939 and the former West View High School. North Hills High School's first graduating class was 1959 and, in their yearbook, 'North Hills Indians' is identified in the summaries of the sports programs and scores.) However, there are some other pieces of information I would like to know. For example: how was the logo chosen? Which tribe was it based on? Which tribal governments were consulted during its creation? Would the District be willing to provide this information, and all other information related to the history of the mascot on an official NHSD web page? It would be good for the community to know the basis of the use of an "Indian" mascot. Further, if the NHSD administration decides to keep the "Indian" mascot, could they please provide a formal response on this same web page, clarifying how exactly using a non-descript person of Indigenous descent as a mascot honors this complex and diverse group of peoples?</p>
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	<p>- Per the NHSD Values statement to "Cultivate productive relationships through community engagement" (https://www.nhsd.net/MissionVisionValues.aspx): With what tribal governments does the School District have productive relationships? In what ways does NHSD engage with those, or other, tribal communities of western Pennsylvania?</p> <p>- Florida State University has a close relationship with the Seminole Tribe of Florida (https://unicomm.fsu.edu/messages/relationship-seminole-tribe-florida/). If the NHSD administration decides to keep the "Indian" mascot: what actions will the administration take to make relations with tribal governments of western Pennsylvania? With what tribal governments would NHSD work with, to ensure the approval of the actual peoples we would be representing? How would NHSD ensure that these tribal peoples would be full participants in the activities of the school, to convert the mascot logo from a dehumanizing symbol to once that truly represents the culture and history of the Indigenous peoples?</p>
2	"Red Knights" - for the color and McKnight legacy in the area
3	"Because that's the way it is" and "but I was proud to be one" aren't good reasons. This mascot needs to change. Know better, do better. Do better North Hills.
4	A school and district are not about a mascot or even a name. It is about the tradition and pride that the students work hard at. It's about the programming the district provides and the education. The caring for our students.
5	All the Best to the Board in taking this issue on.
6	<p>Alumni who are Indians will always be Indians.</p> <p>We should change the mascot for the students. A mascot is used to bond students together, not for alumni who largely have little to do with the current schools.</p> <p>The students in elementary (especially Ross) and middle school have no identity with any mascot because principals have asked to not use the mascot on spiritwear, etc. they don't have tribe time anymore. We cannot have a mascot at a football game.</p> <p>It would be nice to be able to have a mascot available for an incoming kindergartener. Something they will feel pride in as their tradition begins.</p>
7	<p>Arguments for keeping the mascot have cited that it honors Native Americans, but does it? I myself am not a Native, but I learned in school about some of the tribes in Pittsburgh in the surrounding areas, such as the Iroquois Confederacy. The natives from our area did not wear the headdress of the Crow or Lakota that's donned in the mascot logo NH uses. It paints Natives with a broad brush and doesn't honor the ones that once lived in our city and region. Professional teams like the Vancouver Canucks and Seattle Seahawks have used Native American art and symbolism in their logos in a way that is respectful to Natives in their local areas. If the district changed their mascot to an animal in the area such as Hawks or even the Eagle (an animal that has made a comeback in this area and shown resiliency, just like Natives in the US), it would still be a strong mascot that people in our area could be proud of and ones the tribes that used to populate this area once used in their art and symbols.</p>

8	<p>As an alumni, North Hills was always a wonderful school and I can't be happier to one day have my own children in the school. However, having the "Indian" as a mascot and a team name seemed incentive 20 years ago and is downright awful now. Having spoken with the NCAI, they strongly agree.</p> <p>"As the oldest, largest, and most representative national organization serving the broad interests of Tribal Nations and peoples, NCAI has helped lead Indian Country's consensus-driven movement to retire harmful Native "themed" mascots from sports and popular culture for generations. This effort to promote welcoming learning environments for all students is not new. NCAI resolutions -- passed via consensus among hundreds of member Tribal Nations -- addressing the issue of inappropriate and stereotypical Native representation in sports and popular culture date back to 1950. Crucially, research in recent years documents the well-known harms that the monikers, images, and fan behaviors associated with Native "themed" mascots cause Native people, particularly Native youth."</p> <p>They go on to say: "NCAI supports the retirement of Native "themed" mascots in public K-12 schools. This includes the "Indians" mascot at North Hills. Should the issue come to a vote, we are happy to send a letter -- signed by our CEO -- to school and district administrators that will share similar resources and convey much of the information included in this message."</p> <p>This email, full of information and resources can be forwarded if you'd like.</p> <p>North Hills has always had a welcoming and inclusive environment. The school mascot should do the same for all people. "History" and "tradition" do not matter in the face of people who are being marginalized and turned into a caricature.</p> <p>If North Hills does decide to change their mascot (which they absolutely should) I would like to offer my graphic design abilities to design a new logo at no cost to the school district. I believe very strongly in this and wanted to put my money where my mouth is, so to speak.</p> <p>Thank you again for taking the time to read this.</p>
9	Change it
10	<p>Change it to the Red Hawks.</p> <p>We should not have indigenous people as mascots. It is offensive, just ask them. The NFL has made the change, it is finally time for North Hills High School to make the change.</p> <p>This can be phased in slowly as new letter head and uniforms are purchased and signs weather. You do not have to do it all at once.</p>
11	<p>Changing the mascot will facilitate a community of inclusion. Having a mascot that makes fun of another culture should not be tolerated or allowed. We stand for pride and respect however having a indigenous person as our mascot stands for neither of those. Make this school a better place and change the mascot!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!</p>

12	<p>Could we keep the colors and the pride excellence slogan and just change the mascot itself? I don't see Indians or the Indian picture used on many items now anyway.</p>
13	<p>Despite how hard it will be to change the mascot (in terms of money, time, effort, etc), I think it's an important lesson to our current generation, as well as future generations that no one is less than someone else, as well as how our society changes with the times (ie: there was a time when an Indian was an acceptable mascot. That time has changed and that's okay). As for those who say, 'I'm a proud 2002 north hills Indian', you can always be that while also accepting that a change needs to occur.</p>
14	<p>Despite the claims that students chose the Indian mascot out of a sense of honor for Native people, Native people throughout the country have been very clear that it is not an honor to them. It is offensive and appropriative. Furthermore, I would question whether the students who chose the mascot to begin with ever consulted local Natives before appropriating their image and culture. The tides have long since turned against such blatant disregard for our community's minority populations. It was embarrassing twenty two years ago when I was in school, marching in the band. It's unconscionable that we have let it go on so long. There is no Pride or Excellence in carrying on a Tradition that has no basis in honoring or respecting our community's history and people. We should not cling to a mistake just because we have spent a long time making it.</p>
15	<p>Due to multiple organizations of Indigenous people saying that Native American mascots are harmful to them, I firmly believe that our school district needs to commit to transitioning away from the current mascot. This can be a gradual process as new uniforms are needed, but the commitment should be made to move away from the offending name.</p> <p>I find it disheartening that people in our community who want to keep the mascot are holding history up as their excuse to offend. In the 1940s it was decided that the mascot of West View High School would be the Indian, 80 years of our school's history should in no way overlook the histories and traditions of the Indigenous Peoples who have lived in our area and our continent since PREhistory. Eighty years is a small blip in the 19000 years of history, tradition, struggles, and adversity that Indigenous Peoples have lived here.</p>
16	<p>First, I believe that the original decision to choose an Indian as a mascot for North Hills was not ill-intentioned in any way. However, I also believe that times do change and that when you know better, you do better - or at least you should strive to. Through education, we are trying to teach our children to think critically and to seek and use data and sources and experts to help make good decisions. While I fully believe that everyone is entitled to their own opinion, I also feel that it is unfortunate that a group of past alumni and parents of current students are very publicly berating and belittling those who want to use expert opinions and accept the position of Native American organizations who say that using Indians as a mascot is harmful, disrespectful, and perpetuates stereotypes of Native Americans. To ignore this data and expert opinion is in effect to say "I don't care if it causes harm because what 'I' want matters more than any negative impact the decision may have on a group of people." This is the exact opposite of what we should be teaching our children if we want them to become good citizens who make ethical decisions. I think it is absolutely wonderful that alumni have a sense of pride about being a graduate of North Hills High School, but the idea that one's past experience at North Hills is somehow diminished or tarnished just because a mascot changes is an emotional rather than a rational reaction. The fact that adults can be so attached to a mascot that they feel it is entirely appropriate to bully other parents within their community and treat them with disdain and outright</p>

	<p>contempt is disappointing, as is the idea that this is somehow a political issue instead of an ethical one. It is not lost on me that many of these same parents complain about bullying behavior that occurs by students at school, yet they are very clearly modeling for their children that it's okay to treat others disrespectfully if you disagree with them. I understand there are real and significant cost implications of making this decision, but I don't see any reason that this change could not be implemented over some extended period of time to minimize the impact. I also want to say that I truly appreciate the Board's decision to seek input from current students on this issue, and that I also appreciate that this decision is being thoughtfully considered versus allowing the loudest, angriest voices to dictate the district's direction on this important matter. Thank you.</p>
17	<p>From a 2020 graduate, the values of pride, tradition, and excellence that I have taken with me into my young adult life are tied none to the mascot of the Indian. Some alumni are worried that without the Indian, North Hills will lose its spirit, but the spirit was never tied to the mascot itself, but to the traditions and values passed on through students and faculty. As a marching band member, I remember screaming "We are North Hills," not "We are the Indians."</p>
18	<p>Go Big Red!</p>
19	<p>Have you talked to any Native Americans to hear their views on this subject?</p>
20	<p>Having a person dress in Native American garb is the equivalent of allowing a person to dress in black face. It's racist and unacceptable. We have all seen the video from disney world with the students in Native American headdress, chanting 'scalp 'em, Indians!' I think it goes without saying that we all collectively cringed and thought to ourselves, "who in their right mind thought that was a good idea!?!?" Let's not be like that school. It's time for a change.</p>
21	<p>Hello board members! I hope you will take this opportunity to change the mascot. As a taxpayer with children who attend North Hills School District, having the Indian mascot is, frankly, embarrassing. My experience with the district so far has been absolutely fantastic. I am so happy that my children have the opportunity to be educated in this district, and we are proud to be part of it. However, we are not proud to wear anything with the Indian mascot on it, or really engage with the mascot in any way. It is inappropriate to use a simplistic caricature of an entire people, regardless of "respect" some people claim it is used with. I would argue it is even more inappropriate when those people represented are victims of a genocide perpetrated by white people who now claim to adopt the "Indian". Let's find another mascot that not only reflects the North Hills in the present, but a mascot that we can all be proud of. I am a personal fan of the North Hills Hellbenders (look up Hellbenders if you aren't familiar with them!) but I expect that wouldn't go over well with some people. Regardless, I, along with my children, would love to be able to wear shirts with our mascot, and shout "GO (something other than Indians)" at future North Hills events. Thank you for your time in reading this comment.</p>

22	<p>How are all these “alums” whole lives and identities tied to what their highschool mascot is/was/shall be?? Has nothing more significant happened to you since then? Or are your highschool memories still defining your life?? 🤔</p> <p>I’m class of 99 and I have a whole life after highschool and this is not a determining factor in my life whatsoever. Haha Change it. It’s outdated and offensive to native indigenous people . School is about learning the history and making changes to do better. So let’s teach our kids to do better and want better for our community.</p> <p>And I have a ‘24 student and will have a ‘36 student as well. (Wow that’s weird to type haha) So I have a bigger stake in it than someone who graduated 50 years ago, as my kids will continue to be north hills students and wear whatever our logo becomes... for years to come yet. So I’d rather see it be a mascot we can be proud of and not ashamed to be one of the last remaining schools clinging to a problematic, racist image just out of a sense of “tradition”. Let’s start a new tradition and teach our kids that when you make an error (as using native ancestry as pageantry and a symbol, while their people were not honored here but slaughtered...) you learn better and do better in the future and make necessary changes as needed.</p>
23	<p>I am a freshman currently attending North Hills High School. The “Indians” being used as a mascot is considered a microaggression. I’ll ask you this—if a school or team used your race or ethnicity as a mascot to show aggressiveness or “threaten” opponents, how would you feel about the situation? Having an Indian as a mascot is not something that my peers and I are proud of. It’s exploiting and stereotyping Native Americans.</p>
24	<p>I am a NH boys lacrosse board member. The band is not the only organization that has had to change their uniform. As members of USA lacrosse, which every high school and youth player must belong to, we must follow the official position of USA lacrosse which is :</p> <p>"USA Lacrosse holds and promotes the core beliefs of sportsmanship, cultural diversity, and nondiscrimination in the lacrosse experience of every player, parent, coach, official, and fan. We commend those who have taken proactive steps to embrace an inclusive culture and will continue to strive to enhance the lacrosse experience for all communities. As the sport’s national governing body, USA Lacrosse believes that the misuse of Native American nicknames, logos, and mascots reflect and promote misleading stereotypes that are degrading and harmful to Native Americans. We will make every effort to assure that offensive or stereotypical mascots and logos will not be visible or promoted at events that USA Lacrosse controls."</p> <p>The boosters of NH lacrosse has designed a logo in keeping with the above and all players have been issued a pinnie with this inclusive logo</p>
25	<p>I am a parent of three NHSD students, and I ask the school board to change the mascot. I understand and respect the history of the school district, but we must understand there was a history before our existing community was founded. The Lanape, Osage and other indigenous people were forced to leave their land, and having an Indian as a mascot dismisses their history and legitimizes colonialism. It is important that we acknowledge the past. Replacing the mascot will not undo the mistreatment of the indigenous people who once lived here, but it acknowledges the need to right a wrong. It also teaches a valuable lesson to our students that we can grow and learn from our mistakes. Thank you for your consideration.</p>

26

I am a resident of Ross Township. My husband attended North Hills schools, and my children are both students in the district (Ross Elementary and NHMS). We are all troubled and confused by the controversy surrounding the mascot conversation. We don't understand why there is such resistance to simply doing the right thing, to treating people with dignity and respect, to putting people ahead of money, and to setting examples for our children of responsibility and advocacy. It really is a head-scratcher.

There appear to be a handful of common objections being raised by individuals who oppose changing the NHSD mascot. The primary ones I've been able to identify are money, pride/identity, and a general disdain for anything anyone could possibly consider "woke" (read: basically anything in the realm of diversity and inclusion). I'll quickly touch on each of these items, before stating our family's position:

1) Money // I do not have any insight into how much this change may cost. However, a few things that occur to me are that there are likely multiple ways to approach a change like this, and they would each likely involve different monetary costs. Also, does any private citizen actually know what this would cost, and what percentage of the budget it would involve? It feels unfair to scream about unknown dollar figures. And finally, while yes, change involves a cost, a positive change's cost can easily be considered an investment. By spending money on things that *matter*, that invests in the well-being of our kids and communities, that positions North Hills as leaders in truly caring about all people, we teach our kids how dollars spent on the right things can truly change the world. We teach them that values matter more than *stuff*. And we ultimately mold them into the kind of people who understand the impact of donating to causes, supporting political campaigns, and giving generously in their communities and places of worship.

