



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution # 4

The Change of the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Logo

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Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:

1. **Whereas**, this logo represents the historical trauma of a time period where Alaska Natives had negative psychological effects from their forced assimilation into the western culture within boarding schools such as Mt. Edgecumbe High School²;
2. **Whereas**, Cultural appropriation refers to the use of objects or elements of culture in a way that doesn't respect their original meaning, give credit to their source, or reinforces stereotypes or contributes to oppression⁷;
3. **Whereas**, items such as clothing, hairstyles, and artifacts are the target of appropriation⁷;
4. **Whereas**, the logo was created by a Blackfoot tribal chairman in 1971, not in any relation to Alaska's diverse cultures;
5. **Whereas**, the stereotypical “Indian” sports mascots have serious psychological, social, and cultural consequences for Native Americans, prominently in Native youth, leading to discrimination;
6. **Whereas**, tests have provided that the existence of Native American mascots leads to lower self-esteem and poor mental health;
7. **Whereas**, Native American and Alaska Native Youth’s suicide rate is 3 to 4 times higher

- than any other American youth due to discrimination from non-Native Americans;
8. **Whereas**, in the last 25 years, 28 high schools in 18 states have dropped the word “Red Skins” in their school mascot’s name;
 9. **Whereas**, on July 2nd, 2020, the national Washington Football Team, previously known as the “Redskins”, changed their team name and mascot;
 10. **Whereas**, In 1974, Dartmouth College football team discontinued its mascot the “Indians”, which dated back to the 1920s: they now go by The Big Green;
 11. **Whereas**, North Dakota's Dickinson State University in 1972 dropped the “Savages” as their school mascot. Two years later, they officially became the Blue Hawks;
 12. **Whereas**, In 1994, St. John's University in New York City changed its team name from the “Redmen” to The Red Storm, sporting a new horse logo replacing the cartoon logo of a Native American;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Government supports the elimination and change of the current Mt. Edgecumbe High School Logo/Mascot pertaining to the illustration of a non-Alaskan Native similar to national mascots that were abolished for their stereotyping towards diverse native cultures.

Action Statement: If passed by the spring 2021 General Assembly of Alaska Association of Student Governments, this resolution will be presented before the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board, and students to make a decision in support of creating a new logo agreed on by the majority affected parties.

Sources:

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3. Wrap Staff, and Brian Welk. “Cleveland Indians and 14 Other Sports Teams That Dumped Racist Names and Mascots (Photos).” *TheWrap*, TheWrap, 14 Dec. 2020, www.thewrap.com/sports-teams-dumped-racist-names-mascots-indians-redskins/. Accessed 13 Apr. 2021.
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5. "3. Suicide, Race, and Ethnicity | ATrain Education." *Atrainceu.com*, 2016, www.atrainceu.com/content/3-suicide-race-and-ethnicity-0. Accessed 13 Apr. 2021.

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<https://www.verywellmind.com/what-is-cultural-appropriation-5070458>

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