



SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 7:00 PM

GHS Auditorium

Glastonbury High School

330 Hubbard Street

Glastonbury, CT 06033

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Hearing 7PM
 - A. Petition to Restore Glastonbury's Tomahawks Mascot Name
 - B. Public Comments
4. Business Requiring Action
 - A. Board Action on the Petition to Restore Glastonbury's Tomahawks Mascot Name
5. Adjournment

TOWN OF GLASTONBURY

PETITION for In Person Hearing Hosted by Board of Education to Restore Glastonbury TOMAHAWKS Mascot Name

As provided under Section 10-238 under General Statutes of the State of Connecticut

TO: The Glastonbury Town Clerk

We, the undersigned qualified electors of the Town of Glastonbury, hereby present this petition requesting that the Board of Education host an IN PERSON hearing to allow every elector an opportunity to provide their input in person on the following:

We were not afforded the opportunity to provide meaningful input in person during the period of the Covid pandemic and related shutdowns on the matter of the Glastonbury High School (GHS) TOMAHAWKS mascot name which was desired to be cancelled and changed to another name by a select group of individuals from within and outside the Glastonbury community. Glastonbury residents - students, student-athletes, alumni, business owners, taxpayers - who genuinely care either way about our GHS mascot name are in favor of retaining the TOMAHAWKS mascot name over the Guardians by a wide margin.

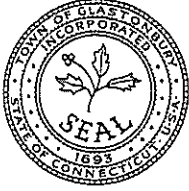
We are offended by the Board of Education's removal of the TOMAHAWKS mascot name AND the process by which it was removed and replaced.

We see the TOMAHAWK as a wonderful symbol to respectfully educate students and residents and respectfully celebrate Native American heritage.

We request that the Board of Education take a step back and listen to the vast majority within the Glastonbury community and reconsider and then reverse its decision which was executed during the Covid pandemic.

By State of Connecticut bylaws, the Board of Education must host a hearing within three (3) weeks of receiving this duly signed petition and we request it to be an in person hearing. If anything emerges that does not allow an in person hearing within such three (3) week period, we request that the Board of Ed work with us in good faith to reschedule an in person hearing at a time soon thereafter. We request a minimum of two (2) week notice of the in person hearing date.

We certify that we are qualified electors of the Town of Glastonbury, residing at the addresses set opposite our names below and that we have not signed this petition more than once.



Town of Glastonbury

2155 MAIN ST · P.O. BOX 6523 · GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT 06033-6523
PHONE: 860-652-7616 FAX: 860-652-7639

November 29, 2021

Dr. Alan Bookman
628 Hebron Ave
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Dear Dr. Bookman:

Enclosed are 50 pages of Public Hearing Petition containing 379 verified signatures as follows. I have checked all of the names according to law and completed the Certifications required by the Town Clerk on the backside.

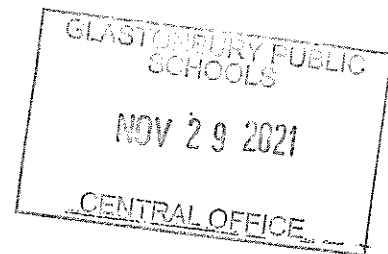
“Petition for In Person Hearing Hosted by Board of Education to Restore Glastonbury’s TOMAHAWKS Mascot Name”

If you have any questions, please call me at (860) 652-7620.

Very truly yours,

Michelle M. Krampitz

Michelle M. Krampitz, CCTC
Town Clerk



11/29/2021 10:29 AM

PETITION VOTER DETAIL - TOWN OF GLASTONBURY

SELECTION CRITERIA

Congressional : 001,002

Senatorial : 004

Assembly : 013,031

Voting District : 001-00,002-00,003-00,004-00,005-00,007-00,009-00

District Type : State

Election Date : None

Sort Order Option : Street Address

Petitions : Restore Glastonbury Tomahawks Mascot Name

PETITION VOTER DETAIL - TOWN OF GLASTONBURY
For Petition : Restore Glastonbury Tomahawks Mascot Name

V ID	NAME	DOB	PTY	ADDRESS	ELECTION DATE	D/P
	Rotundo Richard P			91 Accornero Lane	12/31/2021	005
	Nicholson Janet Nicole			349 Addison Road	12/31/2021	001
	Hermanowycz Gregory A			440 Addison Road	12/31/2021	001
	Steiner Donald			467 Addison Road	12/31/2021	001
	Anderson Richard C			72 Applewood Lane	12/31/2021	009
	Lelasher Sean Patrick			100 April Drive	12/31/2021	001
	Beck Bruce S			64 Ash Swamp Road	12/31/2021	004
	Haber Peter J			37 Aspen Drive	12/31/2021	004
	Bantly Catherine M			10 Autumn Lane	12/31/2021	009
	Bantly Leigh E			10 Autumn Lane	12/31/2021	009
	Cantafi Daniel			88 Barrington Way	12/31/2021	001
	Cantafi Karen Jean			88 Barrington Way	12/31/2021	001
	Petrone Mary J			161 Bell Street	12/31/2021	001
	Benson Eric C			541 Bell Street	12/31/2021	001
	Erickson Linda S			125 Bellridge Road	12/31/2021	001
	Larose Richard P			129 Belltown Road	12/31/2021	005
	Finocchiaro Kevin Mark			83 Bittersweet Lane	12/31/2021	005
	Finocchiaro Kimberly Ann			83 Bittersweet Lane	12/31/2021	005
	Finocchiaro Mark Thomas			83 Bittersweet Lane	12/31/2021	005
	Chieco David J			33 Blue Hills Trail	12/31/2021	004
	Hunt Sandra S			112 Bluff Point Road	12/31/2021	005
	Mac Keen Clint Daniel			272 Bluff Point Road	12/31/2021	005
	Mac Keen Stephanie Bagadinski			272 Bluff Point Road	12/31/2021	005
	Cole Cynthia C			168 Boulder Circle	12/31/2021	009
	Cole Robert L			168 Boulder Circle	12/31/2021	009
	Colgan Katherine Z			25 Brookview Drive	12/31/2021	001
	Hausmann Dana Gay			65 Buckingham Drive	12/31/2021	004
	Glaser Lawrence Brent			11 Burning Tree	12/31/2021	001
	Smith Jeffrey Parker			21 Burning Tree	12/31/2021	001
	Davies Michael D			429 Buttonball Lane	12/31/2021	007
	Bowler Paul H			8 Canione Road	12/31/2021	007
	Anderson Dean R			68 Cart Road	12/31/2021	007

PETITION VOTER DETAIL - TOWN OF GLASTONBURY
For Petition : Restore Glastonbury Tomahawks Mascot Name