2) Pride + Identity // So many people have pointed to the Indian mascot as something they are proud of, that gives them an identity. While I don't have the 23 and Me results of each of these individuals, I suspect very few of them are Native American. The pride people tend to speak of is based on their educational experience, teachers, classmates, sports, and other activities. Conflating those experiences and the people who helped shape them with a mascot is misplaced, irresponsible, and honestly, disrespectful for the individuals who actually enriched those experiences. Sorry teachers and staff — it wasn't you who have helped create this culture and community. It was a caricature drawing of a "stereotypical" member of an entire people group.

3) Fear of Woke-ism // If being a good human and caring about the proper treatment is considered woke, then my family wears that label with pride. Regarding the word "Indians", I found an article with this snippet, and I couldn't word it any better myself:

"Generally speaking, both "American Indian" and "Native American" are OK to use. Both refer to the Indigenous peoples of America. That said, the best term to use in a given situation usually comes down to preference — not your personal preference, but the preference of the person you're speaking with. They might dislike "Native American" and prefer "American Indian," or vice versa, but you have no way of knowing unless you ask (or better yet, listen first)." (source: <https://www.healthline.com/health/native-american-vs-american-indian#which-one-to-use>)

Why are we assuming the word Indian is okay here? I would suggest it's because the native

	<p>population in this area is extremely small, and so there's little to no risk of resistance. That doesn't make it any less tone deaf and offensive to make a stereotype of an entire people group a school district mascot. Can you even imagine a mascot using other historically mistreated races? And then let's lump them all together to create a cartoonish representation that strips them off their own diversity and nuanced identity. It's unkind and irresponsible and an absolutely terrible example for the children we are actually trying to grow into better adults than we are.</p> <p>At this point, I'm sure it's obvious where our family stands on this issue. We are perfectly fine with our tax dollars being spent to make this right. We find our identity in the community our schools have created for our kids. And woke is just another word for giving a shit about your fellow neighbor, whether they be five steps away, or 5,000 miles away. Just be a good human. It's time to do the right thing here, and replace the Indian. In so doing, NHSD should also publish some sort of historical artifact that points to the change, how it was made out of respect and social responsibility, and points readers to educational resources to learn more about both indigenous people groups *and* the importance of diversity and inclusion education (which I'm sure will go over swimmingly).</p>
27	<p>I am an alumna (1998) and recipient of the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award. I am proud of North Hills and all that it helped me achieve, but my pride is in no way linked to the continuation of the Indian mascot. If anything, the opposite is true. Social science research has long demonstrated the harmful effects of Native mascots on both Native and non-Native people, especially children. Nearly 20 years ago, the American Psychological Association recommended the discontinuation of such mascots nationally because of the irreparable harm they cause American Indian children [https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/indian-mascots]. The District does so much good for our youth, but that work is undermined by the continued, deliberate use of a mascot that we know causes young people harm.</p> <p>If, despite this evidence, the Board decides to continue the use of the Indian, then I would recommend a review of the elements of the curriculum dealing with Native Americans from K-12. Much of the harm caused by these mascots is that they cause both Native and non-Native people to see Native Americans as nothing more than warriors, fighters, or more derogatory terms. It is the District's responsibility to ensure that isn't the case for our students. Students should learn not only about the Indian Wars and the Trail of Tears, but also about the tribes that lived in our region -- how they self-governed, how they worked with others, and how they lived. In a recent gathering of family, which included 5 North Hills alumni, not one of us could name a local tribe, or a tribe that historically lived in this region. Earlier this month, I visited the Women's Rights National Historic Park in Seneca Falls, NY, which included an exhibit on gender dynamics in the tribes living in New York in the mid-19th century. It was the first time I had been exposed to such information. This shouldn't be the case for a graduate of a school that claims to use the Indian mascot as an honorific. If we really want to honor Indigenous Americans, then we should educate our children about their many contributions, past and present.</p> <p>Thank you to the Board for taking the time to listen to the community about this issue.</p>
28	<p>i am in favor of changing the current mascot and picking an animal or some other mascot that is not offensive to a given community.</p>

29	<p>I am unable to speak publicly Because I am celebrating Father's Day and my mothers birthday. I am a citizen and a tax payer in the North Hills School District area. I live in West View.</p> <p>I think it is ridiculously gross to continue to use the name "Indians" as a mascot. I believe many NATIVE AMERICAN organizations have expressed they do not feel this as an honor and hope that schools who do wish to honor Native Americans donate money to their causes; however I don't imagine that happens very often, even among schools who have changed their name.</p> <p>We are better than this. We are better than continuing a hurtful name as a mascot. Please don't excuse this as some "woke bullshit" as I suspect many on the right will feel. Time after time the Native American community across the US and now evidenced by my friend Sarah Fleming has showed the Native American community on whose land we have stolen and live on do not see this as respectful.</p> <p>We must go better and we must ask our embarrassingly offensive opponents to do better.</p>
30	<p>I believe it is now time to move on to a new mascot as a gesture towards showing respect to our Native American citizens.</p>
31	<p>I believe it would be a respectful gesture to change the mascot.</p>
32	<p>I believe North Hills is a great school district and my elementary aged child has had great experiences with everyone he has interacted with at Ross. That being said it honestly feels embarrassing in 2022 when someone asks me what the school name/mascot is and see the reactions. I don't believe ultimately this should be decided by a majority of people who are not affected by the mascot and who are driven by nostalgia from their school days. I would recommend the board reach out to local Native American groups such as the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center and follow their recommendation whether the school mascot is offensive as that is the only point of view that holds weight, and these are the groups who's opinion matters most.</p>
33	<p>I believe that the North Hills mascot should be changed. While I understand the importance of tradition, I believe that inclusion must take priority.</p> <p>As a black person with a biracial child, one of my fears is that my child won't be treated the same as non-diverse students and that he'll be treated differently due to stereotypes that black people aren't as smart but are really fast and good at basketball. The fact that the school district is maintaining a racial mascot suggests that the district's willingness to maintain the status quo or appease the majority is stronger than its commitment to creating an inclusive environment for all students. And what that tells me is that the school district is not for my diverse child.</p> <p>While some say that the Indian mascot honors the bravery and tenacity of Native American groups, I can't help but see how that's perpetrating a stereotype. It's a positive stereotype, but it's still a stereotype, and even positive stereotypes can be harmful.</p> <p>A mascot is supposed to be something that tells the world about the team or organization it represents. I'm not naive enough to think that changing a mascot will magically eliminate all forms of racial insensitivity and bias in the district. Retiring the mascot is a good way to show</p>

	that the administration is serious about equality. If the North Hills School District keeps the Indian mascot, it will be telling the world that tradition trumps inclusion for minority students.
34	I believe the current mascot and nickname should be reviewed for change. The logo is likely not accurate of the native people in this area and the term "Indians" generalizes a diverse set of people. If students/employees/alumni want to maintain an association with the native people of this area, this should be done with consultation and approval from the Osage Nation (most likely inhabitants of the area as best I could find via research). The Osage can approve any images and naming. This is how the NCAA handles team naming (e.g. FSU has an agreement with the Seminole tribe).
35	I can't believe in the year 2022 there is even a debate about whether a disrespectful, racist mascot should be removed. Do better North Hills.
36	I can't make the in-person meeting because I will be out of town for business. But I want my thoughts to be known. It's 2022. This is a no-brainer and it's embarrassing to me that we have to have this much debate about it. You have to change this mascot. Open your eyes here
37	I come forward to share my thoughts as a 1992 graduate, a Ross Township resident, and the parent of a 2021 grad and two current NHSD students. As a black woman, I grew up in Ross Township, and I know exactly what it is like to be a minoritized person in this area. You are already different. You already stand out, so you do what you can to blend in, which usually means staying silent in the face of wrongdoing. But I cannot stand by and watch us continue to do wrong. We've heard from countless Native American individuals, groups and associations that Indian logos and mascots are offensive. These old time caricatures mock Native American traditions and perpetuate negative stereotypes of violence, conflict and lack of self control. This feeds into further harm to the Native community, adding to statistics on depression, suicide and abuse of all sorts. In a school district where the overwhelming population is white, I feel it is essential that we put aside any personal opinions and listen to the voices of the underrepresented. In this case, if Native American individuals are telling us to stop using Indian mascots, then we stop it. End of story. Removing the Indian mascot does not take away from any of my accomplishments as a NH graduate or resident. It does not take away from my degree or diminish my or my children's experiences in any way. If anything, I am embarrassed that in this day and age we as a district are tone deaf to a racial group who is pleading with us to honor their culture better. I work in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion space, where we often teach folks about intent versus impact. Our district's intent in keeping the Indian mascot is not malicious or intentionally harmful. We do it in the name of 'tradition'. However, the impact of our inaction is extremely harmful to Native Americans. Change is a constant in life, and it can feel uncertain. Yet we've all had to make changes at various points in life. If NH wants to be a district that grows, one that attracts new families and remains innovative, we must consider the needs of all and do all we can to avoid insulting and silencing any group. Let's show our integrity and draft a plan to phase out the old Indian mascot. Special thanks to our school board and administrators who are weighing this issue and considering multiple perspectives.
38	I do not believe that there is a bad intent behind the mascot. Nonetheless, the issue is what is in the best interest of our students. I believe that going forward, the Indian mascot on photos and on spirit wear will be viewed unfavorably by many and will hinder our students in the future. This may show up on Job searches and the like and could prove costly. As such, I believe that the students will benefit from a change. Emotional pleas for tradition, although understandable, do not overcome this.

39	<p>I don't think the Indians mascot represents pride or respect for Native Americans as a people or as a culture. Rather, it is merely co-opting a stereotypical representation of an ethnic group for the entertainment purposes of a predominantly white school district. Frankly, it is bizarre to use an ethnic group as a mascot. I don't believe I have seen other ethnic groups used as mascots (I am certainly NOT advocating that they should be!) and rightfully so. There are plenty of other options available that do not use representations of ethnic and racial groups. I realize many will argue that the costs associated with changing the mascot should prevent the Board from making a change. I disagree with this as the costs will be worth the value of no longer reducing an entire ethnic group of people to a trivialized mascot. Thanks for considering this important issue!</p>
40	<p>I don't want the position the people making this decision are in. My children attend Ross Elementary and are active in sports. But 'Indian' is a derogatory word. The NCAA has removed the name. I do not look forward to having to root for the Indians when my son is older. Professional sports have gotten rid of Indians and Red Skins. I believe the mascot should be changed entirely, but if the mascot remains, change the name to the Natives or Warriors? Good luck with your decision.</p>
41	<p>I feel like the mascot is very racist and offends people.</p>
42	<p>I feel strongly that we should change the mascot. It is way over due and it should not even be an issue. How can we teach our kids about inclusivity and acceptance of all humans when we have this outdated racist mascot. Thank you.</p>
43	<p>I fully support changing the mascot, and my three current high school kids agree!</p>
44	<p>I fully support the change of the North Hills mascot. A failure to change with the times will negatively impact North Hill's students' opportunities and North Hill's ability to make proactive financial decisions.</p> <p>We have already seen the impact our outdated uniforms have had on student opportunity and the district's ability to make proactive financial decisions. In the case of the band uniforms for the latest event in Florida, hardworking students and parents almost missed an opportunity. Luckily, a short-term solution was found and the purchase of new uniforms for future events was possible. However, North Hills will not always be in a position to react quickly, and last minute decisions are often more costly. The WPIAL Policy & Resources on Racial/Social Expectations also hints to a future in which the North Hill's mascot will no longer be acceptable. In order to keep providing our students with as many opportunities as possible, and to make the plans to do so, North Hills needs to proactively plan the retirement of the Indian mascot.</p> <p>People often confuse "tradition" with "never changing", although this sentiment is of course nowhere to be found in our values. And if this sentiment was true, North Hills would have little to no support for girl's sports, special education, or technology. Change has always been a part of growth at North Hills, and change has been essential to upholding our values of pride, tradition, and excellence.</p> <p>Updating our mascot will remove barriers for our students, empower the district to responsibility and proactively make financial decisions, and allow the district to focus on the mission of providing our students with personal development & intellectual growth as responsible global citizens. Thank you for your time.</p>

45	I graduated from NH in 1994 and currently have three children in the district. The mascot is offensive to many and the district should do the right thing and remove it despite the vocal minority.
46	I have two children in the school district (grades 5 and 7) and we all beg you to change the mascot. It is an embarrassment.
47	I have written to the district and school board previously indicating that the mascot should be changed as it is not empowering, it does not represent the residents of the district, it tokenizes a people, and it is (or was not when my child was in the district) not connected to curriculum or teaching about the lived experience of Native Americans. The logo, itself, perpetuates stereotypes. Even Cleveland has altered its stance and changes its MLB mascot. North Hills is more than overdue in making this change. As the parent of an alum, I do not and will not promote the district with its current logo and mascot name. Please finally change it. It is a disrespectful embarrassment. This is such a good district, it is a shame it has continued to perpetuate these stereotypes.
48	I think it is about time the school district changes it's mascot. The mascot image that the school district uses is racist and does not represent the Native American tribes indigenous to our area. I know some of the people who disagree with changing the mascot believe by getting rid of the North Hills Indian we would be erasing history, but the mascot is an inaccurate, stereotypical caricature. I think it would be nice, especially if so may people are concerned with the history of our mascot, that the district update the curriculum to focus more on the Native American history of our area. I think there was a small unit when I was in 3rd grade, and having a 17 and an 11 year old in the district I don't think that has changed much through the years. Another reason why I think it is time to change the mascot is the recent issue the marching band had at Disney World. If our school mascot prevents our students from having the best opportunities, why hold on to it? If we do not change it, I'm sure there will be future events that our children will miss out on because of the mascot on their uniform. At some point the mascot will need to be changed whether we do it now or in a few years.
49	I think North Hills should change its mascot for historical and pragmatic reasons. I'll start with the objective history: the American Indians were the indigenous people of North America who found themselves displaced from their native land by force or guile. Events like the Trail of Tears mark some of the darkest moments in U.S. history. This history of displacement, and the fact that we now live on the land from which the Indians were displaced, in my opinion, makes it inappropriate to adopt the Indian identity as a mascot. And for me, that is reason enough to make the change. But even if we were to agree that somehow a school mascot bestows some kind of honor on these people, I think we come to my second reason for advocating this change: the pragmatic challenge. How do we use the Indian mascot in a way that honors? I think there's broad agreement that old caricatured representations like "Chief Wahoo" are no longer acceptable. However, opinions remain divided about displays of headdresses and war chants in the stands. Consequently, instead of a unifying icon, the Indian becomes a divisive element as people debate not only its presence as a mascot but the appropriate manner in which it is used. A litmus test I sometimes use is, "Can a sophomore dress up as the mascot and goof around on the sideline?" Let's change the mascot to something that everyone can enjoy and rally around. The tragic history of the Native American Indians and the difficulties around their portrayal demand that we move away from its use as a mascot.

