



Supporting Learners & Leaders

Two Prospect Street, Suite 3
Montpelier, Vermont 05602-3555
Telephone: 802-229-0547 – Fax: 802-229-4801
www.vpaonline.org

PRESIDENT: Bob Thibault

PRESIDENT ELECT: Beth O'Brien

PAST-PRESIDENT: Joan Cavallo

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jay Nichols
jnichols@vpaonline.org

ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Bob Johnson
bjohnson@vpaonline.org

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Mike McRaith
mmcraith@vpaonline.org

Statement on Mascots & School Symbols

To: Whom it May Concern

From: The Vermont Principals' Association Executive Council

August 28, 2020

In support of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) students and families and other historically marginalized peoples, the VPA's Executive Council issues the following statement regarding school mascots:

School mascots are often powerful symbols within a community. We believe that mascots and all school symbols should support feelings of belonging and inclusivity for students and the wider community. They should not perpetuate divisive stereotypes and contribute to the ongoing marginalization, erasure, and harm to BIPOC communities. Any mascot, nickname, symbol, or logo that has marginalizing, racist, or exclusionary elements should be replaced to demonstrate what it means to be an inclusive, welcoming, and strong community. Just as all aspects of school operations need ongoing improvement for equitable outcomes and inclusive representation and policies, so too should school mascots.