V ID	NAME	DOB	PTY	ADDRESS	ELECTION DATE	D/P
	Anderson Nancy B			68 Cart Road	12/31/2021	007
	Mustapic Ivana			88 Cedar Ridge Terrace	12/31/2021	003
	Velez Fernando			88 Cedar Ridge Terrace	12/31/2021	003
	Norman Jennifer C			57 Charlton Drive	12/31/2021	004
	Kulhay Lisa Ann			50 Chestnut Hill Road	12/31/2021	005
	Benson Jane			489 Chestnut Hill Road	12/31/2021	009
	Vicevich James F			489 Chestnut Hill Road	12/31/2021	009
	Gutt Leeza K			702 Chestnut Hill Road	12/31/2021	009
	Lyons James U			939 Chestnut Hill Road	12/31/2021	009
	Stolzenberg Elissa Dawn			373 Chimneysweep Hill Road	12/31/2021	004
	Rousseau Eric Lee			75 Church Hill Road	12/31/2021	003
	Giannitti Carol L			33 Clark Hill Road	12/31/2021	005
	Brancato Robert Brandon			208 Clark Hill Road	12/31/2021	005
	Thompson Drew			133 Coldbrook Road	12/31/2021	009
	Bentley Robert			40 Coldspring Crossing	12/31/2021	005
	Pelletier Paul B			61 Coldspring Crossing	12/31/2021	005
	Pelletier Theresa M			61 Coldspring Crossing	12/31/2021	005
	Fanelli Justin Jeffrey			90 Coldspring Crossing	12/31/2021	005
	Matson Patricia E			61 Colton Road	12/31/2021	004
	Matson Scott D			61 Colton Road	12/31/2021	004
	Bouthiette Christopher Scott			173 Colton Road	12/31/2021	004
	Didden Christiaan Peter			1 Copley Road	12/31/2021	004
	Shettle Richard W			28 Copley Road	12/31/2021	009
	McNamara Diana Turner			47 Copley Road	12/31/2021	009
	Focht Lucia H			64 Copley Road	12/31/2021	009
	Focht Robert Charles			64 Copley Road	12/31/2021	009
	Capasso Tina			305 Country Club Road	12/31/2021	005
	Martin Barbara Ann			322 Country Club Road	12/31/2021	005
	Martin Paul C			322 Country Club Road	12/31/2021	005
	Scandura Robert M Jr			418 Country Club Road	12/31/2021	005
	Sargis Anthony M			47 Country Lane	12/31/2021	005
	Sargis Jillian F			47 Country Lane	12/31/2021	005

PETITION VOTER DETAIL - TOWN OF GLASTONBURY
For Petition : Restore Glastonbury Tomahawks Mascot Name

V ID	NAME	DOB	PTY	ADDRESS	ELECTION DATE	D/P
	Galonska David J			67 Country Lane	12/31/2021	005
	Galonska Jeannette A			67 Country Lane	12/31/2021	005
	Hackbarth Craig			16 Cranesbill Drive	12/31/2021	004
	Suriner Elizabeth A			19 Cranesbill Drive	12/31/2021	004
	Smith Jacob R			28 Cranesbill Drive	12/31/2021	004
	Smith Melinda C			28 Cranesbill Drive	12/31/2021	004
	Smith Ronald S			28 Cranesbill Drive	12/31/2021	004
	Smith Ryan D			28 Cranesbill Drive	12/31/2021	004
	Smith Zachary W			28 Cranesbill Drive	12/31/2021	004
	Jennings Jennifer Lynn			34 Cranesbill Drive	12/31/2021	004
	Kehl Matthew D			39 Cranesbill Drive	12/31/2021	004
	Eliason Maria R			19 Crestdale Road	12/31/2021	009
	Eliason Robert K			19 Crestdale Road	12/31/2021	009
	Pirie David M			114 Crystal Ridge Drive	12/31/2021	005
	Pirie Donna L			114 Crystal Ridge Drive	12/31/2021	005
	Damato Mary A			232 Dayton Road	12/31/2021	005
	Damato Nicholas James			232 Dayton Road	12/31/2021	005
	Landon Tyler S			47 Delmar Road	12/31/2021	009
	Edlund Sylena M			68 Douglas Road	12/31/2021	007
	Martinez Jonathan			68 Douglas Road	12/31/2021	007
	Hogan Timothy Marc Jr			44 Drumlin Road	12/31/2021	005
	Cole Aiden D			223 Dug Road	12/31/2021	005
	Astiasaran Kristin			19 Duxbury Lane	12/31/2021	001
	Murphy Katherine Ellen Banker			160 Eastbury Hill Road	12/31/2021	004
	Krom Shawn C			343 Eastbury Hill Road	12/31/2021	004
	Thibodeaux Kevin Pete			414 Eastbury Hill Road	12/31/2021	004
	Thibodeaux Kyle R			414 Eastbury Hill Road	12/31/2021	004
	Thibodeaux Lisa Marie			414 Eastbury Hill Road	12/31/2021	004
	Pinto Aaron Eugene			44 Elm Tree Road	12/31/2021	007
	Gibilisco Jordan Elizabeth			45 Elm Tree Road	12/31/2021	007
	Gibilisco Joseph James			45 Elm Tree Road	12/31/2021	007
	Gibilisco Kathleen A			45 Elm Tree Road	12/31/2021	007

PETITION VOTER DETAIL - TOWN OF GLASTONBURY
For Petition : Restore Glastonbury Tomahawks Mascot Name

V ID	NAME	DOB	PTY	ADDRESS	ELECTION DATE	D/P
	Gibilisco Peyton Ashley			45 Elm Tree Road	12/31/2021	007
	McGraw Thomas J			48 Empress Lane	12/31/2021	004
	Pancavage Johnena N			10 Fairfield Court	12/31/2021	007
	O'Connor Anne P			22 Fairfield Lane	12/31/2021	007
	O'Connor Charles P V			22 Fairfield Lane	12/31/2021	007
	Segal Jeffrey A			74 Fairway Crossing	12/31/2021	001
	Delbon Gary L			18 Falcon Lane	12/31/2021	004
	Driscoll Sarah Helene			40 Farmcliff Drive	12/31/2021	005
	O'Hare Christine L			125 Farmstead Lane	12/31/2021	007
	O'Hare Johnmichael B			125 Farmstead Lane	12/31/2021	007
	Koppy Brian D			143 Feldspar Ridge	12/31/2021	009
	Koppy Mary Kathryn			143 Feldspar Ridge	12/31/2021	009
	Desaulniers Alexa Wells			47 Fieldstone Drive	12/31/2021	005
	Desaulniers Andrea Deveres			47 Fieldstone Drive	12/31/2021	005
	Desaulniers Thomas Joseph			47 Fieldstone Drive	12/31/2021	005
	Mitchell Douglas Brownlow			237 Foote Road	12/31/2021	005
	Mitchell Susan Ruth			237 Foote Road	12/31/2021	005
	Rounseville Gary			206 Forest Lane	12/31/2021	004
	Forte Derek			237 Forest Lane	12/31/2021	004
	Sarni Melissa Rose			358 Forest Lane	12/31/2021	004
	Mazzotta Carl J			394 Forest Lane	12/31/2021	004
	Sanderson Dana			67 Francis Drive	12/31/2021	009
	Sanderson William C			67 Francis Drive	12/31/2021	009
	Beach Amy Beth			93 Francis Drive	12/31/2021	009
	Beach Michael J			93 Francis Drive	12/31/2021	009
	Beach Miranda Jaye			93 Francis Drive	12/31/2021	009
	Beach Thomas J			93 Francis Drive	12/31/2021	009
	King Kenneth R			23 Freedom Way	12/31/2021	004
	Taylor Craig J			123 Gates Farm Road	12/31/2021	007
	Handrahan Kelly Anne			410 Georgetown Drive	12/31/2021	007
	Connolly Demetra			9 Glastonbury Place 1	12/31/2021	007
	Bailey Allison Lee			619 Goodale Hill Road	12/31/2021	004

