

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

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**WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE
HEARING RECORDS**

2009-10

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on
Education**

(AC-Ed)

(FORM UPDATED: 06/28/2010)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

**

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

**

➤ Public Hearings ... PH

**

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

**

**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY
COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST
PROPOSAL ...**

➤ Appointments ... Appt

**

Name:

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

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➤ Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)

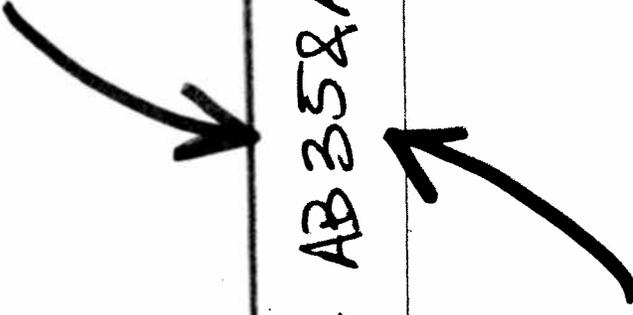
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➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

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AB 35



Public Hearings 3/17/09 - AB 35 & AB 119

Menominee Indian
High School → Multiple Submissions





MENOMINEE INDIAN HIGH SCHOOL
P O Box 850 **KESHENA WI 54135**
715-799-3846 **FAX 715-799-5558**

Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

March 16, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

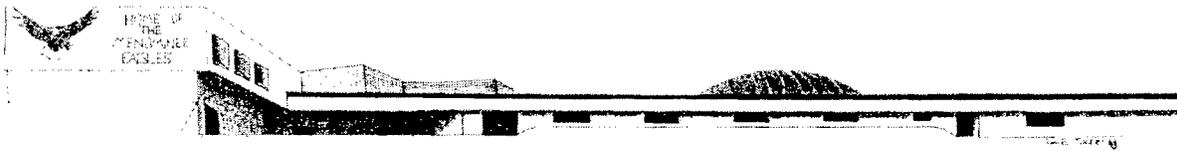
My name is McKaylee Duquain. I am a sophomore enrolled as a Menominee on the Menominee Reservation where I have lived most of my life. But one needs to know that we, as a people, are not isolated from the rest of the world. I have experienced racism and stereotyping before. I have been asked ridiculous questions like if I still live in a teepee, or do I still wear moccasins and animal skins. The Menominee never lived in teepees, and we wear clothes like everyone else. Even that shows that stereotyping is going on here, and that is what leads to racism. So I believe that using Native Americans as mascots is absurd. There are hundreds of different Native American tribes in America alone, with at least five here in Wisconsin, and no tribe is the same. But with the Cleveland Indians logo, people who don't know much about America's original inhabitants will believe that that is exactly how it is. Also, concerning the name "Redskins", that is considered racist. Now "Indians" are really on the other side of the world. Besides having people believe that all Native Americans are the same, danced around a fire, live in teepees, and all wear buckskins, they continue to degrade us by calling us Indians and Redskins.

Therefore I think that Native American mascots should be banned. It is causing false impressions through out America. But I do realize what the cost of this would be, new uniforms, signs, and even newly painted gym floors. This would be a temporary pull back, but still only temporary. Still not every school will have the finances to achieve such a change, but one idea would be a grant system to be set up. If a school needs help, they could apply for a grant, and then they would definitely have enough money to change things. Or maybe make an agreement with the government, where each school could be given so much fiscal help, if they need it.

Finally, you know my name, where I grew up, and my opinion on this Indian Mascot issue. This may be read, or just simply skimmed over, or even pushed aside, so to the eyes who have read this, keep in mind that no one would want to be stereotyped. I thank you for giving me some of you precious time attention.

Respectfully,

McKaylee Duquain
Student
Menominee Indian High School



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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

March 16, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

My name is Angela Kasten and I am a second year teacher at Menominee Indian High School. I teach Social Studies and Alternative Education. I am also the varsity softball coach. The proposed legislation that would set up a procedure for identifying and eliminating Native American mascots is an essential piece of legislation.