50	I think the Board should consider getting rid of 'a' mascot. There are many other ways to build spirit and a sense of community, in fact, we have already successfully built the idea that We Are North Hills. We have proven we don't need a kid in a costume running the field to engage our North Hills family.
51	I think we should change the mascot to be termites in the "North Hills Termites"
52	I understand this is an emotional issue for many residents of North Hills. I understand the board is seeking the opinions of tax payers and alumni but the issue of the Indian mascot changing or not changing should not be based on any of the comments from this group. The only opinions that should matter are the opinions of people within the Native American population. If a group is saying, the representation of my community is offended by the use of our name/face/religious objects/etc in a mascot and feel the mascot does harm to their community, we need to listen. Everything I have researched and read states Native American tribes and organizations have stated using their community in mascots is harmful and they do not want it to continue. We can have pride and tradition in being an excellent example of how communities should listen to those impacted.
53	I was a member of the North Hills 'Fightin Indian' Marching Band for 5 years. It was life changing. I had amazing friends, I learned everything I needed to be successful in life. I credit that to my wonderful teachers, strong staff, and curriculum. This has nothing to do with our mascot and I refuse to believe that it is so important to everyone else who opposes the change. I'm a successful professional. I have moved back into the district and have a 1.5 y/o son who will be going to NH. I want to make sure that he knows that a caricature of a human being who was eradicated from our area hundreds of years ago is disrespectful and in no way should be used by others, period. It's not historically accurate. Many large Native American groups oppose using 'Indian' mascots. There is no need to keep it. I will be ok. Our memories from years ago will be ok. And most importantly, my son will be ok - because he goes to a district that cares about doing the right thing. Please change the mascot. Respectfully, [REDACTED] Class of '03
54	<p>I was in the marching band in my time at North Hills (as it was known then, the "Fighting Indian Marching Band"—already, a problem), and thinking back on it from now, even though I graduated in 2011, there were quite a few bigoted things related to the mascot. (I distinctly recall the cheerleaders doing a "war chant"-themed cheer at several football games, not to mention the use of something akin to the Atlanta baseball team's "tomahawk chop".)</p> <p>The mascot should absolutely be changed, and a new mascot should be selected as soon as possible. (There shouldn't be a transition period akin to the "Washington Football Team"—a full, immediate mascot change should be performed.)</p>
55	<p>I went to IUP and they changed their mascot 20 years ago, 2002, because it is unacceptable to have a human race as a mascot.</p> <p>Having racism embedded in our district school is holding our children back from becoming the best version of themselves to show love and empathy in modern society. Having an Indian mascot and name perpetuates racism and hate towards ethnic groups and it needs to stop. It isn't a matter of opinion, having a mascot and being named the Indians is racist. That is fact. It shouldn't be up to the community to keep this name. It's the board's job to recognize this racism in our district and end it once and for all.</p>
56	I work at a school district that recently removed their Indian mascot. People were mad at first,

	as they always will be, but once it was changed, everything died down and it was fine
57	<p>I would hope that students, educators, and board members would review the research on this issue....particularly the impact on Native Americans and their perspective.</p> <p>I am disappointed at the lack of understanding through posts on Facebook. I hope that valid research and understanding of US history is looked at. As Maya Angelou said " when you know better, you do better." North Hills has a proud history that will in no way be diminished by now 'doing better'.</p> <p>Glad to see this conversation is happening.</p> <p>https://www.ncai.org/proudtobe</p>
58	<p>I'm in favor of changing the mascot. It is long overdue. The "Indian" is racist, generic, and outdated imagery that is not honoring anyone. People are not mascots. It's an embarrassment to have anything with a human's head in a headdress representing NHSD. I was appalled every time our amazing marching band was performing. The new uniforms are sharp and modern and represent our brand: North Hills. This is the direction the district needs to move, and it can be achieved with a fiscal responsibility by phasing out the offensive name and logo over time, as things need to be replaced. Start by painting over the walls in the pool and gyms. Make a solid plan for change: drop the racist mascot and commit to moving forward and not living in the past. When you know better, you do better. We know better. You know better. #nhproud</p>
59	<p>I'm not sure why this is even a question other than there are clearly far too many people in this district that are not paying attention to (or caring about) the world outside of this area. The rest of the country is evolving and it's not a matter of politics or agendas. It is a matter of decency.</p> <p>The Indigenous community - a community that has been brutalized and marginalized in this country for centuries - has spoken freely about how they find the use of their culture as mascots to be offensive and they have asked for change. The immediate natural response to that as decent people who care about other people is to respect that request and make the simple, easy change, but, for some reason, there are people in this district that would rather dig in their feet and fight against it. Why? Are people really that invested in a mascot? If so, again I ask, why? There are plenty of other mascots that pose zero offense to others. It's almost as if those against this request for change enjoy offending and hurting others. To those people, I sincerely hope that they seek help. That is no way to live.</p> <p>There are people in that claim the mascot is a "tribute" or an "honor" to Indigenous people. The Indigenous community has responded to those claims (on a national level) that they do not interpret it that way. As an imperfect adult that is trying to do better, I've learned that impact is more important/greater than intent, and no matter how pure and kind your intent may be, ultimately the impact of your actions or words means more. I do not believe that North Hills ever intended to be offensive by choosing this mascot or continuing to use it, but our intent doesn't matter. The impact of the choice to continue to use it does.</p> <p>Just a few weeks ago, Disney World indicated that the NH high school band could not perform in their parks if the band wore the uniforms with the mascot logo. I imagine there are other venues and competitions that have or will impose the same requirement. Will the band need several uniforms to conform to requirements going forward? And, isn't that a very clear</p>

	<p>indication that the mascot is problematic? I've noticed the mascot logo and the word "Indians" aren't even used on most North Hills merchandise. I mostly see the "NH" logo now. If we aren't using the mascot anyway, why would it be such a big deal to change it?</p> <p>Around the country, major league sports teams have already made these changes based on the requests of the Indigenous community. Owners of these teams have had thoughtful conversations about this issue and they've realized the time has come to do better. I recommend that the North Hills School Board reach out to leaders in the Indigenous community to have this conversation, too, if you have not done so already (if you need resources/access, please reach out to me. I have a few connections that may be willing to help). At the very least, I hope the School Board has taken the time to truly research this issue diligently and thoroughly.</p> <p>The rest of the country is evolving and adapting because that is what modern civilizations do to survive and thrive. We're trending towards becoming a more inclusive country where different cultures can be celebrated and no longer marginalized. That is a good thing, that is a sustainable thing that can improve everyone's lives if we let it. The mascot change is inevitable - whether we do it now or remain stubborn and wait another decade or two, it's coming. I think as a whole, the North Hills community knows better. It's time for us to do better.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
60	<p>I'm writing to express my STRONG opposition to the continuation of the Indian Mascot. The Indian mascot is NOT a tribute to the Native Americans as it has been touted; but a continuation of white supremacy and is in direct violation of our supposed "Racial Equity and Anti-Racism" stance. When we claim that decades of tradition are more important than thousands of years of Native American culture, we are showing that we have no respect for the people we falsely claim to be honoring. Indeed, we are complicit in perpetuating the erroneous and harmful belief that Native peoples are "other", and their humanity does not matter, and so their culture is there for our taking. To be used and abused as we see fit.</p> <p>While I'm grateful that the topic of our school mascot is finally being addressed, I'm frustrated that it's been defended and tolerated for so long. I will leave you with this quote which was pulled from the American Psychological Association's website.</p> <p>"The use of American Indian mascots as symbols in schools and university athletic programs is particularly troubling because schools are places of learning. These mascots are teaching stereotypical, misleading and too often, insulting images of American Indians. These negative lessons are not just affecting American Indian students; they are sending the wrong message to all students."</p> <p>- [REDACTED]</p>
61	<p>If it is offensive, just change it. It shouldn't be a thought.</p>
62	<p>If we have the ability to respect other cultures, races, ethnic groups, sexual orientations, people, then we have the obligation to do so. Please change the mascot. Thank you.</p>
63	<p>Indigenous people have been advocating for the removal of Indian mascots. It is woefully ignorant at best, and outright discriminatory at worst to ignore their arguments for removal. A mascot does not make a school or district; however it does reflect the character and/or ideology</p>

	of a district. Is this the message we want to send to the world? Thank you.
64	It is time to lead our community and teach younger generations how to make changes while learning from our past.
65	It is time to teach our students to learn from the past and be respectful of others' wishes. Since organizations that represent Native Americans are offended by the use of Indian mascots, it doesn't matter what the "intent" was or is, what matters is the current impact of the decision. Regarding the expenses involved, there is no cost too great for doing the RIGHT thing. This is also an important lesson. Even though I am a proud 1979 grad, and was proud to be an Indian, we have learned in the past 40 years that our "pride" does not overrule the respect of others. It is time to change the mascot.
66	It is time. I am one of the proudest North Hills graduates you will find, but my pride comes from the school and the community - not a mascot. We are NORTH HILLS!!
67	It's 2022, it's time for this needed change. I lived in Cleveland for many years and only attended a couple of baseball games. At each game native Americans were there protesting the disgrace of using their identity as a mascot; something less than. This year Cleveland changed the name and the icon for their baseball team. Finally. I ask that the North Hills school board do the same, make this needed change. Thank you.
68	It's going to change eventually. Take the opportunity to rename to something with a local significance. Even something like the knights for McKnight road.
69	It's the direction the country is going. Why open the district to scrutiny over a mascot that's been out of date and out of touch for over a decade? We are not the Indians, and the indigenous people of this country deserve not to be treated as a caricature.
70	It's time to change the mascot. Using someone's culture 'is not ok.
71	It's insensitive to keep it as it is in this day and age.
72	It's just a mascot change it to something that isn't offensive to people
73	It's time for a change. When you know better, you do better.
74	It's time for change
75	Just change the mascot. Traditions aren't always good, and if something traditional is revealed to be harmful then there is no reason not to modify it to become something better. There are literally thousands of other things the mascot could be. By holding on to it, the only thing you're accomplishing is resisting positive development that needs to take place.
76	Keeping the mascot undeniably promotes negative stereotypes and prejudicial ideas of Native Americans. My child will be entering kindergarten in 2023. I want her to see a school district that is able to learn and grow, not one that is too stubborn to make a change even with the awareness of the harm caused.
77	Listening to many of the arguments against, one of the big concerns I heard was money. If you need a community board to explore alternative funding sources (grants, fundraising, etc) please consider me as willing to help!

78	Make it Jewish
79	<p>Many are claiming that the Indian mascot is a “tradition” and was once “acceptable” - this is untrue. It was never acceptable. But in recent years, we as a society have begun to change for the better, and actually think about our actions and how we have treated certain minority groups in the past. And we have listened to them speak. The Native American community has faced endless persecution at the hands of white people, and boiling their rich culture and history down to a high school mascot does not do the community justice. Consider the absurdity - what if a high school used “the Caucasians” as its mascot? It would be inappropriate.</p> <p>The Indian mascot also uses an inaccurate, harmful term for the community - one that stems from the “discovery” of the Americas by a white man who thought he was in the West Indies, but proceeded to bring violence and deadly illness to the native people of the land, beginning their genocide.</p> <p>It’s also pertinent to point out that in high school history classes, this population is referred to properly: as “Native Americans” and “Indigenous Peoples.” It makes no sense for North Hills’ mascot to be a term that is both offensive and inaccurate, when my North Hills education said otherwise.</p>
80	Mascots should not reinforce racially insensitive stereotypes. Times change, and so do sports teams.
81	My Daughter is a North Hills Graduate of 2017. I'm of Indian background. That mascot doesn't represent me.
82	My daughters go to Ross. It is important to show them that all cultures need to be respected. Keeping the mascot for “tradition” is not a good reason to continue to disrespect a culture.
83	<p>My husband and I are unable to attend the meeting, but wanted to express our desire for North Hills to use this situation of our mascot as an opportunity to lead our children and community in the efforts of racial reconciliation. We have four children in the district, two of whom are a minority race. Our children are watching how we handle these situations and while we desire for them to know the importance of traditions we place a much higher value on living in a community that seeks to embrace cultural diversity and not offend others. The board will likely hear an array of opinions on the matter, but regardless our current mascot is regularly perceived as offensive and hurtful. We do not feel it accurately reflects the incredible students, staff, and administration of the school we love and desire for our children to grow up in. In order to grow and thrive as a community we must value people over our traditions. We hope the school board will consider a mascot change, regardless of related financial costs, as the pride of our district and community is at stake. May we be an example to our children and a watching world as we prioritize cultural sensitivity and embrace the opportunity to create new traditions that better reflect the heart of our district.</p>
84	<p>My name is [REDACTED], and I'm a graduate from the class of 2021. I am unable to make it to the board meeting to discuss the mascot change. However, I wanted to give the perspective of an alumni—in case this view was underrepresented. During my first week of college, I wore a North Hills t-shirt, one that had our current mascot on it. I remember a student looking at my shirt in disgust and asking “Is that really your mascot?” I tried to justify North Hills, and told the student that it was a great school. Yet, I was ashamed that I had been culturally appropriating. I was ashamed to have been part of a larger problem. I feel that by holding onto the “tradition” of this mascot, our school district loses our “pride” and “excellence”. I want to be able to wear a</p>

	North Hills t-shirt and tell people that I am proud to have gone to this school. I hope I can one day do that.
85	Native Americans are people not mascots.
86	Neshaminy School District in the eastern part of the state has spent over \$500,000 in legal fees in an attempt to defend its Redskins mascot. Ultimately, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission has ruled 6-1 that the district may use the name so long as it also provided education regarding its "negative and positive attributes." The ruling also established that the district could no longer use logos and imagery "that negatively stereotype Native Americans." Retaining the Indian mascot and iconography opens the district up to costly legal battles, calls for the retention of PR counsel to deal with blowback - especially if the story hits national media, and could force the district into an expedited timeline for removal. In addition, the district could also be mandated to make abrupt additions to its curriculum to satisfy a similar ruling should action be taken by any member of the community or outside group. All of this could syphon upwards of \$1 million away from essential district operations and could force an unpopular tax hike during a time of economic hardship. It is both fiscally and legally prudent to retire the Indian and associated iconography in a respectful manner. In being proactive, a methodical and financially responsible approach to retirement allows the board to determine an appropriate timeline for mascot transition in a way that honors and respects the feelings of the community.
87	New names should be Warriors or Hero's. The Indians name should be changed immediately. The reference to a race of people is unacceptable. Change is hard but we should be on the right side of history. We can be NH proud still without being called Indians. We do not accept racism. I know of two students at the school with Native American decent, there is no room for racism.
88	NHSD should abandon the current mascot and entertain proposals for a new, more appropriate mascot.
89	North Hills has outgrown this embarrassing caricature of a mascot. The Native American community has repeatedly and consistently voiced their opposition to being used as a mascot. The best way for our school district to convey pride and excellence is to honor and uplift the voices of our native communities by retiring the mascot and moving forward. How about the North Hills Hawks?
90	North Hills Red Hawks
91	One of the many comment I have been seeing online pertaining to mascot is the motto of North Hills; Pride, Tradition, and Excellence. The Indian is tradition and therefore we should keep it. I however strongly disagree with sentiment. During my time at North Hills I participated in Marching Band, a school organization that is deeply rooted in tradition. One of my biggest take aways was not to do something just for the sake of tradition but it should only be continued if it brings value to the organization. I believe the same can be said for the mascot. Though many hold the Indian close to their hearts a change in mascot will not change the character of the district. The Indian is an offensive emblem of the the massacre and systematic racism we have put upon the native peoples over centuries. If the mascot is not changed now this discussion will come again in the next ten years.
92	Our community is being asked to choose. It's a choice between "but it's always been this way don't change it" — and — "I hear this hurts people. Not me directly, but let's change it because