PETITION VOTER DETAIL - TOWN OF GLASTONBURY
For Petition : Restore Glastonbury Tomahawks Mascot Name

V ID	NAME	DOB	PTY	ADDRESS	ELECTION DATE	D/P
	Michaels Jennine Kelley			225 Grandview Drive	12/31/2021	004
	Michaels Stephen Robert			225 Grandview Drive	12/31/2021	004
	Smith Thomas P			20 Greentree Drive	12/31/2021	009
	Scalora Fabio			321 Griswold Street	12/31/2021	001
	Sinnott Meghan J			506 Griswold Street	12/31/2021	001
	Cofield Brad			717 Griswold Street	12/31/2021	001
	Moriarty Christopher Patrick			48 Hampshire Drive	12/31/2021	007
	Moriarty Janet K			48 Hampshire Drive	12/31/2021	007
	Morgera Vincent F			39 Hampton Court	12/31/2021	005
	Etheridge Shaun Patrick			41 Hanover Fields Road	12/31/2021	007
	Carangelo Lucie A			65 Hawthorne Mead Drive	12/31/2021	009
	Goode Karen Noonan			165 Hawthorne Mead Drive	12/31/2021	009
	Kretzmer Jody S			2400 Hebron Avenue	12/31/2021	004
	Sowa Stephen E			88 High Street	12/31/2021	005
	Fuksman Igor			134 High Wood Drive	12/31/2021	004
	Fuksman Irene G			134 High Wood Drive	12/31/2021	004
	Smith Ross C			52 Hillcrest Road	12/31/2021	007
	Fahnestock Christine Marie			976 Hillstown Road	12/31/2021	001
	Beebe Elizabeth L			161 Hollister Way North	12/31/2021	007
	Staebner Matthew M			589 Hopewell Road	12/31/2021	009
	Zurcher Christina L			821 Hopewell Road 2	12/31/2021	009
	Garafalo Joseph Salvatore			821 Hopewell Road A2	12/31/2021	009
	Hale Robert J Jr			832 Hopewell Road	12/31/2021	005
	Vallera Domenico P			1086 Hopewell Road	12/31/2021	009
	Kilgore Jesse			1136 Hopewell Road	12/31/2021	009
	Bassett David			132 Horizon Lane	12/31/2021	002
	McDermott Lois Draghi			279 House Street	12/31/2021	001
	Ierardi Dana			50 Hubbard Street A	12/31/2021	007
	Scaglia Robert Louis			259 Hubbard Street	12/31/2021	007
	Breiner Sarah Beth			262 Hubbard Street	12/31/2021	007
	Schilling Allison Orchardo			30 Jasmine Lane	12/31/2021	004
	Schilling Michael Joseph			30 Jasmine Lane	12/31/2021	004

PETITION VOTER DETAIL - TOWN OF GLASTONBURY
For Petition : Restore Glastonbury Tomahawks Mascot Name

V ID	NAME	DOB	PTY	ADDRESS	ELECTION DATE	D/P
	Rogers Michael			44 Jasmine Lane	12/31/2021	004
	Rogers Patricia Toce			44 Jasmine Lane	12/31/2021	004
	Forrest Jon N			52 Jasmine Lane	12/31/2021	004
	Forrest Pamela L			52 Jasmine Lane	12/31/2021	004
	Becker James T			57 Jasmine Lane	12/31/2021	004
	Stich Chandra Kay			57 Jasmine Lane	12/31/2021	004
	Cooke Douglas S			66 Jasmine Lane	12/31/2021	004
	Cooke Marjorie A			66 Jasmine Lane	12/31/2021	004
	Pikula Janet B			116 Johnny Cake Lane	12/31/2021	009
	Urbansky Edward P Jr			70 Karen Lee Road	12/31/2021	007
	Falzone Beth T			80 Karen Lee Road	12/31/2021	007
	Davis John A Jr			202 Karen Lee Road	12/31/2021	007
	Hill David G			8 Kettle Pond Drive	12/31/2021	005
	Hill Karyn D			8 Kettle Pond Drive	12/31/2021	005
	Hill Madison M			8 Kettle Pond Drive	12/31/2021	005
	Searl Abigail J			28 Kettle Pond Drive	12/31/2021	005
	Paisker Angela L			43 Kinne Road	12/31/2021	009
	Paisker Joseph E			43 Kinne Road	12/31/2021	009
	Paisker Ross Joseph			43 Kinne Road	12/31/2021	009
	Ruiz Juan E			143 Kinne Road	12/31/2021	009
	Durant Timothy L			74 Knollwood Drive	12/31/2021	003
	Quinlan Thomas Joseph			23 Kreiger Lane E	12/31/2021	007
	Cogger Cassia S			9 Lakewood Circle	12/31/2021	005
	Heselton Michael Raymond			58 Lancaster Road	12/31/2021	001
	Weiss Jacqueline			25 Lazy Valley Road	12/31/2021	004
	Weiss Joseph Martin			25 Lazy Valley Road	12/31/2021	004
	Taylor Donna L			29 Ledgewood Drive	12/31/2021	009
	Casey Brian W			122 Ledgewood Drive	12/31/2021	009
	Murphy David R			176 Littel Acres Road	12/31/2021	009
	Murphy Juliet F			176 Littel Acres Road	12/31/2021	009
	Mincarelli Danielle Ann			185 Littel Acres Road	12/31/2021	009
	Mincarelli Robert S			185 Littel Acres Road	12/31/2021	009

PETITION VOTER DETAIL - TOWN OF GLASTONBURY
For Petition : Restore Glastonbury Tomahawks Mascot Name