Last year our softball team played the Weyauwega-Fremont Indians. You have no idea how painful that was for me. As a coach of an entirely Native team, I was put in a very uncomfortable position. I couldn't tell my Lady Eagles, "Go kick some Indian butt!" or "Lets go tear the Indians apart." These normal "fire them up" saying that are used all over the world, could not be said. The real Indians that day were my Lady Eagles who respectfully played the "Indians" even though they were hurt and disrespected by their mascot.

Please support the house bill. Please never put me or any other coach in that uncomfortable position again. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to read our testimonials.

Respectfully,

Angela Kasten
Menominee Indian School District



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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

March 12, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

She' ku, my name is Robert Smith and I am a teacher at Menominee Indian High School in Keshena. I am also a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. I am concerned about the issue of Native American mascots for several reasons. The first reason is that I attended a school district whose mascot was the Chiefs, and the district claimed that the village was named after a strong Menominee Chief. After careful research I have found this to be untrue, yet the school board has refused to change the mascot and images. The second reason is that the experiences that I had in a predominantly white student population in a rural community had detrimental effects on my own cultural awareness and pride. These are feelings that no other Native American child should have to endure.

I am a father of two sons who will be enrolling in school soon. One of the deciding factors in choosing a school district for my sons will be the issue of cultural awareness. If the district claims to be a welcoming environment for all students, they should not have a Native American mascot. Having Native American Mascots in schools promotes cultural bias and discrimination towards Native Americans. I urge the Wisconsin State Legislature to create a statute that will prohibit Wisconsin Public schools from using Native American images, names, and logos as mascots.

Respectfully,

Robert Smith
Menominee Indian School District



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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

March 13, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello, my name is Gary Williams Jr. I am a student at the Menominee Indian High School. I am also enrolled as a Bad River Chippewa Indian. I am concerned about the Native American mascot issue for a couple reasons. My first reason is that I am a Native American and I have been trying to follow my Native American ways for a while now and I don't think it would be right for 'people who are not Indians to be prancing around acting like they really are. My second reason is that I don't think that, not to be mean or nothing but, the people that stole our land shouldn't be prancing around like that. I mean they could keep the name but at least show a little more respect.

What I think should be done about this situation would be a most simple one. Just change the name and show respect to it or at least keep the name but change the way you act towards that name. I mean how do they think they look acting like something they're not. They're supposed to be the ones representing the school and how can you do that if you're prancing around acting like that. Well those are my reasons and my solution. I would like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to read our letters and hope you have a nice day.

Respectfully,


Gary Williams



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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

March 12, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

Hi, I am Domanique Sanapaw. I am an enrolled member of the Menominee Indian Reservation. I would like to say a couple things covering the issue on the Indian mascots. I don't like the fact that other schools are using our ancestors as mascots. I don't think the schools that are using them as mascots know how much we natives respect our ancestors. Why do You want to be like us?

I respect my ancestors greatly. I think the government should have the mascots taken away from the schools using them. With all do respect for the people that see this letter; would the mascots be taken away from other schools if it involved any thing to do with slavery or Caucasians. So do you see ware I am getting this? So please make them change their mascots. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Domanique Sanapaw

Menominee Indian School District



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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

March 12, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

Hi, I am Marlin Waupoose. I am an enrolled member of the Menominee Indian Reservation. I would like to say a couple things covering the issue on the Indian mascots. I don't like the fact that other schools are using our ancestors as mascots. I don't think the schools that are using them as mascots know how much we natives respect our ancestors.

I think the government should have the mascots taken away from the schools using them. With all do respect for the people that see this letter; would the mascots be taken away from other schools if it involved any thing to do with slavery or Caucasians. So do you see ware I am getting this? So please make them change their mascots. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Marlin Waupoose

Menominee Indian School District



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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

March 12, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

Hi, my name is Shawn Kelley. I have been living on the Menominee Reservation all my life. I care about this issue because it impacts me directly seeing as how I am a Native American myself. I find the portraying of Native Americans to as mascots extremely disrespectful.

I think the Native American mascots should be banned. I think the assembly should pass the bill. The reason I think this is because they do nothing but stereotype us. I also think that the issue should be taken to a National level. Professional teams also have disrespectful mascot that have become iconic, such teams as the Kansas City Redskins and the Cleveland Indians. I don't know anyone on my Reservation that looks like "Chief" Wahoo. How would you like it if Natives had a team called the Menominee Whiteskins? Are fans would all be running around painted white. Wouldn't you find that disrespectful? Thank you for taking time to read my testimonial.