	<p>it's not right to be cruel." I see only one choice that truly lives up to the values of North Hills School District, and that is to change a hurtful mascot.</p>
93	<p>People are not mascots.</p>
94	<p>People are not mascots. The Indian mascot is harmful, ignorant and outdated. We should set an example for the children in the district by acknowledging the harm it did, and moving to do better and be more caring and inclusive moving forward. We now know better, we should do better.</p>
95	<p>Please change it.</p>
96	<p>Please do the right thing and change the mascot. Indigenous Americans, Native peoples are a living breathing culture. We would be aghast at a Jewish Mascot, A Mexican Mascot or a Chinese Mascot, etc. Why is it OK to continue with the incredibly offensive "indian" mascot. Many indigenous communities have begged all sports teams to cease using their images or characterizations with harmful stereotypes. The Cleveland baseball team made this change last year. Others are getting on board. As a taxpayer into the district I believe holding on to this shameful mascot is just pure racism and its time to evolve as people.</p>
97	<p>Some in our community will argue that the mascot must remain because it is part of our tradition. Sadly, they feel that decades of white tradition are more valuable than thousands of years of Native culture.</p> <p>Some will try to convince you that the current mascot is a tribute or a sign of respect. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) asserts that "sports mascots are symbols of disrespect that degrade, mock, and harm Native people, particularly Native youth."</p> <p>Some will claim that they are not offended by the mascot, despite a DNA report exhibiting a small percentage of Native ancestry. We are not qualified spokespeople of the culture of our distant ancestors as we have not lived their experience.</p> <p>Some will claim that the mascot is part of our history. Nevermind the tragic history of indigenous people.</p> <p>It is never appropriate to use an ethnicity as a mascot. If this isn't apparent to you, try this mental exercise: replace our mascot with any other ethnicity or culture. It gets weird and inappropriate very quickly.</p> <p>I am a parent of three children in the NH school district. I sat at marching band festivals and football games, truly embarrassed of our mascot, hoping the other schools would be distracted by our music. I realize that not everyone is embarrassed yet. I truly believe that in a few years, mascots such as ours will seem old fashioned and cringeworthy to almost everyone; we'll look back on them in the same way that we view smoking in restaurants.</p> <p>Please do the right thing and retire the offensive and harmful North Hills mascot. It's a stain on our great district.</p>
98	<p>Sorry, not sure what the registration question refers to. I thought this form was to make a public</p>

	comment at the Town Hall.
99	Strongly believe it should change. I have a young child and have considered moving out of this school district before they reach school age solely over the mascot, it is too shameful and embarrassing.
100	Studies have shown that native mascots are detrimental for native and non-native people alike[1]. They perpetuate stereotypes. In addition to being bad, the logo isn't even accurate. War bonnets were mainly worn by the various Plains Indian nations. 1 - https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13613324.2020.1772221
101	Such a simple thing to change that takes the district a step forward.
102	Take a hint from the national leagues and change it. Not evolving reflects poorly on us as a community. We would never allow my children to wear the emblem in public, and they wouldn't even be allowed to wear it in many places such as Disney. Please choose something without cultural reference.
103	Thank you for addressing this issue. I am disappointed to see that the board is receiving so much pushback. It is clear that intentions were good when this mascot was selected long ago but that doesn't make it appropriate today. Has the District been in contact with any Native American groups/organizations who can weigh in? In many ways it seems like a straight vote doesn't make the most sense as the vast majority of the people voting aren't connected to the Native American community. If our school district had a direct connection to a local tribe or organization who endorsed our mascot and helped us connect to Native American history in our region, I could be persuaded that we should keep the mascot. But without any direct support from the people who are represented by the mascot it is hard to justify that it is appropriate today. Thank you again for raising this difficult topic, I hope everyone remains respectful to all throughout this process. All the best.
104	Thank you for allowing public comment. Sending out a survey and offering a town hall meeting can/should be done more often. If there are 1500+ organizations founded by people of Native America backgrounds across the country collectively asking school districts and sports teams to stop using an "Indian" as their mascot, the choice is obvious. North Hills has not done a good job of honoring the indigenous people of our region (as evidenced by the same old generic logo), and it's way too late to do that now. "We have always done it this way and we don't want to change" are not counter arguments. The times of using Indian mascots are in the past. Choosing to perpetuate stereotypes cannot be tolerated. We wouldn't have a "white guy" or a "black guy" as a mascot either. Drop the Indian mascots. It's embarrassing.
105	Thank you for having this discussion

106	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue. Like many of the people in our community, I do not have any close ties to Native Americans and have no real-life insight into how those individuals feel about the use of their imagery for the promotion of sporting activities. I do, however have a multi national, multi cultural, and multi racial family and, from that experience, I am able to appreciate and observe that some images, words, and actions can be damaging to individuals, even if the majority “doesn’t see the harm.”</p> <p>I feel strongly that our school district (where I send my children) should conduct itself with thoughtfulness, dignity, and excellence. Using the image of an oppressed people as a mascot (generally associated with animalistic or savage behavior) does not seem thoughtful or dignified. This is particularly true because the vast majority of our students and community are white descendants of the Europeans that oppressed these very same people.</p> <p>And what is the argument against the change? That we have “always done it this way”? That agreeing to the change means spending money on new uniforms? That no one who lives in Ross is personally offended? That this feels too much, for some, like giving in to the liberals? None of these are good enough reasons to continue a wrong when we have the opportunity to make it right.</p> <p>Thank you for taking on this issue despite the loud voices of disagreement. I hope the Board will bravely move NHSD into modern times by choosing to pursue more neutral symbols to promote school spirit.</p>
107	<p>The best mascots are those that tie into the heart of the community - e.g., the Ambridge Bridgers, Westmont Hilltoppers, and Punxsutawney Chucks. What do Indians say about the heart of North Hills? Is the message (whatever that may be) implied by that choice of mascot in line with the school's mission, vision, and values? I don't think it does.</p> <p>Some say the mascot honors the memory of Native Americans in the region. If that were the case, are we then discussing why Native Americans no longer live here? Do students and the community at large understand and appreciate who "Indians" were? If not, the mascot is only a caricature and quite the opposite of bestowing honor.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to consider this, and may God be with you on June 22nd (lol).</p>
108	<p>The fact that the district won't just change the mascot automatically is absurd. Cleveland saw their mascot was racist. Washington saw their mascot was racist. Why is this even up for debate change it so that I don't have to send my kid to a racist district</p>
109	<p>The history of treatment of indigenous people in Ross Township and Allegheny County is brutal. In our school district, settlers moved in to displace the Seneca nation who hunted here. In Allegheny County, missionaries and settlers gave smallpox to the Delaware nation and continued to force them away from where we live now.</p> <p>An Indian chief head is not a symbol of honor or respect or history. In the history of U.S. sports, it is simply a racist caricature.</p>
110	<p>The Indian mascot is dated and racist. Let's move the school district forward and change the mascot!</p>
111	<p>The Indian Mascot is wrong. We need to change to a new mascot. There's no point in going into detail here. Professional sports teams made the switch in the 90s. College sports did this more</p>

	recently. It's time for grade schools to step up.
112	The mascot is dated and the history of the native Americans in the area is not taught in our schools.
113	The mascot is embarrassing
114	The mascot is not something that I can be proud of as a student. I love to compete for North Hills in my sport but this mascot does not represent the values of North Hills.
115	<p>The mascot is offensive to Native American/Indigenous people and should be removed . I implore you not to listen to anyone advocating for the mascot, granting the district "permission" to use the mascot, or speaking on behalf of Native American/Indigenous people if they are not Native American/Indigenous. It's offensive to even give those people a platform.</p> <p>The argument that the mascot is a point of pride or identity is weak, too. It makes no sense to be proud of appropriating a marginalized community's culture.</p> <p>And on the point of the cost to change the mascot - consider the cost of legal fees to defend it should the law catch up with public sentiment (see Colorado).</p> <p>As the parent of two future North Hills students, I think it's ridiculous that the school district still hasn't made this change, when it is clearly the right thing to do and so many other teams and schools have figured that out. Being the last to do the right thing is embarrassing and disingenuous.</p>
116	The mascot is outdated and racist. It is time for a change. Thank you.
117	The mascot is racist and needs to go!
118	<p>The mascot needs to be changed! To me, the decision is easy. Think of who will be negatively impacted by either decision:</p> <p>IF YOU KEEP THE CURRENT MASCOT: You would be sending a message to an entire generation of students that it is OK to be disrespectful of other cultures. We have already begun to feel the shame as a community by bearing the Indian mascot. This will only worsen with time. If you decide to keep the mascot, you would be doubling down on a set of ideals that will continue to negatively impact our community.</p> <p>I am the coach of the Kids of Steel running club at Ross Elementary. During the marathon race weekend this spring, our team completed in the Kids Marathon along with hundreds of other schools from the Pittsburgh area. As we were lining up to race downtown with the thousands of other runners and spectators, I was embarrassed when they announced our school as the North Hills Indians. I wasn't the only one who cringed. We need a mascot that we all can be proud of.</p> <p>IF YOU CHANGE THE MASCOT: Yes, there will be people upset for sentimental reasons. However, this negative impact seems trivial when compared to the powerful positive message you could send to the students and</p>

	<p>residents of this community by changing the mascot.</p> <p>Some people may argue that they'd like to keep the mascot on the basis of tradition. My answer to that is in this moment, you have the ability to start a new tradition. One that is based on respect for each other.</p>
119	<p>the mascot provokes racist stereotypes</p>
120	<p>The people we should be hearing from are the Native Americans/Indigenous citizens of the district and surrounding districts (those who will be repeatedly exposed to our mascot name). Not a bunch of non-native people who are going to stand up there and argue why it's not offensive to them.</p> <p>I am an educator in another district and we often tell our students once we know better, we DO better. Let's listen and then do better.</p>
121	<p>The purpose of a mascot is to bring pride and unity to a school. Our culture has formed this ideal that we are showing respect to someone else's culture by using an aspect of their culture as our mascot. Spartans. Vikings. Etc... all also come from a history that is not our own. We may have ancestors from those areas of the world but we ourselves cannot claim them. However, in the case of the Indian mascot, if we were to truly represent Native American culture, if we were to truly embody the spirit of Native Americans we would first have to understand it and understand not the watered down history book version of Native American culture and history but a true Native American history removed from the influence of a colonizers historical perspective. We do not even call them Indians anymore yet here we are trying to justify calling our mascot the Indian and saying its a sign of respect for Native Americans. We do not respect them when we use an incorrect term for them. We do not respect them when we lump all Native American cultures together. Native American tribes were vast and diverse and it is near sighted to consider a continent of people entirely the same without differences. I have no problem representing a good of people through a mascot to show respect but to do that we need to be honest about what we are representing and we need to be respectful of that culture. This isn't like putting muscles on a bee a calling yourselves the stingers. This is someones history, and someones culture. I think you have to take into consideration the disrespect and destruction American's showed Native American's while forming this country. It is down right disrespectful to take someones homes and then pretend we respect them.</p>

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The question of the mascot impacts the current and future students. Like ability to compete in uniform. Banning teams and bands with Indian logos is only going to become more common. There also a capitalistic reason to change, which is why professional sports teams have been changing mascots after decades of resistance, both in the US and Europe. There is no reason to punish today and tomorrow's students just to keep a bunch of old parents and alumnus happy in a time capsule bubble.

Most importantly, we should discuss with Indians and Native Americans for their input on being culturally appropriated. On Thursday May 19th at 6:38 AM, in response to "CJ Morgan maybe before naming it indians they should've asked the tribes if it was offensive." CJ Morgan claimed on a Facebook post that "they did in 1944 when West View High took the Indian as the mascot." However, after speaking to several tribe leaders of the area, they all indicated that such permission was never granted, and if such permission would have been granted, it would have been through a written treaty. So absent of NHSD being able to produce an authentic treaty, such permission should be considered as non-existent.

In my reaching out to Native Americans, here some things they've shared "Although most people in the U.S. do not perceive Native American mascots as problematic, all of the academic studies undertaken to study the psychosocial effects of these mascots demonstrate either direct negative effects on Native Americans or that these mascots activate, reflect, and/or reinforce stereotyping and prejudice among non-Native persons," study by Laurel R. Davis-Delano, PhD, of Springfield College; Joseph P. Gone, Aaniiih-Gros Ventre, PhD, Harvard University; and Stephanie A. Fryberg, Tulalip, PhD, University of Michigan. *Race, Ethnicity and Education Journal*. June 8, 2020

As for supporters' claims such names are meant to honor Native Americans, the authors wrote, "there was no evidence from any study that Native American mascots foster positive or beneficial psychosocial effects for Native Americans."

Miguel Sague noted that the North Hill Mascot does not even represent the tribes that were in Pittsburgh, that the headdress represented in the logo was never actually worn by the people from the area. More relevant is the mental health harm that cultural appropriation causes Native Americans and non-Indian minorities, including Hispanic, Blacks, and Asians. Oxford Dictionary defines cultural appropriation as "the unacknowledged or inappropriate adoption of the customs, practices, ideas, etc. of one people or society by members of another and typically more dominant people or society." The harms of cultural appropriation and stereotyping have been well documented across multiple academic studies, which includes (1) nonrecognition, (2) misrecognition, and (3) exploitation. The normalization of such behavior as being acceptable further harms all minorities.

See: EH Matthes. *Cultural appropriation without cultural essentialism? Social Theory and practice*. 2016

JO Young. *Profound Offense and Cultural Appropriation*. *The Journal of aesthetics and art criticism*, 2005

EH Matthes. *Cultural appropriation and oppression*. *Philosophical Studies*. 2019.

For those who say the Indian mascot is a tribute and honor; Native Americans have asked instead to be honored in the following ways;

1) To inspire genuine respect, schools and students should research who lived, or are still living,

- thriving and caring for the land their school inhabits before the European settlers came.
- 2) Integrate the history of not only the local tribal people in the curriculum of the school, but also the overall true history of indigenous people in the land. End teaching the myths. Miguel Sague of the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center has offered to work with North Hills School District to help develop age appropriate curriculum (probably appropriate for November, Native American Heritage Month / Thanksgiving).
 - 3) Through research, find an accurate depiction of one of the tribal leaders from the area or even an early photograph of a member of the local tribe and display prominently in the school lobby.
 - 4) Land Acknowledgment: Every public school building should create a prominent plaque that acknowledges the tribal territory that the school occupies with a statement of a humble gratitude to that tribe for their prior or current stewardship of the land before it was settled. (Also, display on the school website.)
 - 5) These Acts, as well as not pretending to be native, not appropriating their culture is how we honor the people of this land (Google: "harms of cultural appropriation" to see the mental health harms it does to minorities)
 - 6) Recognize that native people are currently contributing members of modern society, not just historical figures. Mascots keep them in the past. (When you think of Indians, do you think of somebody who is the director of a museum? Do you think of somebody who runs a tribe that runs multimillion-dollar industries? Or a member of the US House of Representatives?)
 - 7) If after all this, there's a genuine desire to learn the culture from Native Americans and continue represent the Indian as a Mascot. Then the school should identify a local tribe and negotiate a written and signed treaty from the local tribe's leadership. (it's postulated that Disney or any other entity would respect display of an Indian mascot if a written treaty clearly providing permission to use the Indian Mascot could be produced from one of the tribes recognized by the US government.)