V ID	NAME	DOB	PTY	ADDRESS	ELECTION DATE	D/P
	Rafferty Kevin L			67 Main Street	12/31/2021	005
	Rafferty Linda-Jean			67 Main Street	12/31/2021	005
	Rafferty Madilyn R			67 Main Street	12/31/2021	005
	Anderson Steven T			693 Main Street	12/31/2021	005
	Williams Barbara Lee			809 Main Street	12/31/2021	005
	Keller Donna A			1741 Main Street	12/31/2021	007
	Savage Michael F			1741 Main Street	12/31/2021	007
	Henrikson Christopher C			1751 Main Street	12/31/2021	007
	Henrikson Donna S			1751 Main Street	12/31/2021	007
	Tavano Colleen Vance			1838 Main Street	12/31/2021	007
	Tavano Lindsay M			1838 Main Street	12/31/2021	007
	Vonwodtke Henry			1931 Main Street	12/31/2021	007
	Berdan Marshall Sinclair			2015 Main Street	12/31/2021	007
	Condon Matthew T			2039 Main Street	12/31/2021	007
	Wasylishyn Heidi J			2039 Main Street	12/31/2021	007
	Boronese Donna M			2048 Main Street	12/31/2021	007
	Boronese Gerald J			2048 Main Street	12/31/2021	007
	Brubaker Wayne			2195 Main Street	12/31/2021	007
	Pasay Joshua Thomas			28 Mallard Drive	12/31/2021	007
	Cooke Harriet E			136 Manchester Road A	12/31/2021	004
	Haffner Hellmut Andrew			601 Manchester Road	12/31/2021	009
	Albrecht Melissa L			665 Manchester Road	12/31/2021	009
	Cafazzo John P			811 Manchester Road	12/31/2021	009
	Cafazzo Melissa B			811 Manchester Road	12/31/2021	009
	Howley Brendan T			835 Manchester Road	12/31/2021	004
	Howley Jerilynn			835 Manchester Road	12/31/2021	004
	Pandolfo Andrea			1051 Manchester Road	12/31/2021	009
	Logan John David			1568 Manchester Road	12/31/2021	001
	Longtin Donald J			1579 Manchester Road	12/31/2021	007
	Peterson Allison Stratton			139 Marlborough Road	12/31/2021	004
	Peterson Eric			139 Marlborough Road	12/31/2021	004
	Galbraith Barrett D			364 Marlborough Road	12/31/2021	002

PETITION VOTER DETAIL - TOWN OF GLASTONBURY
For Petition : Restore Glastonbury Tomahawks Mascot Name

V ID	NAME	DOB	PTY	ADDRESS	ELECTION DATE	D/P
	Pistritto Luciano Joseph			474 Marlborough Road	12/31/2021	002
	Pistritto Tammy Lyn			474 Marlborough Road	12/31/2021	002
	Herrmann Brian J			36 Martin Terrace	12/31/2021	004
	Herrmann Victoria E			36 Martin Terrace	12/31/2021	004
	Lajoie Michael			206 Matson Hill Road	12/31/2021	005
	McCleery Crystal Pagliughi			349 Matson Hill Road	12/31/2021	005
	Pagliughi Deborah L			349 Matson Hill Road	12/31/2021	005
	Pagliughi Erica Jean			349 Matson Hill Road	12/31/2021	005
	Kamis Michael A			360 Matson Hill Road	12/31/2021	005
	Sweeney Sean Eugene			779 Matson Hill Road	12/31/2021	005
	Lyle Crystal Nicole			101 Mill Street	12/31/2021	007
	McKenna Christine T			92 Millstone Road	12/31/2021	009
	Page Jamie C			12 Minnechaug Drive	12/31/2021	003
	Ciraldo Gregg A			122 Minnechaug Drive	12/31/2021	003
	Satin Joshua			201 Minnechaug Drive	12/31/2021	003
	Tisdale Lucille L			44 Montano Road	12/31/2021	009
	Coleman Patricia M			989 Mott Hill Road	12/31/2021	005
	Ruderman John D			1037 Mott Hill Road	12/31/2021	005
	Whelton Michael J Sr			133 Mountain View Road	12/31/2021	004
	Dussault Gary T			452 Neipsic Road	12/31/2021	009
	Berch Michael J			566 Neipsic Road	12/31/2021	009
	Cronin Devin M			825 Neipsic Road	12/31/2021	009
	Cronin Jennifer K			825 Neipsic Road	12/31/2021	009
	Sposito Peter James			921 Neipsic Road	12/31/2021	009
	Sposito Susan T			921 Neipsic Road	12/31/2021	009
	Choquette Marti			937 Neipsic Road	12/31/2021	009
	Czerwinski Terri Ann			979 Neipsic Road	12/31/2021	009
	Hassan Timothy B			979 Neipsic Road	12/31/2021	009
	Phelan Danielle L			1056 Neipsic Road	12/31/2021	009
	Phelan John C			1056 Neipsic Road	12/31/2021	009
	Martinchek Deborah			1405 New London Turnpike	12/31/2021	007
	Martinchek Raymond J Jr			1405 New London Turnpike	12/31/2021	007

PETITION VOTER DETAIL - TOWN OF GLASTONBURY
For Petition : Restore Glastonbury Tomahawks Mascot Name

V ID	NAME	DOB	PTY	ADDRESS	ELECTION DATE	D/P
	Costes Gary W			1510 New London Turnpike	12/31/2021	007
	Armstead Daniel F			1706 New London Turnpike	12/31/2021	009
	Armstead Jean D			1706 New London Turnpike	12/31/2021	009
	Scott Joann L			1838 New London Turnpike	12/31/2021	009
	Scott Woodland			1838 New London Turnpike	12/31/2021	009
	Harrington Patrick J			2242 New London Turnpike	12/31/2021	009
	Kreigenhofer Frances E			17 Norman Drive	12/31/2021	007
	Jordan Stephen Gregory Jr			45 Nye Road	12/31/2021	001
	Cubberly Patricia Ann			148 Oak Street	12/31/2021	007
	Markowitz Brian W			128 Old Farms Road	12/31/2021	005
	Markowitz Jessica B			128 Old Farms Road	12/31/2021	005
	Reynholds Jeffrey D			167 Old Farms Road	12/31/2021	005
	Baker Michael David			49 Olde Stage Road	12/31/2021	007
	Baker Victoria Christine			49 Olde Stage Road	12/31/2021	007
	Keel Brian M			38 Olde Wood Road	12/31/2021	009
	Keel Emily S			38 Olde Wood Road	12/31/2021	009
	Stebbins Jessica L			20 Overlook Road	12/31/2021	009
	Stebbins Kathryn S			20 Overlook Road	12/31/2021	009
	Stebbins Kaylee N			20 Overlook Road	12/31/2021	009
	Gaudette Jan M			28 Overlook Road	12/31/2021	009
	Gaudette Richard P			28 Overlook Road	12/31/2021	009
	Newquist Irene J			35 Overlook Road	12/31/2021	009
	Holland Rita M			36 Overlook Road	12/31/2021	009
	Holland Steven T			36 Overlook Road	12/31/2021	009
	Lankarge Elizabeth S			33 Overshot Drive	12/31/2021	005
	Carroll Colleen D			85 Oxbow Drive A1	12/31/2021	007
	Humphrey Ryan Joseph			85 Oxbow Drive A1	12/31/2021	007
	Newhouse Linda Kay			85 Oxbow Drive C5	12/31/2021	007
	Benson Louise S			12 Partridge Landing	12/31/2021	004
	Benson Ronald Eric Sr			12 Partridge Landing	12/31/2021	004
	Blanchette Scott Edward			92 Partridge Landing	12/31/2021	004
	Alahari Krishnaveni			325 Paxton Way	12/31/2021	009