Sincerely,

Shawn Kelley

Student

Menominee Indian School District



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Leslie Shawanokasic
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Freshman Academy Principal

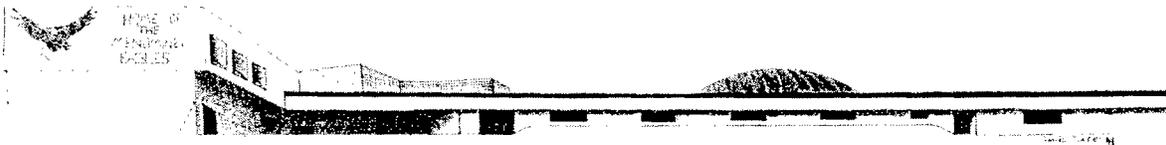
N4544 Saint Joseph Church Road
Suring, WI. 54174
March 16, 2009
To Whom It May Concern:

You may be asking yourself why I'm writing to you... This is why; them crazy mascots portraying Indians as big nosed and always wearing headdresses. That is not how we all look all the time. The only time we almost look like that is at pow-wows. Except that we don't have big noses. You should be laughing right about now. And stop. O.k. I'm going to get serious here now... I am a Menominee Indian from the Menominee Indian Reservation. And I have lived here my whole life. I have never met any Native American who looked like that. You could look at all the pictures from our year books from the past five years and no one looks like that.

Second and most important of all, I think you need to change the mascots. Mostly because of what I said before, we DO NOT stereotypically look like that. So I am asking you nicely here, please pass the bill banning all Native American related mascots in Wisconsin. I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you for taking your time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Gary Miller



MENOMINEE INDIAN HIGH SCHOOL
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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

March 12, 2009

Dear To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN MASCOT LOGOS

Hi, my name is Dohnavan Waupoose, I am 16 years old and I am a 10th grade student at the Menominee Indian High School and I am writing to you because of the issue dealing with the Native American Indian Mascots. I care because I am a Native American and I think we should have some respect, just because we were technically here first..... And being Native American it offends me.

I think the state assembly should put this bill into effect to ban Native American Indian Mascots for non Native American schools. If all native schools had other names that would offend other people they would understand and probably do the same thing and feel the same way.

Respectfully yours,

Dohnavan Waupoose



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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

March 16, 2009

To Whom It May Concern

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

Posoh, my name is Kenane Hill and I am an enrolled member of the Onedia Nation, but I have Menominee blood running through my veins. I am also a student at the Menominee Indian High School.

I am writing this letter in reference to Native American mascots. I was starting to notice that non-native individuals are insulting our native culture and traditions. The Cardinals team depicts us as having big noses. I think it's racist that they call us red skins and try to hoot around like us. This is very degrading to us and our tribe and culture. I am sure that if teams called themselves Fighting Whiteys it would hit the news quite fast and something would be done about it. But then our argument would be that we are honoring you. I am sure if the shoe fits wear it. My question to you is what the price of ignorance is and what is the price of racist mascot?

Yours truly,

Kenane Hill
Onedia/Menominee
Menominee Indian School District



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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

March 12, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

Hello my name is Deion Sanapaw. I'm a Native American student at Menominee Indian High School. I'm also a proud member of the Menominee Nation!! This is very important matter to me because of all the racism. Many of our community members and other tribes are taking this very affectionately.

I think that the government should go through with the change of Native American mascots. They should be able to help with the cost and bills of all the remodeling. I would also like to say that it doesn't give us pride very much because, at pep rallies and other events they are having something about the opposing teams. For example there will be signs in schools and gyms say "squash the chiefs!!" I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my letter!!

Respectfully,

Deion Sanapaw
Menominee Indian School District



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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

March 12, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

My name is Denise Dodge. I attend Menominee Indian high school. I am currently a sophomore. The reason I care about this issue is because I myself am Native American mascot.