Below, I have included an example Land Acknowledgement from the University of Pittsburgh and two letters from the Coalition of Native and Allies as well as the National Congress of American Indians.

Example Land Acknowledgement:

We recognize that the University of Pittsburgh occupies the ancestral land of the Adena culture, Hopewell culture, and Monongahela peoples, who were later joined by refugees of other tribes (including the Delaware, Shawnee, and Haudenosaunee), driven here from their homelands by colonizers. We honor these traditional Native inhabitants of this place and uplift their historic, unique, and enduring relationship with this land, which is their ancestral territory. We pay our respects to their Elders and their past, present, and future people, community, and culture. While we cannot change the past, we commit to continued gratitude for the gifts of nature, along with ongoing respect, care, and stewardship of the land, each other, and future generations.

Why Do We Do a Land Acknowledgement?

As the U.S. continues to reckon with the history of its indigenous peoples, land acknowledgements have become more common. Land acknowledgments help recognize indigenous peoples' "resilience and resistance in the face of violent efforts to separate them from their land" (U.S. Dept of Arts & Culture). Between 1776 and 1887, the United States seized over 1.5 billion acres from America's indigenous people by treaty and executive order, largely without regard to their livelihoods, communities, and culture. Today, sacred indigenous lands are still being exploited to extract wealth.

To the North Hills School District Board of Education:

The Coalition of Natives and Allies (CNA), a Pennsylvania-based coalition led by Native voices, was notified of your community conversation regarding the Native American-themed mascotry, imagery and name for your sports teams.

We are encouraged that perspectives across the country are changing regarding using Native peoples as a sports mascot. We are heartened that especially educational institutions are realizing they need to be in integrity with their Anti-Racism and Diversity Task Forces.

The issue involving race-based 'Indian' mascots is not about feeling good about a sports team identity or that your grandparents identified with the logo. It is not about local historical connections to Indigenous Peoples, names originating from Native languages or honoring Indigenous Peoples.

It is about schools promoting race-based stereotypes, cultural appropriation and distortion, and the impact of this discrimination on the entire student body. No other minority is used to represent a school mascot, image or name. Native peoples should not be either.

There is a growing body of research evidence concerning the impact of these mascot stereotypes on both Native and non-Native students. Supporting one stereotype teaches students that all stereotypes are acceptable, leading to more bias and discrimination.

It is the responsibility of school boards to set policy, inculcate respect, reduce bias and keep all students safe. It is appropriate that the North Hills School District School Board convene the dialogue and take appropriate action toward retiring its Native American athletic identity.

You are in a position to lead the surrounding Pittsburgh area school communities in making responsible change. This is a difficult journey you are embarking on as alumni and community members who've become inured to stereotypes, often vehemently defend their "Indian" identity. If Pennsylvania school districts like Allentown, Radnor and Unionville can host this discussion and make change during a pandemic, North Hills can certainly lead the way in this community conversation for change.

We are hopeful that you will create a thoughtful process which will help you move forward with compassion for all, and that you will find healing and pride in doing what is just. Once you embrace change, you'll realize it can be a proud educational moment for the whole community. Please feel free to reach out to our Coalition for resources and support as needed. We look forward to your contribution to social justice.

Respectfully,


Coalition of Natives and Allies

It is essential to acknowledge that the State of Pennsylvania exists on the tribal territory of the Erie, Haudenosaunee, Lenape, Munsee, Shawnee and Susquehannock as an important first step.

Greetings North Hills community allies,

On behalf of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), I am writing in response to your requests for assistance regarding ongoing conversations pertaining to the "Indians" mascot in use by the North Hills School District. Thank you for taking the time to reach out.

As the oldest, largest, and most representative national organization serving the broad interests of Tribal Nations and peoples, NCAI has helped lead Indian Country's consensus-driven movement to retire harmful Native "themed" mascots from sports and popular culture for generations. This effort to promote welcoming learning environments for all students is not new. NCAI resolutions -- passed via consensus among hundreds of member Tribal Nations -- addressing the issue of inappropriate and stereotypical Native representation in sports and

	<p>popular culture date back to 1950. Crucially, research in recent years documents the well-known harms that the monikers, images, and fan behaviors associated with Native "themed" mascots cause Native people, particularly Native youth.</p> <p>In the past, we have found it most impactful when leaders from local Tribal Nations are present to refute the very concept of 'honorific' mascots. The mascot issue is one of tribal sovereignty and input from those whose traditional lands the school and the community occupy is of primary importance. While there are no federally or state-recognized Tribal Nations in Pennsylvania, what is now recognized as present-day western Pennsylvania was stewarded by many peoples since time immemorial, including the Haudenosaunee, Lenni-Lenape, Shawnee, and Osage. You may also consider connecting with the Coalition of Natives and Allies (CNA) who are outspoken in their opposition to Native "themed" mascots in Pennsylvania, and may be willing and able to attend the North Hills School District Town Hall next month.</p> <p>Absent a formal agreement with a sovereign Tribal Nation, NCAI supports the retirement of Native "themed" mascots in public K-12 schools. This includes the "Indians" mascot at North Hills. Should the issue come to a vote, we are happy to send a letter -- signed by our CEO -- to school and district administrators that will share similar resources and convey much of the information included in this message.</p> <p>In the meantime, please keep us apprised of any relevant developments and let us know if there are any additional resources we can share that may be helpful.</p> <p>Best regards,  (United Houma Nation) National Congress of American Indians Embassy of Tribal Nations 1516 P St NW, Washington, DC 20005</p>
123	There is no place for racist images in our schools
124	These are the reasons to change the mascot- https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/iowa-view/2021/09/19/native-mascots-tribes-should-retired/8214418002/
125	<p>This has been a decades long fight with scientific studies proving that Native mascots have direct negative effects on Native Americans and they activate, reflect, and/or reinforce stereotyping and prejudice among non-Native people. It is not and has never been an honor to use this imagery in sports. - Quote from "Athletes for Impact" organization's letter regarding NFL Native mascots -</p> <p>I am an employee of the University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work, Center on Race and Social Problems. I searched for a NHSD home for months to ensure my daughter started kindergarten in a district with great academic achievements. When we participated in a story time event, I learned what the mascot was and discussed with my coworkers. I am thankful that a district-level conversation is already happening and I fully support changing the school mascot immediately. The school district that I sought out has one flaw, please make the nationally trending change here in Pittsburgh. I can be reached by email but I am unable to attend in-person on June 22nd.</p>
126	This has been an issue for many years..time to stop kicking the can down the road..band uniforms were a good beginning..people will be upset no matter when this happens..we need to

	listen to the native American voices that have spoken on this site.
127	<p>This is about integrity. I am proud of North Hills and Pride, Tradition and Excellence. Integrity of this school district depends on these key features that we speak of. Integrity also invites us to look at ourselves and what we want to represent. Can we at least please take the time to consider if that representation incorporates the views that are exceedingly not available in North Hills.</p> <p>I feel that there is a voice that desperately needs to be heard of Seneca representatives of the land that North Hills resides on. I hope that the school board would be open and receptive to hearing voice of actual Native Americans who are working in the field and have strong ties to their native culture.</p> <p>In my North Hills education, I am sorely lacking in knowledge pertaining to historical and contemporary issues relating to Native life and struggles. I am hoping that this seed might help be planted to change the curriculum so that it can incorporate the knowledge of our native brothers and sisters and a fuller history of the local and surrounding land for all North Hills students to understand as the lack of knowledge is what seems to be feeding current opinions. I full heartedly support more of the budget going towards education in this area specifically and allowing the keepers of knowledge to help share so we all can learn, regardless if our mascot changes, as we owe this heritage to the 'indian.'</p>
128	This is long past due. North Hills is a special place with an outstanding group of kids. I'd hate to see them passed up for opportunities because of an outdated nickname. We all know this subject isn't going away anytime soon, so let's change it now and look towards our bright future.
129	This necessary change is long overdue!!
130	<p>This should be an easy decision. We now know that many Native Americans feel dehumanized and tokenized when their culture is co-opted and used as a mascot. I'm certain that no one who loves this mascot intends to offend or hurt anyone. But when we know better, we need to do better.</p> <p>Many people are talking about tradition and pride. It's not the mascot that people should be proud of. Doing the right thing when we learn - that is a tradition to be proud of.</p>
131	This would be a great topic to include the older students in (7th grade plus). I understand the students can send their comments and speak at the meeting. However, I think this could be an in-depth interdisciplinary project for interested students that goes beyond a simple yes or no question about the mascot's name. Under the guidance of NH teachers, they could research the history of the mascot within the cultural context/time period in which it was named to better understand why it was chosen. They could then expand their research into the history of the North Hills by reviewing available historical materials at local historical societies and libraries presumably to come up with more culturally appropriate names for a NHSD mascot. Not only would it provide them with primary resource research experience within the local community, it would require them to engage with members of the community who can further contribute to this important discussion. And, obviously, it would require them to think through a nuanced issue that has such a profound, lasting cultural impact.
132	Times and attitudes evolve. Not evolving reflects BADLY ON US. I would not allow my children

	<p>to wear the emblem, and they wouldn't even be allowed to wear it in many places such as Disney. Please choose something without cultural reference.</p>
133	<p>To the School Board and Administration of North Hills School District: I do not envy the task you have in front of you. You are faced with a decision that should have been made years ago, but through circumstance and plenty of passing the buck, it has now fallen upon you.</p> <p>The Indian is at best a highly problematic symbol and at worst a highly hurtful one. We can no longer ignore the mountain of data and innumerable accounts from people in the Native American community that have told us that it is time to retire the North Hills Indian mascot. I trust you have seen the data and heard the accounts, and based on the recent decision to replace the band uniforms, it is clear that keeping this mascot will only further limit the opportunities of our students.</p> <p>This is, first and foremost, about our children.</p> <p>I too want them to have every opportunity to enjoy great experiences that will shape their futures and provide lifelong memories. If that means retiring a problematic mascot, that is an easy decision.</p> <p>I too want my children to grow up in a community that accepts everyone as they are, that teaches kindness and empathy with the same vigor as they teach academic and athletic excellence. This already exists. My children have dedicated teachers who reinforce the values of equality and justice that we teach them at home. These values are echoed throughout the district, which is a big reason why we moved to this particular community, as we know the North Hills School District provides an education and shapes character in a way that few other school systems do. But in achieving that end, we must admit that we are presenting our children with a paradox in the form of a racist symbol that undercuts all of our efforts to teach these essential values.</p> <p>I've heard every argument about the strong tradition of the Indian mascot and the good intentions behind that, and I honestly do appreciate those arguments and believe that, by and large, they are made in good faith. It's time to accept that this discussion is no longer about the past but about the future we want to help our children create.</p> <p>I was raised in an overwhelmingly white community where the best wisdom about exercising my family's deep abhorrence of racial injustice was simply not to see color. As well-intentioned as that wisdom was, and as much as I strive to continue to carry on my family's intolerance for racism, I can see where this practice failed. If you look through my parents' old photo albums, you'll probably find pictures of me dressing as an Indian at one of many Boy Scout events. There's a Halloween photo of my brothers and me dressed in sombreros as Mexican bandits. To my knowledge, we have no Native American or Mexican heritage, and our representations of these cultures, while well-intentioned and done in the name of fun, played on hurtful stereotypes that ignored the nuances and complexities of highly diverse cultures. The same can be said of the decades-long tradition of our district, as well as many school districts, institutions, and professional franchises, enshrining a hurtful symbol and engaging in playful rituals with little to no knowledge of the cultural significance behind them. Furthermore, I accept that because I</p>

have always operated in predominantly white circles, I possess plenty of unconscious biases and prejudices that, despite my best intentions, have caused harm to my non-white friends and neighbors.

This is a teachable moment, not where we need to cast shame upon ourselves, but where we can celebrate our ability to change and grow as a community. Let us not forget that so much of North Hills history is defined by change – remembering what was, appreciating what’s here, and celebrating what is to come. My neighborhood of West View once boasted a celebrated amusement park that my neighbors still remember fondly. The park has been gone for over forty years. The memories still exist, and more importantly, the community still thrives. A quick drive down McKnight Road will evoke memories of McKnight Lanes, Borders Bookstore, Super Saver Cinema, or countless shops at Ross Park Mall that have come and gone over the years. In many ways, a change of mascot is fitting with who we are as a community and our ability to adapt and thrive through constant change.

My goal as a parent, as I’m sure it is for all of us, is to give my children better than I had. I had a great education, have enjoyed great opportunities, and was raised with great values. But I want my boys to receive a better education than I did. I want them to have even better opportunities in life than I’ve had. And most importantly, I want to teach them better values than the ones I was taught. This means moving past antiquated notions of color blindness, interrogating symbols and traditions that pose problems, and existing in a community that celebrates diversity and ensures that all voices from all ethnicities and backgrounds have a seat at the table, even and especially if those voices make us uncomfortable and challenge our preconceived notions.

I strongly urge you to use this opportunity to retire the North Hills Indian mascot and set a new course for this community, one of opportunity, equality, empathy, and compassion.

Thank you.

[Redacted signature block]

134

Unfortunately, I am not able to attend the town hall to express my family’s opinion on the mascot, so please accept this comment. We have lived in Ross Township since 2017. My son is a 2nd grader at Ross, and my daughter will start Kindergarten this fall. I also own a business in the community. When moving back to the area from central PA (I grew up in Hampton township), my husband and I specifically chose Ross township because of the great schools, tight knit community, and close proximity to the city. We love it here, and we have met so many wonderful people. Concerning the mascot, I do strongly feel that it is time to make a change. Our schools are welcoming to all children whether they are white, black, brown, rich, poor, gay, straight etc. Our kids need to know that we respect people of all different backgrounds. Having the Indians as a mascot undermines this ideal. Furthermore, the most important thing to consider in making this decision is how it will impact the students. The band has already had to deal with this at Disney. I can’t imagine how they would have felt if they were not allowed to perform after all their hard work. There will be more problems like this as time goes on. My husband and I have agreed that our kids will not wear any clothes or uniforms that have the mascot on them or say Indians. This has not been an issue yet because they are young, but as they become more involved in sports it may become one. It’s more important to me, however,

	that my kids understand why it's problematic to use a racially insensitive mascot. Thanks for taking the time to read this. I appreciate the Board taking up this issue.
135	<p>Unsure if I will be able to attend so hoping this comment can be shared. I think it is appropriate in light of racial discussions to change the mascot. I understand nostalgia, but a mascot is dehumanizing. We do not see white people as "mascots" in pop culture. Additionally, our current mascot leads to cultural appropriation such as white students at football games dressing up as our mascot in garb that is not their culture. I do appreciate that the picture of the indigenous person on our "mascot" is realistically (not grotesque) in the way it is drawn, so I think it would be appropriate to make a statue of the "North Hills Indigenous Chief" to pay homage and give explanation to Nh history while also explaining to future students that caricature-izing people of color is dehumanizing and not okay. I believe this would uphold the (hopefully) originally positive intent, to honor the people who lived on NH lands.</p>
136	<p>Using a living group of people as a mascot is offensive and weird. Would we use The French as a mascot? No, because that would be ridiculous. They are a varied group of people who do not stand for one thing alone and they would be offended that we would think of them that way.</p> <p>People are desensitized to The Indian as a mascot which is why they can't see or they shrug off the harm it has done to the native community. Native Americans have a vast and varied culture and it is wrong to distill that culture down into a school mascot. We are erasing so many aspects of their heritage with this representation and there are better ways to honor them.</p> <p>When someone asks me to stop calling them Danny because they're 16 years old and want to be called Dan now, I do it. The native community has asked us to stop using them as a mascot and we need to do it.</p>
137	We (Europeans, etc) slaughtered the Indians or forced them from their homes. Using them as our mascot is disrespectful.
138	We cannot be on the wrong side of history or wait to be called out. We should preemptively do the right thing.
139	We recently moved to North Hills SD, and couldn't believe that in 2022 North Hills would still use "Indians" as a mascot name and use an offensive caricature as the mascot logo. I believe that changing the mascot would show inclusivity to not only to Native Americans but other minority groups as well. I would urge you to move towards progress opposed to keeping things the same for no other reason than that this is the way things have always been.
140	We should change it. It is a mockery and bad image to be calling ourselves the "Indians". It comes off as racist and offensive, and we aren't fit to have the name because of the history it holds in other cultures. You might say the traits of a Native American (having fighting spirits, brave, dedicated, proud) fits our teams, but the traits are very stereotypical. After not being able to wear our uniforms for marching band in Disney, it really opened my eyes to how the nation views us just because of our mascot.
141	What argument is there other than 'I don't like it' to change to something less colonizing?
142	When we know better we do better. Please set an example and change the mascot.