PETITION VOTER DETAIL - TOWN OF GLASTONBURY
For Petition : Restore Glastonbury Tomahawks Mascot Name

V ID	NAME	DOB	PTY	ADDRESS	ELECTION DATE	D/P
	Ingenito Michael			52 Pheasant Crossing	12/31/2021	004
	Malz Russell E III			43 Purtill Street	12/31/2021	005
	Paolino Christopher Walter			63 Red Hill Drive	12/31/2021	005
	Amenta Robert S			135 Red Hill Drive	12/31/2021	005
	Lomeli Gabino Jr			157 Ridge Road	12/31/2021	002
	Lomeli Kathleen A			157 Ridge Road	12/31/2021	002
	Richard June C			80 Ripley Road	12/31/2021	007
	Hassett Raymond Michael			107 Riverview Road	12/31/2021	005
	Chavez Donna Jean			7 Robin Road	12/31/2021	007
	Chavez Gustavo			7 Robin Road	12/31/2021	007
	Stolfi Pellegrina I			15 Robin Road	12/31/2021	007
	De Sousa Suzanne Lynne			165 Robin Road	12/31/2021	007
	Desousa David J			165 Robin Road	12/31/2021	007
	Louth Elizabeth Laura			11 Roser Drive	12/31/2021	007
	Louth Joelle			11 Roser Drive	12/31/2021	007
	Nuzzolo Christine S			65 Roser Drive	12/31/2021	007
	Nuzzolo Joseph G			65 Roser Drive	12/31/2021	007
	Fraser Ashley			83 Ruff Circle	12/31/2021	001
	Bramanti James Vincent Jr			38 Salem Court A	12/31/2021	001
	Kneale Christopher Gregory			33 Sherman Road	12/31/2021	007
	Cook Allen P			42 Sherman Road	12/31/2021	007
	Reed-Cook Maria L			42 Sherman Road	12/31/2021	007
	Stanley Cheryl L			88 Sherman Road	12/31/2021	007
	Stanley James Thomas			88 Sherman Road	12/31/2021	007
	Lee Ethan G			251 Shoddy Mill Road	12/31/2021	004
	Lee Mechele Rennay			251 Shoddy Mill Road	12/31/2021	004
	Wall Timothy Michael			86 South Mill Drive	12/31/2021	005
	Boyer David H			103 South Mill Drive	12/31/2021	005
	Tanski John M			160 Southpond Road	12/31/2021	005
	Cohen Adam Julian			190 Southpond Road	12/31/2021	005
	Cohen Jenifer Brenner			190 Southpond Road	12/31/2021	005
	Comerford Brian J			89 Stancliff Road	12/31/2021	009

PETITION VOTER DETAIL - TOWN OF GLASTONBURY
For Petition : Restore Glastonbury Tomahawks Mascot Name

V ID	NAME	DOB	PTY	ADDRESS	ELECTION DATE	D/P
	Fiano Darcy A			99 Stancliff Road	12/31/2021	009
	Christina Penni A			253 Stanley Drive	12/31/2021	009
	Fitt John J Jr.			439 Stanley Drive	12/31/2021	009
	Norman Harry P Jr			103 Steep Hollow Drive	12/31/2021	005
	Norman Joan M			103 Steep Hollow Drive	12/31/2021	005
	Norman Kelly Frances			103 Steep Hollow Drive	12/31/2021	005
	Donovan Robert S			60 Stevens Lane	12/31/2021	007
	Coughlan Alexis Daly			138 Stockade Road	12/31/2021	005
	Coughlan Joseph D III			138 Stockade Road	12/31/2021	005
	Coughlan Kimberly A			138 Stockade Road	12/31/2021	005
	Breen Carol Walton			167 Stockade Road	12/31/2021	005
	Lamarre Edward F			150 Stonepost Road	12/31/2021	005
	Haaf Christopher Jude			39 Strickland Street	12/31/2021	009
	Haaf Danielle Dominique			39 Strickland Street	12/31/2021	009
	Kessler Jami Lynn			1 Summersweet Drive	12/31/2021	001
	Connaughton Alicia M			253 Sunset Drive	12/31/2021	009
	Connaughton Tyler James			253 Sunset Drive	12/31/2021	009
	Longo William J			66 Surrey Lane	12/31/2021	007
	White Amy Lynn			37 Tanglewood Drive	12/31/2021	009
	Cusano Brian David			117 Three Mile Road	12/31/2021	009
	Zak Stephanie B			410 Three Mile Road	12/31/2021	009
	Geary Timothy M			431 Three Mile Road	12/31/2021	009
	Soule David Harry			158 Timrod Trail	12/31/2021	003
	Stanescu Bianca			158 Timrod Trail	12/31/2021	003
	Hayes Robert E Jr			170 Timrod Trail	12/31/2021	003
	Carbonell Andrea Lynn			241 Toll Gate Road	12/31/2021	004
	Scavetta Beverly J			441 Toll Gate Road	12/31/2021	004
	Scavetta David			441 Toll Gate Road	12/31/2021	004
	Olschefskie Kathryn Sarah			28 Towhee Lane	12/31/2021	001
	Percival Sheila			14 Tryon Street	12/31/2021	005
	Betts Sarah			386 Tryon Street	12/31/2021	005
	Saunders Kevin A			423 Tryon Street	12/31/2021	005

PETITION VOTER DETAIL - TOWN OF GLASTONBURY
For Petition : Restore Glastonbury Tomahawks Mascot Name

V ID	NAME	DOB	PTY	ADDRESS	ELECTION DATE	D/P
	Saunders Tammy Lynn			423 Tryon Street	12/31/2021	005
	Walstedt Sean E			39 Valley View Road	12/31/2021	009
	Honiss James W Sr			50 Wagon Road	12/31/2021	007
	Marchinetti Paul H			111 Warner Court	12/31/2021	009
	Marchinetti Susan M			111 Warner Court	12/31/2021	009
	Baribault Mary M			51 Wassuc Road	12/31/2021	005
	Luzzi Christine			80 Weir Street	12/31/2021	004
	Buzzell Shannon L			405 Weir Street	12/31/2021	004
	Tavano Brian Michael			405 Weir Street	12/31/2021	004
	Fitzgibbons Dennis M			448 Weir Street	12/31/2021	004
	Pawlus Aniela B			193 Welles Street 328	12/31/2021	001
	Shuman Paula L			9 Williams Glen Way	12/31/2021	007
	Beard Maria C			222 Williams Street East 415	12/31/2021	007
	Mincarelli Lynne D			251 Wood Pond Road	12/31/2021	009
	Mincarelli Robert M			251 Wood Pond Road	12/31/2021	009
	Cavanna John Paul			63 Woodland Street	12/31/2021	005
	Cox Lauren Ashley			63 Woodland Street	12/31/2021	005
	Cavanna Andrew D			80 Woodland Street	12/31/2021	005
	Cavanna Catherine			80 Woodland Street	12/31/2021	005
	Cavanna Kathryn R			80 Woodland Street	12/31/2021	005
	Cavanna Paul			80 Woodland Street	12/31/2021	005
	Lajoie Aaron M			230 Woodland Street	12/31/2021	005
	Khanna Rachna			298 Woodland Street	12/31/2021	005
	Giannelli Gary A			522 Woodland Street	12/31/2021	005
	Ethier Denise A			533 Woodland Street	12/31/2021	005
	Ethier Lori A			537 Woodland Street	12/31/2021	005
	Scanlon Timothy Michael			12 Zenith Lane	12/31/2021	004

Total Count: 379

Board of Education Hearing

The Board of Education shall hold a public hearing when so petitioned by one percent of the electors of the district with signatures of the electors verified by the Town Clerk. Such public hearings must be called for a time and place designated by the Board, not later than three weeks after receipt by the Board of such petition.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-238 Petition for hearing by board of education.

