



Lauren Fierman TR ADM <lauren.fierman@trsu.org>

Fwd: GMUHS Mascot Name

Matthew Gorsky <eruvanna@gmail.com>
To: lauren.fierman@trsu.org, katie.Murphy@trsu.org

Thu, Mar 23, 2023 at 11:03 AM

Ms. Murphy,

As I received no reply from you I am reforwarding my original e-mail and including Ms Fierman on the recipient list.

I would also like to add that when rebranding a clean break is needed to remove the negative connotations from a brand. When I look at Pearl Milling Company I still see Aunt Jemima. They are still using the same colors and fonts on the product, there is no real separation until those who recall that connection have passed from this world.

Matthew Gorsky

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Matthew Gorsky** <eruvanna@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 3, 2023 at 12:33 AM
Subject: GMUHS Mascot Name
To: <katie.Murphy@trsu.org>

Ms Murphy,

I was extremely disappointed to hear of the school board's reversal on their stance about the Racist team name, the Chieftains. This is an issue the indigenous peoples of this country have been fighting against since the '60s.

Under the Current State Law, Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 568 b1A, the school board is in conflict with the use of a Name which is connected to the negative depiction of a race this country has committed cultural genocide against. As a Chester resident and an indigenous person I would like to know what the School Board's current policy is on how to file a formal Complaint against the policy of continuing to use a name which is irrevocably linked to the indigenous peoples of this country through usage by the school over the last 50-ish years.

I am almost beyond words that this needs even be pointed out. There is exactly zero other racial group, minority or majority, which this kind of behavior would still be tolerated against. The fact that it is still allowed against indigenous people is beyond the pale. We are not gone, we still live in this country despite it's attempts at Cultural Genocide. To continue to use a name that has been this long associated with Hollywood's indigenous caricatures, to see people using a tomahawk chop at sporting events, is nothing more than a continuation of that attempt at genocide, the erasure of culture of many different peoples.

Matthew A Gorsky

P.S. Please understand I am writing to you as one of the Representatives from my town and not as an individual. Similarly, my comments are about the action the board took, not about any single member of the Board. I am also aware of how loaded the term Genocide is. However, by UN definition the US government did commit acts of genocide against the indigenous peoples. <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/genocide.shtml>