143	<p>While all members of the community have a vested interest in a quality education for the next generation and should therefore have a say in what happens in schools, who or what the mascot is is fairly inconsequential. The barrage of people too old to be students or parents of students will tell you the mascot shouldn't change, but they really have no argument other than they don't like change. How are their lives made better if the mascot remains? How are their lives made worse if the mascot is changed? The truth is it really doesn't affect them.</p> <p>I plan to send a child to North Hills school district. I would like my child to be able to proudly say who their school's mascot is. I don't want them to have to think about if people will think they are rude or inconsiderate for being represented by an Indian. I don't want my child to have to think twice about wearing school apparel.</p> <p>The cultural sensitivities aside, is Indian really a mascot worth fighting for? Let's imagine a world where "Steeler" became an offensive term and the Pittsburgh Steelers contemplated a name change. Steeler is a name I would fight for. It's totally unique. It represents the city well. It has real historical significance. Indian? What is so special about it? Hundreds if not thousands of schools share the name. It doesn't tell me anything about our community specifically. It's boring.</p> <p>Finally, the cultural tide is changing in this country. If you don't change the mascot now, this conversation will not go away. It will keep coming up year after year and keeping it will be even less defensible as time goes on. A vocal minority will whine and cry when it's changed and then move on to harassing Starbucks employees who say Happy Holidays instead of Merry Christmas. Life will go on and the community will be better for it.</p> <p>I propose the North Hill Knights. Not only does it sound nice to say, but it commemorates John McKnight who was instrumental in forming Ross Township in 1809. This name won't offend anyone and is actually educational for people.</p> <p>So please, don't let people afraid of change be what stops you. If we listened to them throughout history, women wouldn't be able to vote and our schools would still be segregated. We can't stop ourselves from doing better just because some of us are afraid. Do better.</p>
144	<p>While I do have concerns about the financial aspects of a mascot change, I support doing so as I believe the change is inevitable. Examples like the band uniforms at Disney will continue to grow so let's address it now before it becomes an even more common occurrence. Not to mention that it is simply the right thing to do. There was a time when an Indian mascot was acceptable but times have changed and as Maya Angelou said, "when you know better, do better."</p>

145	<p>While I think the notion of the "school mascot" has had its day as a whole, this is especially true when it pertains to humans of any kind. Some people would call his being "woke", but when was the last time you heard of the "(Name of School District) Caucasians"? It's not being "woke" (which is a dumb term) as much as it is leveling the playing field (no pun intended) to recognize we as humans, while from different backgrounds, are one.</p> <p>Meanwhile, if you have to even ask this question regarding a mascot, then I think you pretty well know your answer.</p> <p>I could go on and on, but I will conclude with this: Sure the "Indian" mascot dates back to the West View High School Days and it's a part of the district's history, nobody is trying to take that history away. Instead, we are recognizing the use of a particular race/background of humans is not acceptable as a MASCOT if we are working to bring this world together and accepting of all people. Again, while I'm sure no ill will was ever intended, the change would be more in line with the lessons of acceptance I hope are being taught in the schools.</p>
146	<p>While I understand people want to make an association with the Indian being brave and a warrior and a proud, tradition- I don't feel it is fair to appropriate someone's culture. It seems wrong to reduce a culture and a people to a simple mascot. Furthermore, there is nothing unique or interesting about using an Indian mascot. We can do better.</p> <p>A number of folks seem to also seem to make a push to keep it based on "tradition". But when I think of the tradition of North Hills, it's not the mascot that comes to mind. It's our academic excellence. It's our award winning band and music programs. It's clubs, programs, and opportunities afforded to our kids. It's the athletes and coaches that brought championships to North Hills- not the mascot they bore. It's the students, teachers, staff, and administrators making a difference in our community. These are the proud traditions of North Hills. These are the things that make me #nhproud. Not the mascot.</p> <p>A change is necessary regarding the mascot. It's not tradition. It's appropriation. When you know better, you do better. We are better than this.</p>
147	<p>While the Indian might be chosen to represent the people that once lived in this area, we have to ask ourselves why this school district that is predominantly white, has no students of American Indian descent. According to NCES, there are 1,325 students registered at NHHS. 0 or native or indigenous. This might be an issue that has been overlooked since 1944, but it's still an issue. Keeping a tradition for tradition sake is a terrible rationale. For a school district that prides itself on excellence and inclusion, there are zero students that will voice their opinions on this subject from the one group of people that matters. At this town hall meeting, there will be several white folks that will talk about their pride as an Indian, yet none of them will be from Native American descent. I suggest rather than leaving this open to the public to decide, just look at the facts. Even if 1% of the population is offended by a mascot, then continuing with this mascot does nothing but set the precedent of not caring for others. At the end of the day, a mascot change will make the majority of the community upset, but this community doesn't even know why it is upset. People will always resist change, whether it is correct or not. The correct thing is to make a change. You obviously know that or you wouldn't be holding a town hall. The time has come. Do the right thing.</p>
148	<p>Who even thought it was a good idea to put that as the mascot?</p>

149	<p>Would North Hills Asians, North Hills Negroes, or North Hills Whiteys be acceptable? Of course not! Let's show Ross and West View are better than this.</p> <p>As a proud GATE alumnus of Ross Elementary, I have no doubt our well-educated children are beyond creative enough to propose and choose a new mascot. For those sentimentally attached to their school days as North Hills Indians, nobody's stopping them from referring to themselves as North Hills Indians or remembering times as they were.</p> <p>There are plenty of animals, plants, fungi, machines--you name it--that could be the North Hills mascot. Nothing about changing the mascot to something unbigoted harms anyone, but keeping it as a brutalized people group whose lands were stolen sends our children the wrong message.</p> <p>Perhaps there could even be a compromise that maintains a semblance of the tradition without the Indians name: Big Red, Redbirds, or even Red Giants, among other options.</p>
150	Yeah it's a bad mascot. We could make it anything else.
151	Years ago, a rider dressed in Native American garb galloped an Appaloosa horse in Martorelli Stadium when I attended a home football game. It's time to show empathy, compassion and respect to Native American peoples. Let's re-name the North Hills Mascot to Mustangs!


Non-Resident Alumni (Signed up to speak)

1	"Indian" isn't even the right name for what it represents. It's antiquated and insensitive to appropriate Native American culture for a school in a predominantly white area.
2	<p>(The question above is unclear. I am submitting a public comment, but will not be in attendance at the meeting.) Here is my comment:</p> <p>North Hills needs to change its mascot from anything that references Indigenous people. Native Americans have told us time and time again that using "Indians" as a mascot is incredibly disrespectful (and disrespectful isn't even a strong enough word here). There is no explanation that justifies keeping this as North Hills' mascot. It's not just "offensive" - it's wrong.</p> <p>Pride, Tradition, and Excellence are all admirable traits that North Hills values. It's time for NH to look at what traits mean to us. North Hills should aim to operate in the community in a way that instills pride, and at this point in 2022, continuing to call ourselves "Indians" is an embarrassment. There's really no other way to say it - it makes us look dumb.</p> <p>Keeping tradition is important to building and maintaining a strong community. But we don't want that community to be built on shaky foundations. Tradition should be built from practices that we want to share with people - that we want to keep - not just because "that's the way it's always been." What does North Hills want to be known for? What traditions actually build a better, more whole community?</p>

	<p>Having our mascot be “Indians” does not build or better our community. It holds us in the past, and not in a past that we want to celebrate.</p> <p>For North Hills to strive for excellence, that means that we are regularly looking at the way we’re operating and reevaluating to get closer to excellence. Striving for excellence means looking at mistakes and correcting them. Continuing to have “Indians” as our mascot is a mistake - a big one. Now, there is an opportunity to come together as a community and move forward into a more “excellent” future. We can decide what we want to be known for, make people proud to go to NH.</p> <p>Pride, Tradition, and Excellence are all great things to admire, but you can’t claim them as NH values until you see those values in action. Make NH alumni proud, and change the mascot.</p>
3	Can only make a comment if phone/ digital discussion is available as I will not be able to attend in person
4	I look forward to speaking about this, and I'm grateful for the forum to do so!
5	It is never too late to do the right thing.
6	It's 2022.

Non-Resident Alumni

1	"Indian" isn't even the correct word for what our mascot is. It's a "Native American" so it's just silly for us to keep "Indian". Our mascot also wears the headdress reserved for a chief, and it's equivalent to stolen valor in my eyes. I'd be up for changing it to something else still related to Native American culture, so long as it's historically accurate and we've run it past a tribe or two to confirm it's not disrespectful.
2	A change of mascot will show our children and our community that we stand for racial justice and doing the right thing, regardless of old ways of thinking. Let's make it a more equitable and respectful symbol of the North Hills.

3	<p>A few years ago I wrote asking if the North Hills school district is working on changing the school mascot, but I never received a response. At the time of my initial email, Maine was debating this issue. I can happily report that our state passed a law to ban Native American mascots from all public schools. While I wish Pennsylvania would do the same, I don't think it should take a law to do the right thing in the North Hills. I hope that even if we are the minority voices crying out for change that our arguments aren't ignored.</p> <p>In reading the Facebook comments on the alumni page, tolerance and inclusive thinking is not a strong value held by many NHHS alums. That's not surprising because we were raised in a community that allowed teenagers to openly mock Native Americans at Friday night football games. Adults allowed children to paint on their faces and wear headdresses. Adults also allowed teenagers to come to high school during spirit week dressed in blackface. Just take a look in the Class of 1986 yearbook and you will see!</p> <p>Many alums from that time have grown as human beings and we now see how oppressive and racist the school culture was during that time. But we can't allow the alums who haven't had a change of heart, who live in the glory days of their high school years, dictate their desires to the administration and school board. Their way of thinking and seeing the world has passed. The young people today are crying out for justice and for a world free of racism. The future generations of North Hills High School deserve to learn in an environment that is inclusive, free of a mascot that dishonors indigenous people. Symbols matter and speak volumes to those who see them. It's time to retire the mascot.</p> <p>Thank you,  Class of 1986</p>
4	<p>A group of people should not be associated with mascots, especially if it is cartoonish and stereotypical in nature. I know the Indian Mascot at NH is pretty regal and isn't like the the Redskins or the Cleveland Indians but when people dress up or get into team spirit at games, and shout stereotypical war cries this doesnt seem appropriate. Not only do these actions affect Native American identity, it can also cause non native members of the community to be ignorant to the Native American communities. It is not a healthy situation for anyone. I think it would be important to have a committee of people who voluteer their time to discuss a new mascot (current students, teachers, current community members) to have a say in what the mascot should be in the future. As far as the argument about costs I feel it can be fazed out over time. Prioritize the high profile areas that need updated and things like uniforms that need replaced (such as the band uniforms). I once thought this topic was a non-issue and I didn't really care but once I looked into this topic I realized there are a lot of systemic issues and microaggressions associated with an Indian Mascot. Therefore I hope the community can find it in themselves to really research the history and studies done on this topic and make it a priority to change it.</p>
5	<p>As an alumni, I find it to be truly embarrassing that North Hills still uses the Indian mascot in 2022. While this was never acceptable (and especially unacceptable that there would be white girls dressed as "Indians" as the "mascot" at events like football games - I am not sure if this is still the case), it should be incredibly clear at this point that this is racist and unacceptable. Even the Cleveland Guardians have changed their name and mascot - with professional teams making these changes, tradition and cost/effort to change are not good arguments in favor of</p>

	keeping the mascot. This change is long overdue - I have been advocating for a mascot change since I was in high school from 2010 - 2014, and this is the first time the school district has even been willing to have a conversation on the topic. Conversation is not enough; the district needs to commit to changing the mascot as soon as possible.
6	As an educational institution, NH should move forward with its thinking and choose a mascot less offensive.
7	As long as the Indian remains the mascot for the north hills school district, the district and it's affiliates will appear backward, tone deaf, and insensitive to the genocide and oppression suffered by the native peoples of this continent. As a student K-12 in the district I did not experience any education of significance on the topic of native peoples, which in retrospect not only makes my education incomplete as a citizen of this country but also makes the use of the Indian logo and mascot seem all the more ignorant and entitled. What value does it bring to current and future students apart from nostalgia enjoyed by those who came before? Please set the right example for today's kids and change the logo to something that is not offensive.
8	Class of 1997.
9	Cleveland, Washington, and others have done it. Many more will follow. It's simple really. The North Hills tradition comes from the area and the school itself, not from a team mascot. If it offends a decent amount of people, then changing it makes perfect sense. Those who would be upset with the change will come around eventually, and even if they don't it won't matter. At the end of the day, it will always be the North Hills name that mattered more than the mascot. Current and future alumni will still hold that same pride in the school that helped shape them.
10	Even when I graduated North Hills with the Class of 2001, this was an issue of debate. In the intervening 21 years, the empirical data has become indisputable: turning Native people into mascots is harmful to native youth. As a current teacher, I would like to be able to proudly wear North Hills alumni gear during 90s and 2000s spirit days on my own campus, but I can't because I do not want my current students to find harmful images when they google my alma mater. We can fix this. Let's give alumni, current students, and future students a mascot which they can be proud of forever instead of one who harms a portion of NH's own student body and makes it impossible to wear spirit gear without thinking of harm it causes to everyone who sees it. (Research here: https://coloradosph.cuanschutz.edu/docs/librariesprovider205/journal_files/vol29/29_1_2022_92_watt.pdf)
11	How about Hill Toppers?
12	I am a 1973 alumni from NHHS (with follow up BS, MS and PhD degrees, and serving over 40 years in academia, recently retiring as a tenured professor from the University of Minnesota). I am writing in FULL support of changing the mascot for the high school. Although 'indians' may have served the school community when I was in school 50 years ago - a time when we held less collective awareness for the white privilege, power and disrespect it conveys- it is past time to move on to select another mascot that is more neutral, has the same impact (showing empowerment and strength as an athletic team), but does not disrespect Native Americans in the area and in the US (or other marginalized groups; personally I'm a fan of non-endangered animals like gophers, badgers or even terrapins). I currently live in Minnesota, on territory held by the Dakota before it was taken from them. Here we honor the native people by changing the