Policy

Adopted: March 22, 2021

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF the 2020 TOMAHAWK LOGO DECISION

Prepared by Board Chair Douglas C. Foyle, Ph.D.

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80	Thank You E-mail Received from National Congress of American Indians, August 18, 2020

Note: Videos of the Board meetings on July 13 and August 17, 2020, and Special Committee meetings from July 24, 2020, and August 3, 2020, are available from the Town of Glastonbury Website at: <https://www.glastonbury-ct.gov/about-us/pr-communications/tv-channel-public-broadcasting/public-broadcast-video-on-demand>

Timeline of Tomahawk 2020 Logo Decision

Week of June 1: Town Council and Board of Education release joint statement on racism, injustice and discrimination after George Floyd killing

July 2, 2020 National Congress of American Indians contacts the Board of Education requesting that Glastonbury High School stop using Tomahawk logo

July 6, 2020 Board Agenda Setting Committee hears Glastonbury High School administration proposal to end use of Tomahawk logo. Item placed on agenda for July 13, 2020, Board meeting

July 13, 2020 Tomahawk logo issue appears on Board meeting agenda. Motion for first reading passes 6-2. Board consensus is that the Board should seek out the attitudes of local Native American groups and individuals on the Tomahawk.

July 15, 2020 Special Committee/Ad Hoc Committee to seek out the attitudes of local native American groups and individuals on the Tomahawk

July 24, 2020 First Special Committee Meeting

August 3, 2020 Second Special Committee Meeting

August 10, 2020 Special Committee Report submitted to Board Chair

August 11, 2020 Special Committee Report circulated to Board members

August 17, 2020 Board Meeting. Special Committee report submitted. Board votes 7-1 to end use of Tomahawk logo by Glastonbury High School

August 17, 2020, Introductory Comments by Board Chair Douglas C, Foyle, Ph.D, on Tomahawk Logo Agenda item

The issue on the agenda tonight is whether to end the use of the Tomahawk logo by Glastonbury Public Schools.

We've received some questions about where this issue came from and I thought I'd spend a few moments summarizing the context and process.

Over the last several years, there has been discussion about Native American mascots in Connecticut both in the news and at the state governmental level. In most of these conversations, Glastonbury's mascot is associated with all other Native American-themed mascots.

Several states have banned all Native American themed mascots. Observers of the broader political context have noted that there seems to be a slow and steady movement, of public schools in particular, away from any Native American themed mascots.

That is the broader social context on this issue for when George Floyd was killed at the end of May.

In response to George Floyd's killing, all members of the Town Council and Board of Education issued a statement in response which I'll take a moment now to read:

We join with those in our community, our nation, and the world who are saddened and angered by the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. This situation requires that we all speak and act against racism and injustice of any kind in our community.

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote in his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

As your local leaders, we commit ourselves to fight racism, injustice, and discrimination and not tolerate their presence, whether in practice or policy.

In this context, two things occurred.

First, the Board was specifically contacted about the Tomahawk by the National Congress of American Indians which represents over 500 tribes across the United States. They specifically asked that the Tomahawk logo be removed because of its negative effects on Native American students.

Second, the administration evaluated the use of the Tomahawk logo by our schools in the context of the joint Town Council and Board of Education statement and concluded that continuation of the Tomahawk would be inconsistent with our statement.

In response, the Board scheduled the issue for its agenda on July 13. Prior to that meeting, I asked that the Glastonbury school community be alerted to the consideration of this issue and I also alerted the Glastonbury Citizen that it would be appearing on the agenda.

The Board process on potentially controversial issues is to follow a two-step process. First, an issue is put on the agenda for "first reading." This allows the Board to discuss an issue, ask questions, and determine if more information is needed before acting. Second, depending on how that discussion goes, the issue will return to the Board agenda for final approval.

At the July meeting, the Board consensus was that we wanted to hear from local Native American individuals and groups about the use of the Tomahawk.

After that meeting, I created an Ad Hoc committee with Board Vice-Chair Julie Thompson as chair, and David Peniston, Jr. and Kristy Notorangelo as members. The specific charge of this committee was to reach out and ask local Native American individuals and groups about their view of the Tomahawk as a logo.

This group met twice and its detailed report is attached to this agenda item.

Before turning the floor over to Julie Thompson to provide a committee report, I'd like to make an observation about public comment.

Since the start of the pandemic when the Board has been meeting remotely, the Board created the ability of the public to provide public comment in written form on-line. This process has had several noticeable effects.

First, it has significantly expanded the number of individuals who can comment on Board matters. In regular times, commenting at a Board meeting requires attending in person, waiting your turn to speak (sometimes after hours on more controversial issues), and being limited in the amount of time, normally 3 minutes. You can only speak 1 time.

On two issues where the Board held public hearings on the Eastbury elementary school closing and on the redistricting plan, only about 30 individuals were able to speak on each of these issues. 60 people total in about 6 hours of public hearings.

Tonight, we have public comment from about 50 individuals on the Tomahawk. This is in addition to the over 100 comments the Board received in its first meeting on the subject.

The ability to comment on-line expanded the public's ability to provide input. It also leveled the field as anyone with an Internet connection and the desire to comment could let us know how they feel. You didn't have to come to us at the time we told you to tell us what you think.

Second, individuals were not limited in how much they could to comment. They were allowed to comment multiple times on multiple issues. No more 3 minute comments one time only.

In short, the online comment function has expanded the amount of input the Board can receive from the community and significantly reduced the barriers to providing public comment.

I'm going to go first to Julie for a committee report. I'll then call on Superintendent Dr. Bookman to talk about what the next steps would look like if the Board decides to eliminate the Tomahawk. Then, we'll go to Board discussion.



Glastonbury Board of Education

628 Hebron Avenue

P.O. Box 191

Glastonbury, CT 06033

Tel: (860) 652-7951 ♦ Fax: (860) 652-7982

www.glastonburyus.org

We join with those in our community, our nation, and the world who are saddened and angered by the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. This situation requires that we all speak and act against racism and injustice of any kind in our community.

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote in his *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

As your local leaders, we commit ourselves to fight racism, injustice, and discrimination and not tolerate their presence whether in practice or policy.