If it was my call I think it is racist against Native Americans, not only I but others to. I think in my own opinion you should ban all schools from having Indian mascots.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Dodge". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Denise Dodge
Menominee Indian School District



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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

March 12, 2009

To Whom it May Concern

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN MASCOT LOGOS

My name is Delia Kohel, I attend the Menominee Indian High school and I am in the 10th grade. I came to my 4th hour class and my teacher had addressed this issue.

This is a really big issue to me. I myself have been to a lot of non natives schools and I have had a lot of racial slurs that people said to me. Being at a non native school is really hard.

So having a non native school having a Native American mascot really bothers me. Im not saying that everyone is racist or anything Im just saying that we don't know what people says behind close doors. Not only people are just saying this people are blogging on the internet about how we are cry babies because we want t he names changed. I think that everyone that was blogging is blowing this way out of proportion.

By saying this I would like for you to make this bill into the law. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Delia Kohel
Menominee Indian School District



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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

March 12, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

My name is Rose Gristeau. I attend Menominee Indian High School. I am currently a sophomore. The Reason I care about this issue is because I myself am Native American.

If you don't already know it's very degrading against the Native Americans, not only I but others too. I think they should ban all schools from having an Indian mascot or Native American mascot.

Sincerely

Rose Gristeau



MENOMINEE INDIAN HIGH SCHOOL
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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

Posoh,

My name is Anahkwett Waupoose. I am 16 years old. I was raised on the Menominee Reservation. I have been a Native-American citizen for 16 years. I care about this, because, These white schools are using mascots that resembles natives and we take that as racism.

So some of us natives didn't like that very much. So we would like to thank you for terminating Indian Mascots from white school.....

THANK YOU.

Anahkwett
Waupoose



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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

Hello,

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

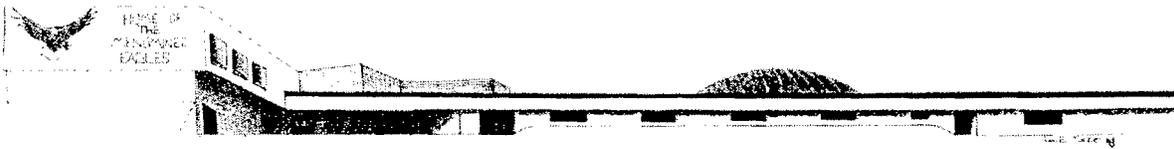
My name is Mario Escalante, I am 16 years old, and I grew up on the Menominee reservation. I have been a Native-American citizen for 16 years. I care about this issue because we natives believe in our culture. I feel that this is very racist, because these white schools are using mascots that resemble us.

I think that this is very wrong. I think the state assembly should make a law against it. So we Native-Americans want to thank you for making an opportunity for a law that can terminate Indian mascots. Thanks a lot.

Sincerely,

Mario Escalante

Mario Escalante



MENOMINEE INDIAN HIGH SCHOOL
P O Box 850 KESHENA WI 54135
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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

Posoh,

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

My name is Scott Perez, I am 16 years young, and I grew up on the Menominee reservation. I have been a Native-American citizen for 16 years. I care about this issue because we natives believe in our culture. We feel that this is very racist, because these white schools are using mascots that resemble us.

I think that this is very wrong. So we Native-Americans want to thank you very much for making an opportunity to terminate Indian mascots. Thank You. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

Sincerely,

Scott Perez



MENOMINEE INDIAN HIGH SCHOOL
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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

March 16, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

Hello, my name is Shirley Nacotee I'm 16 years old. I live on the Menominee Indian Reservation in Keshena. I'm Menominee and Oneida. I live with my mother Gloria and my dad is Thomas. I also have a really big family I'm a tenth grader at the Menominee Indian School District.

I would like to discuss a few things about the mascots and logos that are being banned from the Wisconsin area. I think that it is a good idea to ban the mascots and logos from the other non-native schools. The way they use these logos are in a racist way. They make the Indians look unreal, they give them big noses, really big foreheads, some are really red we brown not red things like that. It's a racist thing against us Indians that the non-natives use them in a bad way.

To us Menominee's and other tribes the logos are meaningful and have something to do with our culture and background. The mascots are the same way to us it's a part of us and who we are as Indians. To them it's just a name that doesn't mean anything meaningful.

Thank you for taking the time to read what I had to say about this subject.