	<p>names of lakes, buildings, parks and other spaces that show disrespect (e.g., hold the names of white men who led the fight to takeover their lands). Although I understand that in the past efforts were made to better represent the image of the 'indian' with consultation from local native Americans, there is no real need to hold onto this mascot when another can send a better message wholly representative of the school district's values. Certainly history should not be the reason. I went to a high school, engaged in activities, was inspired by teachers and coaches and band leaders (RIP Mr Mercer). My memories are the same; perhaps tarnished only by the idea that my alma mater had an offensive mascot. Thank you for bringing this to action. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] class of '73.</p>
13	<p>I am a Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Women Living in Pittsburgh, and Your entire school district is on my family and ancestors land. I believe I have a say in the mascot. We do not want your honor we want your respect. The colonists have used the excuse that they want to honor us for centuries to alleviate the guilt caused to the over 565 Nations on this Turtle Island (North America) being subject to the racism, murder, hatred and more we have suffered at the hand of the colonists for over 500 years. It is racist and when we tell you it harms us, our children and our culture. We want you to listen to us with an open heart and mind, not say to us, it is an honor. We do not see it as an honor. Please hear us. Do not talk about traditions to us. Our traditions and culture have been here for thousands of years, and will continue to be here for thousands more. It is not an honor, and it is racism pure and simple. Just because it has been used for decades, does not make it right. It is not cancel culture, it is about opening your ears, eyes and hearts to listen to a people that have called this place home since the beginning of time and believe that Turtle Island was created for us. As we have all enlightened ourselves with land acknowledgments and much more in this area, The school district should cut its racist ties in an effort to educate it's staff, its facility, its residents and most important your students and all of our futures. Please be on the forefront of enlightenment. Thank you</p>
14	<p>I am a North Hills alumni, class of 2016. What do I remember from my high school years? White classmates dressing in traditional Native American headdresses and running around the football field during games on Friday nights. The mascot is disrespectful. It is outdated. It is racist.</p>

15

I am a proud alumnus of North Hills School District. I am an educator, the former Vice President of the Green Bay Area Public School Board, and the current State Representative to the 90th Assembly District in Wisconsin. The research on the harm, destruction, long-term public health implications, and the impact of racism over the course of a person's and community's lifespan is well documented. Further, the specific impact of Indigenous and American Indian mascots on school districts and communities is also staggering. In 2005, the American Psychology Association (APA) called for the immediate retirement of all American Indian mascots, symbols, images, and personalities by schools, colleges, universities, athletic teams, and organizations. The APA's position was "based on a growing body of social science literature that shows the harmful effects of racial stereotyping and inaccurate racial portrayals, including the particularly harmful effects of American Indian sports mascots on the social identity development and self-esteem of American Indian young people." The continued use of such imagery and personalities can also weaken the academic experience for all individuals within a community, but even more so for those that "have had little or no contact with indigenous peoples." Furthermore, this can reinforce the notion that it's socially appropriate for children to "participate in culturally abusive behavior. The research can best be summarized into one key point - Native American mascots reinforce harmful stereotypes, racism, and implicit bias and lead to well-documented negative outcomes in both the lives of native and non-native persons in school systems and their communities.

Now is the time for the North Hills School District to take action to remove the Native American mascot and to lead the conversation and work for school districts throughout Pennsylvania. We call on you to put action into your words of solidarity and commitment to dialogue. Regardless of our background or the color of our skin, we can all agree that public schools and districts must lead on moving equity from policy to practice and take steps to create learning and living environments in support of all. Native American mascots, symbols, and images have been shown through research to harm kids and families. We cannot uphold a system and a mascot that values some lives over others. Niceties and comfort-centered rules of engagement have kept racist systems of oppression alive and well functioning for hundreds of years. Now is the time to change the mascot and honor the history of the North Hills School District and the dedication to living our values.

16

I am a proud graduate of North Hills, class of 2004. Now I have the pleasure of representing the community that raised me, protected me, and fostered my love for civic engagement and discourse. I appreciate the board taking the time to hear from the community.

Not only am I an alum, but in my senior year, I was the North Hills "Indian." I have many great memories from Friday night football games-- traveling to every game, hanging out with my friends on the cheer squad, and feeling unity with my neighbors and classmates as we cheered on the team.

But I will tell you every detail of my costume to the stereotypical actions I performed were harmful caricatures of a people and culture I did not understand.

On the field, I was full of school spirit and did everything I could to motivate the crowd. I can also say that nothing I did in that costume honored the Native people or was rooted in accurately representing their culture.

For 400+ years, Native people have been told where they can live, how to dress, and to who they are allowed to pray. Their sacred objects, like the war bonnet featured on the North Hills mascot, have been trivialized into a decoration.

They've seen their unique and diverse tribal identities and cultures be oversimplified and distilled into one word that doesn't even describe them: Indian.

I can't speak on behalf of the Haudenosaunee people who belong to the region, but I feel deeply for them and their children. It hurts all of us when we distort the truth, and I feel for the North Hills students raised with this inaccurate depiction.

I applaud the school district for ending the practice of having students dress up as the mascot.

We should take the next step to remove the name and imagery from our school district entirely.

By making this change, we can prepare students to become responsible global citizens. We can stop robbing our children of a clear understanding of who Native Americans are. We can stop perpetuating the inconsistencies and stereotypes that were a part of our upbringing.

We can stop holding onto what's familiar just because it's painful to admit that our beliefs were misconceived because they were shared with us by people we respect: our parents, our teachers, our peers, our schools, and our government. I understand. I was once there too.

As North Hills alumni and residents, we can choose to see this as an opportunity to feel proud of our mutual decision to change the mascot; to allow our legacy to evolve toward mending relations with the Native people of this land; and to teach our youth the complex, uncomfortable, & complete truth.

Many people have vocalized a deep love of this mascot and the 78-year history that it carries, the memories it stirs of our school days of proudly donning those uniforms. I resonate with that nostalgia. I encourage everyone to hold those memories close. I also ask that we do more to educate ourselves on the history of Native people and their culture. If we do, I truly believe the

	<p>kind and capable neighbors of Ross and North Hills alum will also choose a different path.</p> <p>But when we know better, we can do better.</p> <p>Let's choose to do better, together.</p>
17	I believe in the interest of respecting all people, the board needs to inquire into why the current mascot and name would be offensive to native peoples. Consult with tribes if possible and the history of actual native people that inhabited the north hills area.
18	I believe the current mascot is antiquated and in poor taste. As a North Hills alumnus (Class of 2003), I'd like to see the school join the 21st century.
19	I graduated from North Hills in 2016, and this district will always hold a special place in my heart. I am extremely grateful for many of the experiences I had during my time here — the friends I met, lessons I learned, and connections I made were instrumental in setting me up for success in my adult life. It is for this reason that I believe the mascot should be changed. I want to be proud of my alma mater and everything it is, but unfortunately this mascot casts a stain across North Hills' image. I have stopped wearing my North Hills High School class hoodie and other memorabilia because of the mascot's image. The mascot is an offensive and racist caricature of indigenous people, flat out, and similar mascots around the country have been changed in recent years to reflect our society's changing beliefs and values. This includes the renaming of the Cleveland Guardians in the city I now call my home. I want to see my hometown make the right choice on this issue, so that I and every other alumni can proudly sport our high school's logo and mascot without portraying ourselves as believers in hateful ideologies. Please do the right thing and change the school mascot.
20	I had introduced the idea of changing the mascot years ago and think that the change of mascot is long over due. Please move forward in the process and come back with an acceptable mascot that will represent NHSD along with not offending a group of people.
21	I have a suggestion for the new mascot. I have designed two new designs. I just need an email address to send them. I went to North Hills from Kindergarten to 10th grade. As far as I know I was the first freshman in North Hills history to earn a varsity sports letter. We have two daughters that graduated from North Hills. I think the North Hills should change to The Nighthawks. Again...I have two designs I would like to email the School District for consideration. I was also the cartoonist for The Arrowhead.
22	I have been appalled and disappointed that North Hills has continued to have an Indian mascot for so many years after a greater awareness of how racist and insensitive this is has swept the country. Even many professional teams (where most decisions are made based on money) have made a change. Admittedly it didn't cross my mind during high school (class of '69) and I regret that ignorance. It seems to be such a "no-brainer" to do the right thing that I'm saddened that people don't or won't understand the issue. At a time in our country when hate and division is flaring up with no shame, I would think a school that's been outstanding in so many ways, wouldn't hesitate to do the honorable thing.
23	I played 2 sports for North Hills and while I was there I was proud to play for the "Indians". Since I have moved on and grown, but I will always remember my time at North Hills. A mascot is just a symbol and I hope that North Hills changes theirs. With many pro teams

	<p>changing from the racist term to something else, several college teams have changed, locally IUP. When I talk about my time in high school I say I went to North Hills I don't say I was a North Hills Indian because that is not how mascots work. So changing the name will have no affect at n how it is looked at.</p> <p>As for the racist name there was a SI article in the early 2010's that surveyed native Americans and found that over 80% find the term Indians offensive. With a world with so much hate in it don't we want to start being more inclusive? The vast majority of people I see talking on line about dont change are not of Native American background. My opinion is that the only people you should listen to is native Americans!</p>
24	<p>I think it would be beneficial for a change to the "Indian" mascot. To be able to say North Hills holds true to pride, tradition, and excellence, you have to be willing to change what is wronged, stand for the people of the community and support the changing times that fix what was inappropriate. I think the best outcome to support our community and fellow alumni who feel disrespected by the mascot would be to change it.</p> <p>Something such as the North Hills Guardians can demonstrate pride, tradition, excellence of supporting and fighting for our community and the tradition of always listening to what is needed. Intelligence comes with changing ignorance. intelligence comes with finding solutions to problems and representing what is right from wrong. North Hills should not support a statement of "it's what it always has been". Some traditions are outdated and disrespectful.</p>
25	<p>I think the time has come that we should recognize that ethnic groups are not mascots.</p>
26	<p>I visited the Ojibwe in Minnesota during college for three weeks as an educational opportunity to learn about their culture. I also have a degree in Biological Anthropology. As a doctor, I am trained in cultural sensitivity to best treat my patients. North Hills gave me the education to accomplish those things. Changing the mascot is necessary. The Native community agrees that "Indian" mascots are harmful and derogatory. They are the ones harmed by our mascot, and they should be heard the loudest here. Change the mascot into something exciting, a rebranding so that alumni and students can be proud of their school board leadership in setting a positive example.</p>
27	<p>I would like the new mascot to be the North Hills Knights, since McKnight road is a main road in the area.</p>

28

It is sad that some residents seem to value money more than our children's education. What is the point of public school if it does not provide an accurate education because we're more worried about the cost?

As for those saying that removing it would be like erasing history, I believe it would be the opposite. It gives the opportunity to acknowledge true history, including the perspective of Native people, but in the classroom--not as a novelty figurehead for a sports team. That's not teaching history.

This mascot does nothing to represent the actual identity of Native Americans. It's inaccurate to say to a young Native child that this is who they are. If we want to honor Natives, we would bring in a comprehensive curriculum about Natives from pre-colonial history to current events. We would consult with Seneca elders on ways to truthfully teach their traditions so we can begin to repair the devastating legacy of mistrust between the U.S. and Indigenous peoples. We would invite our children to end a legacy of stereotyping an entire race of people as they use their brilliant creativity to select a new mascot that doesn't caricaturize actual living human beings.

It's ok to say, "At one time, we thought this mascot was a symbol of honor and respect, but if people do not find it respectful, we will respect them by removing it."

It's important to note that the war bonnet used in this mascot was not worn by people native to this region we call Pennsylvania. Do North Hills students know the difference? Are they being taught about the hundreds of different tribes all with specific regalia and customs and calling them by their name? Are we teaching them about their core values and ways of living besides being warriors or braves? Or are we clumping them into one stereotype and calling them Indian?

-Lenora "Lee" Dingus is a Seneca/Haudenosaunee woman residing in the Pittsburgh region. She shared her experience saying, "Sports teams, mascots, names and logos — such as the North Hills Indians locally or the Washington [football team] on a national level — are racist images that Pittsburghers and Americans hold onto that keep us locked in the past. These images are not an honor. They are harmful to our people and culture by creating low self-esteem and a negative self-image."

-Little League International has updated its 2019 rulebook to include a statement prohibiting "the use of team names, mascots, nicknames or logos that are racially insensitive, derogatory or discriminatory in nature." This decision has been applauded by the National Congress of American Indians. LRI article

One Spokane Minor League baseball team dropped its mascot but kept the name Indians after years of building relationships and seeking counsel from the local tribe in ways they could use the name to educate Non-Natives about the tribe and incorporate their traditions.

-Following the Washington NFL team's announcement of its new mascot name, the Change the Mascot campaign issued the following statement: "Change the Mascot welcomes this important moment as an historic development for Native Americans, civil rights advocates, sports fans, and most importantly, our future generations. This is a victory for all of those around the world seeking to advance inclusivity and respect in our societies."