Town Council Members

Thomas P. Gullotta, Chair
Lawrence Niland, Vice Chair
Deborah A. Carroll, Majority Leader
Stewart "Chip" Beckett III, Minority Leader
Kurt P. Cavanaugh
Mary LaChance
Jacob (Jake) McChesney
Whit C. Osgood
Lillian Tanski

Board of Education Members

Douglas C. Foyle, Ph.D., Chair
Julie M. Thompson, Vice-Chair
Rosemary Coggeshall, Secretary
Alison Couture
Ray McFall
Kristy Notarangelo
David Peniston, Jr.
Matthew Saunig

From: Ian Record <iirecord@NCAI.org>

Subject: From the National Congress of American Indians - RE: Glastonbury High School mascot

Date: July 2, 2020 at 11:08:28 AM EDT

To: "beann@glastonburyus.org" <beann@glastonburyus.org>, "bookmana@glastonburyus.org" <bookmana@glastonburyus.org>, "dougfoyle@cox.net" <dougfoyle@cox.net>, "jt06033@gmail.com" <jt06033@gmail.com>, "rosecog@sbcglobal.net" <rosecog@sbcglobal.net>, "alisonjcouture@gmail.com" <alisonjcouture@gmail.com>, "mraymcfall@gmail.com" <mraymcfall@gmail.com>, "knotarangelo@mac.com" <knotarangelo@mac.com>, "jpeniston@cox.net" <jpeniston@cox.net>, "matthew.saunig@gmail.com" <matthew.saunig@gmail.com>

Greetings Principal Bean, Superintendent Bookman, and the Glastonbury Public Schools Board of Education:

On behalf of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), I am writing in response to a request for assistance that we received from a member of the Glastonbury High School community. This individual informed us that the Glastonbury High School community is currently engaged<<https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-connecticut-hs-mascots-update-20200701-ramitpmx3rhj3fzmintaturdzy-story.html>> in a conversation about whether to retire its "Tomahawks" name and mascot, and asked if NCAI would provide the school and school board with some general information about the facts concerning the harms caused by the continued use of Native "themed" mascots in sports and popular culture. That is the purpose of this email.

NCAI is the oldest, largest, and most representative national organization representing tribal nations and peoples. It has been leading Indian Country's consensus-driven movement to eradicate offensive Native "themed" mascots from sports and popular culture for the past fifty years. As a resolution passed by NCAI's membership in 2005 explains, "the use of 'Native American' sports mascots, logos, or symbols perpetuates stereotypes of American Indians that are very harmful. The "warrior savage" myth has plagued this country's relationships with the Indian people, as it reinforces the racist view that Indians are uncivilized and uneducated and it has been used to justify policies of forced assimilation and destruction of Indian culture."

Below and attached are some links and resources that provide additional details about NCAI and tribal nations' broad and longstanding opposition to the use of these mascots, as well as the harms that they cause:

National Education Association Resolution: Supporting Removal of Native Themed Mascots
<https://ra.nea.org/business-item/2018-nbi-120/>

National Indian Education Association Resolution: Elimination of Race-Based Indian Logos, Mascots, and Names
<http://www.niea.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/promoting-healthy-lifestyles-and-Well-Being%20for-native-students/2009-05.pdf>

American Psychological Association Resolution - Retiring American Indian Mascots
<https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/indian-mascots>

Study finds only harmful effects from Native themed mascots

<https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/study-finds-only-harmful-effects-from-native-themed-mascots-Gr8ez-HtvkeB-Q5SPNhmhw>

Leading National Civil Rights and Racial Justice Organizations Announce Joint Opposition to Washington NFL Team Locating New Stadium in District of Columbia
<http://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2018/08/24/leading-national-civil-rights-and-racial-justice-organizations-announce-joint-opposition-to-washington-nfl-team-locating-new-stadium-in-district-of-columbia>

CNN: Maine to become first state to ban Native American mascots in public schools
<https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/17/us/maine-bans-native-american-mascots/index.html>

NCAI: Ending the Era of Harmful “Indian” Mascots
<http://www.ncai.org/proudtobe>

NCAI 2005 Resolution: Support for NCAA Ban on “Indian” Mascots
http://www.ncai.org/attachments/Resolution_dZoHILXNEzXOuYlebzAihFwqFzfNnTHDGGJVwjaujdNvnsFtxUVd_TUL-05-087.pdf

NCAI’s “Ending the Legacy of Racism” Report
http://www.ncai.org/attachments/PolicyPaper_mijApMoUWDbjqFtjAYzQWlqLdrwZvsYfakBwTHpMATcOroYolpN_NCAI_Harmful_Mascots_Report_Ending_the_Legacy_of_Racism_10_2013.pdf

Op-ed: The destructive dynamic of dehumanizing Native Americans
<http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/civil-rights/296846-the-destructive-dynamic-of-dehumanizing-native-americans>

Why Educators Can't Ignore Indian Mascots
<http://aistm.org/cornel.why.educators.htm>

Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information as you perform your due diligence on this critical matter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ian Record, Ph.D.
Vice President, Tribal Governance and Special Projects
National Congress of American Indians
1516 P St. NW
Washington, DC 20005
M: 202-907-3107
O: 202-466-7767 x207 (I WILL BE TELEWORKING THROUGH 8/31 AND ONLY PERIODICALLY CHECKING OFFICE LINE MESSAGES)
www.ncai.org/ptg<<http://www.ncai.org/ptg>>



Glastonbury Board of Education

Meetings

Agenda, Minutes, Videos, Calendar

August 17, 2020 Special Board of Education Meeting 7:00 pm

The August 17, 2020 Glastonbury Board of Education meeting will be conducted via video conference. Members of the public may access the meeting by calling any of the phone numbers listed here and entering the meeting ID and password. Click here for the meeting agenda.

In addition, members of the public may use this Public Comments for Board of Education Meetings form to leave a comment for the Board. Comments should be submitted before 12 noon on the day of the meeting. Comments will be attached to the meeting agenda under *Chairman's Report* prior to the start of the meeting.

Meeting Access

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88987342186?pwd=c3UxMXpld21VZ1NuYTFFVbnJhODI1dz09>

Telephone: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782
or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 889 8734 2186

Passcode: 456321

If you have any questions regarding the Board of Education agenda, minutes, videos, or calendar, please contact Mrs. Linda Candiloro, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, at CandiloroL@Glastonburyus.org or (860) 652-7951.





Board Meetings are currently being held via Zoom conference during the coronavirus pandemic. Access information for the public for each meeting will be posted at the top of this page prior to each meeting (generally the Friday before a Monday meeting). There will also be a link to a public comment form posted at that time. Public comments submitted before 12 noon the day of the meeting will be posted on the Board agenda, under Chair's Report.

Meetings are also streamed live on local cable Cox channel 16 and posted later on the Town of Glastonbury website.

Meeting Agenda and Minutes

Click the blue button below to visit our [e-meeting site](#) where Board of Education regular and committee meeting agenda and minutes are posted.