Respectfully,

Shirley Nacotee
Menominee Indian School District



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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

March 16, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

My name is Mindy Cree and I'm from Menominee Indian Reservation. My age is 17 and I'm in 10th grade. My interest is volleyball and hanging out with my friends. My ethnic background is Native American (Menominee, Chippewa, and Hopi) and part Hispanic.

About the mascot issue, it's very racist if you think about it. It's very disrespectful and rude. Why? Because, I have seen the pictures and not all Native Americans have big noses so why have it on there? That's not a good look for us we have feeling too and they are strong as well as yours. What if a Native American School had a Red Neck mascot? I'm sure you would get mad and do something about it like we are. Well they best I can do is write this letter and hoping you can help us change the mascot issues. Thank you for your time to read my letter!

Respectfully,

Mindy Cree
Menominee Indian School District



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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

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Freshman Academy Principal

March 16, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

My name is Janessa Wilson, I am a sophomore at Menominee Indian High School, in Keshena, Wisconsin. I am a minority, part Hispanic and part Menominee. I think that in some cases mascots that are based on Native Americans are okay. For example, the terms chiefs or warriors is okay. I think that it is okay because the chiefs are leaders and the warriors are strong. I think that the term "Indians" and "Redskins" are offensive though. The term "Redskins" is a racist term that was developed after the Americans were done skinning, or scalping the Indigenous people of America.

I think that certain schools need to change their name, others can remain. I think that it shouldn't be anybody's opinion besides the Native American's of Wisconsin. I think the tribal council members of each reservation should vote on it. One reason I feel this way is because a person whom is not Native American cannot truly understand our views, mainly because there aren't mascots such as "the Rednecks", "the Crackers", or "the Beaners". We are the only race that has to put up with that, that does not seem right at all to me. Thank you for taking the time to read, and hopefully understand my viewpoints.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Janessa Wilson".

Janessa Wilson
Menominee Indian School District



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Principal

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Freshman Academy Principal

March 16, 2009

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

To whom it may concern:

My name is Mariah Connahvichnah. I'm a 10th grader at Menominee High School. I live in Neopit. I think that this bill is a good idea. And it should be done. I believe this is racist to have logos and mascots of Indians. Especially if there is a team name that is Redskins. Having Indians on there shirts, gym walls, and stuff like that. Then some of the pictures look nothing like A Indian but they still say it is an Indian. The picture with Indians looking like they have a big nose is not funny at all! Then at there homecoming they would face a team that has the name Indians, they would say some mean stuff about the Indians. I know they don't mean it for use but to me it just doesn't sound right. You wouldn't want some body saying they are going to kill you, right? But that's what I think about other none Native Americans saying stuff like that. We get what we get in this world but to use this is not something we will put up with. And tolerate. I think they should change everything and stop the name calling. Thanks for the time anyways.

Thank you,

Mariah Connahvichnah
Menominee Indian School District



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Leslie Shawanokasic
Principal

Paul Schwaller
Freshman Academy Principal

March 16, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

Hi, my name is Brittany Hawpetoss, I am sixteen years old and a sophomore at Menominee Indian High School. I am Menominee, Sioux, and Potawatomi. My opinion on banning Indian mascots and logos is: that I think it is offensive in a way. I mean when they say Indians and Redskins it is depicting Native Americans in a bad way because the majority of people where they use those logos and mascots are not Native American. That is my opinion because I am Native American and I know if we had mascots and logos depicting other nationalities I could understand how they feel.

I think you should go ahead with the ban. All schools with logos and mascots should be gone. It truly is racism. Well thank you for reading this and I hope it makes a difference in your decision.

Sincerely,

Brittany Hawpetoss
Menominee Indian School District



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Leslie Shawanokasic
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Freshman Academy Principal

March 16, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

Hello my name is David Oshkosh and I live on the Menominee Reservation. I am writing on the account of the mascot controversy that is going down in Madison on the 17th of March. My opinion is that schools should be able to use Indian mascots, logos, and symbols to an extent to where they are not disrespecting natives color, traditions, and beliefs. For example the Washington REDSKINS is disrespectful how would you like it their name was the LIGHTSKINS. If you catch my drift embrace the winds of change.

Best Regards,

David Oshkosh