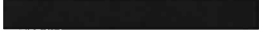
-Because racial stereotypes play an important role in shaping a young person's consciousness,

	<p>this inauthentic behavior makes a mockery of Indigenous cultural identity and causes many young Indigenous people to feel shame about who they are as human beings. Subjective feelings, such as inferiority, are an integral part of consciousness and work together with the objective reality of poverty and deprivation to shape a young person's worldview. Schools should be places where students come to unlearn the stereotypes that such mascots represent. from "The Deculturalization of Indigenous Mascots in U.S. Sports Culture"</p>
29	<p>It is time to change from the inappropriate mascot. Using it is not respectful to the indigenous people who use to call our region home and were forced out by settlers. We rally behind this mascot with no thought to this sordid past. Native American descendants no better off by us championing such names. The past use of this mascot is not a racist reflection of the many people who have come through this great school district. However, knowing better now, we should progress to do what is right.</p>
30	<p>It is time to change the mascot for a school that is predominantly white and does not do anything to support Native Americans.</p>
31	<p>It is time to change this,. People want to believe this is in some way honoring native peoples and it is not.</p>
32	<p>It is time to move beyond the Indian mascot.</p>
33	<p>It is very devastating to those of Indigenous Heritage to be oppressed and marginalized in this country while trivialized to mascots and sports teams. I beg you to not just change the mascot, but also the name. It is not appropriate and does not represent a positive and accurate historical education for students. Thank you.</p>
34	<p>It's high time for NH to come into the present. Indigenous people being used as mascots is demeaning and dehumanizing to those cultures. We can be better than this.</p>
35	<p>It's time to let the old mascot go in favor of something more in keeping with today's sensibilities. Racial or ethnic groupings should not be used as mascots if the group supposedly represented by the mascot asks for a change. It's racist, yes, but it is also a matter of basic decency and politeness. If I meet someone named James and he says to me, "Actually, I hate that name, I prefer to go by Jimmy," I don't overthink that request, I just do what makes him comfortable. Similarly, the native people of this county have said that they feel hurt or humiliated or angered by the appropriation of their cultural signifiers (headdresses, tomahawks, war cries) or the use of racial/ethnic labels ("Indians," "Chiefs," "Redskins") as mascots. I don't need to analyze their feelings or my own -- I just need to do what is decent, kind, and polite, and stop using a mascot that is causing them distress. Only the group supposedly represented by the mascot should get a say in this, really. If they are uncomfortable, that's enough reason for me.</p>
36	<p>Its time. Only racists still call native Americans Indians.</p>
37	<p>IUP changed in the 2000s, all the pro teams changed. It is disrespectful to Native Americans and no one would want a mascot to be named "Whites" or "Blacks". Just change it and in one year people will forget about it.</p>
38	<p>Maybe someone should ask Native Americans if they're offended.</p>
39	<p>My college changed it's mascot years and years ago. It was explained why, no one complained. Things change, they progress. Logos, company names, etc. get changed or updated all the</p>

	<p>time. People claim the Indian doesn't harm anyone, it's a sign of respect, etc. Well, most likely it doesn't affect you because it's not your heritage. The term "indian" isn't even historically correct. It is an incorrect name given to indigenous people by explorers who stole their land. It is time to fix a wrong. Be on the right side of history, not a whiny toddler about it. Change the mascot.</p>
40	<p>My school district (GLSD) plays the North Hills in multiple sports, and I support changing the North Hills mascot.</p>
41	<p>North Hills has the opportunity to change to a more appropriate mascot that reflects something about the community. Please take this opportunity. A plains Indian profile really has nothing to do with North Hills and is offensive, reducing a group of people to the same status as an animal used as a good luck charm. While I didn't understand this growing up there, I always thought it was strange and out of place--there were certainly Native Americans in what became Pittsburgh but this "mascot" is a stereotype which makes no attempt to understand what local Native culture was/is or connect with them in any way. My guess is it has also been used without permission of any Native American group all these years. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>
42	<p>North Hills should change the mascot to move forward with a more positive and modern choice. The use of Indians with the image of a fierce native is a racist stereotype that Native Americans are violent savages. It is an embarrassment and a reflection of harm to our society and to the self-esteem of native youth.</p>
43	<p>Our school is more than a mascot and changing it should not be a big deal, especially if the mascot is causing problems</p>
44	<p>Please don't let the vocal opponents stop the District from doing what you know is right. I'll feel better to call myself an alumnus once you make this overdue change.</p>
45	<p>Retire the Mascot:</p> <p>"National Congress of American Indians, the nation's oldest, largest, and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native advocacy organization has a long-standing, firm position against the use of "Indian" stereotypes as mascots, logos, and symbols in various sports, commercial, and cultural institutions. These harmful and archaic depictions must be ended. Since 1968, with the establishment of an organizational campaign to end harmful stereotypes, NCAI has contributed to the development of a diverse and large coalition of institutions over the last 45 years, including tribal governments and tribal members, all of whom support the elimination of stereotypical Native American images and team names.</p> <p>As these stereotypes continue to be perpetuated by national and local media and popular culture, Native youth—the fastest growing segment of the Native population—are at an increased risk of harm, both self-inflicted and by those who are non-Native. NCAI's position to end negative and harmful stereotypes is directly linked to our ongoing efforts to build a healthy and nurturing environment for Native youth to flourish and become the next generation of leaders and Native citizens.</p> <p>The organization has passed a number of resolutions on the issue, specifically in 1993 calling on the Washington football team to end the use of the team's name and in 2005 in support of the NCAA ban on "Indian" mascots, nicknames, and imagery in postseason play.</p>

	<p>4 Along with the hundreds of tribal governments who make up NCAI, opposition to these sports stereotypes has been declared by national and regional tribal organizations, individual tribal governments, state governments, agencies, organizations, and companies—all of whom have taken official positions or actions in support of ending harmful mascots. They have been joined by large numbers of civil rights, education, youth advocacy, mental health, religious, and other national organizations which have taken formal positions against harmful mascots. As a result of ongoing education and advocacy, in total, two-thirds or over 2,000 “Indian” references in sports have been eliminated during the past 35 years. Nearly 1,000 still remain today.⁵</p> <p>Echoing the objections of many organizations throughout the country – such as the NAACP and National Education Association – in 2001 the US Commission on Civil Rights concluded that Native American references in sports “whether mascots and their performances, logos, or names, are disrespectful and offensive to American Indians and others who are offended by such stereotyping” and “are particularly inappropriate and insensitive in light of the long history of forced assimilation that American Indian people have endured in this country.”⁶</p> <p>This position is shared by an overwhelming number of national organizations, including the: American Psychological Association, which passed a resolution calling for the immediate retirement of American Indian mascots and imagery, citing potential negative effects it may have on the mental health and psychological behavior of American Indian people⁷; and American Sociological Association, which called for the discontinued use of Native American nicknames, logos and mascots in sports, stating that “social science scholarship has demonstrated that the continued use of Native American nicknames, logos and mascots in sport harm Native American people in psychological, educational, and social ways.”⁸</p> <p>National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) 1999 Resolution – “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the national NAACP call upon all professional sports teams and public and private schools and universities currently using such names and images to reject the use of Native Americans and all historically oppressed people and their cultural traditions, as sports mascots and symbols and affirm their commitment to respect racial and cultural inclusion in all aspects of their institutions;...”⁹</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>██████████</p>
46	<p>Service members swear an oath to the Constitution (the idea of our country) and not to a person or a flag (only a symbol of our country). Similarly, I am a proud NH alum, am loyal to the district's mission of intellectual growth and personal development, and will root for the students, band program, and sports teams. I am not, however, loyal to a mascot. Traditions and symbols like the mascot must be reevaluated periodically to ensure they support the organization's mission, vision, and values. I don't see how the current mascot aligns with the vision statement or values posted on the school district website. A mascot is a symbol that both the school district and community can rally around. A symbol that makes members of these social groups feel marginalized and misrepresents their culture couldn't possibly have the intended effect of bringing an entire community together. I think a willingness to make new decisions after receiving new information and having a rigorous debate should be the standard an academic institution models to its students and community. The narrative of our heritage can evolve from</p>

	<p>simply being the "Fighting Indians" to one that models an institution dedicated to understanding and adjusting for the needs of the entire community to deliberately make progress towards its vision without compromising its values.</p> <p>We reinvent our culture every day...whether or not it intentionally resembles the previous day is up to us.</p>
47	<p>Symbols ARE important. However anodyne it's origin, the Indian can only be perceived as racially insensitive today. Clinging to the past can drag us down for no reason but our fear of letting go. It takes some courage to let go, but you will be liberating future generations of this needless controversy.</p>
48	<p>Take this opportunity to show students the importance of respecting Native Americans and other groups. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>
49	<p>The Indian is a symbol of pride, strength and courage. That is not a bad thing. School board members....be honest with the audience on where you stand. I think we have had enough of lying politicians and need more truth. No matter how you vote, we will always be Indians. Hopefully you also possess pride strength and courage..</p>
50	<p>The Indian mascot is racist and should be changed.</p>
51	<p>The issue will continue to arise and NH will continue to spend money and time better spent on education. Change it now and get it over with.</p>
52	<p>The mascot should 100% be changed. It was offensive 20 years ago and is even more inexcusable today.</p>
53	<p>The people who want to mascot to stay are people who think this change is being pushed by "woke white people" when in reality, they don't understand the harm this mascot can have on others.</p>
54	<p>The term Indian refers to a person from the country of India. Our Native American citizens find the term offensive in much the same way as are alternate terms for Italians, Irish, Polish, French or many other ethnicities. It is important to show RESPECT to ALL people and to teach our young people the importance of showing that respect to everyone all the time. Please change the mascot or don't have one at all.</p>
55	<p>There is a reason that using imagery from a people our nation committed genocide against is not exactly popular</p>
56	<p>They should change it.</p>
57	<p>This change is long overdue. Whatever decision is made, it will reflect the values of the district and leadership. Continued use of racist language and imagery should be a source of shame. I hope that future alumni are proud of their mascot. I am not.</p>
58	<p>This is an outdated and offensive mascot to the indigenous people of the country. Changing it will not change the school spirit. It will simply be a more appropriate way to help teach future (and current and old alike) generations about acceptance and most importantly respect for everyone's cultures.</p>
59	<p>This is long overdue. Almost any other mascot is a good idea.</p>

60	Using a group of people as a mascot is dehumanizing. Our country was founded on genocide of indigenous people and enslavement of African people. It is time to recognize these past harms and begin to make things right. A good first step is changing this mascot.
61	We are better than the mistakes of our past, changing the mascot makes for a better, less insensitive, more inclusive future.
62	<p>When it comes to inclusivity and the building of biases (regardless of whether those biases are built consciously or unconsciously), it is time for NHSD to move into the modern era by changing the Indian mascot. First, the current mascot mislabels Native Americans and Indigenous People as "Indians", a term that has not only fallen out of use in media, the press, and in educated circles but is also perpetuating the false beliefs that Christopher Columbus had when he first landed on North America.</p> <p>Second, the current mascot stereotypes Native Americans as aggressive, violent warriors, which downplays their rich, peaceful cultures. As an educator, I can attest that the research shows that these icons and mascots have subtle, but substantial, effects on the perceptions and attitudes that our students walk away with, regardless of whether or not they identify as Native American. Think of this as similar to how stereotypical images of Black/African American people have fallen out of media and popular representation. Cartoons of Black-faced servants or lesser-educated characters have disappeared from Disney, Warner Bros., and other media precisely because they are harmful to individuals and harmful to our society.</p> <p>By visibly changing the mascot, NHSD will not only improve the educational environment for its current and future students, but it will signal to families who are evaluating whether or not to move to the district or, if they do, whether or not to send their kids to North Hills schools, that the District takes a serious approach to diversity and inclusion. Changing the mascot is one way that you "walk the walk" of diversity instead of merely talking about it and saying its important without ever acting on it.</p> <p>Yours in school spirit,  Class of 2000</p>


UNSURE

Residents/Employees (Signed up to speak)

1	I would like to address the entire hall being that I am the President of the local Ross Township & West View Historical Societies as well as give a history behind the mascot & the Native American history of our area. Thank you
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Residents/Employees

<p>1</p>	<p>*Middle Ground*</p> <p>I believe the best chance for a “win, win” scenario would be to just drop the Indians mascot/name and not replace it at all. I personally do not care strongly one way or the other on this issue, but wanted to atleast throw my opinion out there since there seems to be very limited middle ground ideas or opinions.</p> <p>I believe North Hills motto is or was “We Are North Hills”. So just be North Hills. The school can use the intertwined NH logo for team branding. That logo is just as famous as the Indian logo, as its been used on the letterman jackets forever. The school has already been dropping using the Indian head logo around the district for years now and thats mostly seemed like a non issue. So why does the school even need a mascot? Generally, nobody who plays a sport says “I play for the Indians” or even “I play for the North Hills Indians”, they simply say “I play for North Hills”. All the teams are mostly referred to as just the North Hills (insert sport) team anyways. Ex: North Hills Football team, North Hills Hockey team. Nobody really adds the name “Indians” in the title anyways.</p> <p>People who are actually concerned about using tax money to rebrand shouldn't have an issue, as your basically just dropping the name and not rebranding the district with a new name and mascot. People who argue history/tradition...nothing is being replaced or covered over, its just not being used. They can have their history as being an Indian, while the school can move forward without the Indian name. The school doesnt have to pretend that the Indian wasn't a part of their long history by replacing the Indian. If the school picks a new mascot, there will always be a large number of people against it.</p> <p>In no scenario will everyone be happy, but this seems like a decent in between for the school and both sides of the argument.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>I am impartial to changing the mascot. I want to stress that if we do make a change, that it is done in a fiscally responsible way. We have had our taxes raised the past 2 years to cover costs of the district. With the current state of affairs in the country, I do not see how costs will not be higher for next year.</p> <p>If a change was made, I would like to be just North Hills. We don't need a mascot to identify with. I grew up in Bethel Park and went to Penn State. I personally do not identify as a Blackhawk or a Nittany Lion. I am a proud Bethel Park and Penn State graduate. My daughters ,wife and I are proud of North Hills.</p> <p>As we all know, there are many signs, murals and infrastructure that have either Indians or the Indian logo on them. If a change occurs, I would like to see changes over time when they are needed to be replaced.</p> <p>The sign at the administration building is a perfect example. That is a nice new sign that I am sure is not scheduled to be replaced. When the time comes for replacement, then we update it. I do not want to see additional monies spent on making a quick change for the sake of change.</p> <p>I have a wife (teacher) and daughter in Ross elementary and a daughter in the middle school. We need as much money in the buildings and staff to support our children now more than ever.</p>

	<p>I apologize for any spelling or punctuation errors. :-)</p> <p>Thank You for your time, </p>
3	I live out of town but would still like to hear the comments that are being made. Will this be livestreamed for all to watch from home or will it be recorded and posted at a later date?
4	I really think if this is being brought up, the only people that can answer the question are the local native tribes. Who does our Indian even represent? I went to NH from K-12 and wasn't taught once about our mascot. If someone is representing our local tribes, and their answer is, yes, we like being represented by your school district. Great. Keep it. If their answer is no, then change it. Pretty simple. Respectful representation. NH school district will still have the same great curriculum and teachers even if change happens. Isn't that what school is about anyway? Learning, having fun, teaching our kids how to have respectful, knowledge-based conversations?
5	I would like to know the estimated cost of the proposed change and how that will be funded.
6	If the mascot is changed, what is the approximate financial cost? Where will those funds come from?
7	<p>In preparation for this town hall or prior to a final decision, it seems appropriate to get the input from any local Native American organizations. The link below was the only one I could find. There may be an opportunity to partner with this organization in some way that can address all concerns and maintain our traditional mascot, develop a new mascot, or some other compromise that would show our dedication as a community to inclusion and respect for culture.</p> <p>https://www.cotraic.org/</p>
8	<p>The biggest concern is not necessarily the mascot but rather the expenses/costs to replace the mascot. If there was a phase out plan/program or special government funding, I would be more supportive of changing the mascot. With so many other needs for students, buildings, and staff, I do not think it is best use or worth the budget busting that changing the mascot would appear to take on. Unless the board or district could present financial numbers that suggest otherwise, a phase out plan would be more easy to get behind.</p> <p>I think it would be kind of fun to have a community contest for a new mascot. Plus, I think the NH logo looks sharp.</p>

Non-Resident Alumni

1	Can NH get permission from a tribe to use for mascot? (Shawnee Indians)
2	I think you should let the current students decide, not a bunch of old, cranky alumni looking to make mountains out of molehills. I graduated in '68, love NHHS, sang the alma mater at my

	<p>graduation and could not care less about the mascot. I am completely surprised that this issue has aroused so much fury among a fairly small group of alumni but that's what wedge issues are. Please don't cave to the minority of people who whining about wokeness. Times change and evolved people change with them.</p>
3	<p>I would like to know if you will have an American Indian representative at the meeting? You can contact the council of Three Rivers American Indians at 412-782-4457. I've had conversations with friends who are Indians and obviously it would be good to hear why they feel offended by the use of their heritage as mascots. It might be worth asking that if we as a district support our local indigenous people and teach in the district about their histories and current struggles we could make a difference and still keep our mascot.</p>
4	<p>My friend [REDACTED] was the mascot.</p>