- Regular Board meetings are in the left column; committee meetings are in the right column.
- Agendas are generally posted on Fridays preceding a scheduled Monday Board of Education meeting.
- Click on a meeting date to view agenda and supporting materials.
- Minutes are posted after the Board approves them at a subsequent meeting.

[Click here for BOE Agenda and Minutes](#)

Meeting Live Streaming and Video

Meetings are broadcast on public access television. They are also available live or on demand on the Town of Glastonbury's website. Just click below to access the Town of Glastonbury's website.

[Town of Glastonbury Streaming Video](#)

[Town of Glastonbury Video on Demand](#)

Board of Education 2020-2021 Meeting Calendar

Note: Board of Education meetings begin at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted. These meetings may be held virtually. Access information for upcoming meetings will be posted at the top of this page.



Monday, July 27, 2020 Special Board of Education Meeting

Monday, August 10, 2020

Monday, August 17, 2020 Special Board of Education Meeting
Meeting will be held via Zoom conference. Access info at top of page.

Monday, August 31, 2020

Monday, September 21, 2020

Monday, October 5, 2020

Monday, October 26, 2020

Monday, November 9, 2020

Monday, November 23, 2020

Monday, December 14, 2020

Monday, January 11, 2021

Monday, January 25, 2021

Monday, February 8, 2021

Monday, February 22, 2021

Monday, March 8, 2021

Monday, March 22, 2021

Monday, April 5, 2021

Monday, April 26, 2021

Monday, May.10, 2021

Monday, May 24, 2021

Monday, June 14, 2021

Monday, June 28, 2021

Glastonbury Public Schools...Bright Futures Begin Here!

628 Hebron Avenue ■ P.O. Box 191 ■ Glastonbury, CT 06033-2361 ■ Phone 860-652-7961

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BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

July 13, 2020 7:00 PM

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Online

iPhone one-tap :

US: +13017158592,,87447662754#,,,,0#,,132382#

or +13126266799,,87447662754#,,,,0#,,132382#

Telephone:

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1

646 558 8656 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248

7799 or +1 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 874 4766 2754

Password: 132382

- 1.** Call to Order
- 2.** Pledge of Allegiance
- 3.** Special Reports
 - a.** Update on Planning for Reopening
- 4.** Business Requiring Action
 - a.** Acceptance of Elimination of the Tomahawk Logo from Glastonbury Public Schools for First Reading
 - b.** Approval of Glastonbury-East Hartford Elementary Magnet School Budget of 2020-2021 School Year
- 5.** Reports and Discussion
 - a.** Technology Annual Review
 - b.** LINKS Update
 - c.** Glastonbury Education Foundation
 - d.** Magnet Schools
- 6.** Approval of Minutes
 - a.** Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2020
- 7.** Committee Reports
- 8.** Chairman's Report
 - a.** Public Comments
 - b.** CABA Liaison Newsletter
- 9.** Superintendent's Report
 - a.** Self Insurance, June 2020
 - b.** Receipt of Financial Report
 - c.** Dates to Remember
- 10.** Adjournment
 - a.** Please note: It is possible that the Board of Education may go into Executive Session

**GLASTONBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT FORM**

Title of Report: Use of the Tomahawk for Glastonbury High School

Board Meeting Date: July 13, 2020

Action: X Report: Information: Discussion:

Overview: Glastonbury High School would like to eliminate the use of the Tomahawk logo and nickname due to the negative stereotyping of Native Americans that results from its use. While the Tomahawk is still our official mascot, Glastonbury High School has phased out its use during the past few years.

Efforts have been made by the athletic department to discontinue the use of the logo and nickname as school-issued athletic uniforms come through the replacement cycle. While there are still uniforms that need to be replaced, many have already replaced the imagery and nickname of the Tomahawk and moved toward the use of the block “G” symbol that is commonly associated with Glastonbury High School. In addition to uniforms, the Tomahawk has also been phased out of permanent items, such as on the flooring of the gymnasium, on scoreboards, and equipment.

I have also met with leaders of our Student Council, who expressed support and agreement of discontinuing the use of the Tomahawk. The GHS administration will work with student leaders of our Student Council to engage the student body to select a new mascot to celebrate Glastonbury High School.

Submitted By: Nancy Bean

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/10/2020 8:51:06	Julie Pierro	45 Overshot Drive, South Glastonbury	While I don't necessarily agree that we need to change the mascot from a Tomahawk, I believe that it's good to have these discussions. I am not Native American and so I do not know if this is or is not an offensive mascot to Native Americans. I hope that the BOE isn't pressured into feeling like they have to make a fast decision based on the petition started by a young woman in town. This is a big deal. As with all big decisions, I think we should research the question and consider all of the options thoughtfully. I think that the BOE should consult with leaders of local Native American Tribes for a discussion, to learn and to educate ourselves on the matter. If it is deemed to be an offensive mascot, then we should change it. The next question comes is what would the new mascot be? I think we leave that to the student body to decide. Let them come up with some options and then vote on it. This is their mascot, not ours. Many of these children (my son included) have been looking forward to being a Tomahawk for a very long time. My worst fear is that we leave Tomahawk behind and come up with something like "Yard Goats" or "Apple Pickers".....which would be just absolutely awful and frankly embarrassing for these kids.....Do the right thing Glastonbury. Be thoughtful. Thank you.
7/10/2020 10:08:28	Robert Savinelli	20 Sand Hill Lane	Respectfully submitted, can the BOE defer making a determination on mascot name change and set a mechanism to have a vote from all Glastonbury residents? Perhaps putting the question on November ballot for residents to weigh in on, or, if not possible, some other voting mechanism to ensure this is the will of the majority of residents? Thank you for the consideration.
7/10/2020 10:30:33	Peter Trzcinski	Peter.trzcinski@yahoo.com	Are you going to put this to a town vote
7/10/2020 10:38:32	Liam Moran	Nope.	This is not an issue of priority, this is a problem fabricated by the white people in our town in an attempt to compensate for the large amount of racism in our community. Start by fixing racism in our own schools before changing the mascot. Get your priorities straight.
7/10/2020 10:39:34	Anthony Scaglia	62 Bayberry Road	It is not a racially insensitive, racially charged, or derogatory word. It is the name of a tool that was used hundreds of years ago and continues to see use today. Seems very strange this hasn't been an issue for the 50+ years the high school has been around but now that the Town is desperate to show they stand against racism, they target our high school mascot.
7/10/2020 10:40:06	Peter Trzcinski	Peter.trzcinski@ushoo.com	Do you understand it's a tool?
7/10/2020 11:00:29	Eric Putre	83 Northview Drive	While I can see the reasoning behind the board wanting to change our logo given the current social climate, I think our time and resources could be spent better attacking the source of racism than a supposed image that could be thought of as representing it. I have never heard anyone in or out of school say that the tomahawk is racist, or it is a direct result of cultural appropriation, or that it is a bad look for the school. However, I have heard people casually saying the n-word and other racist things in our hallways and even classrooms with no repercussions. So, I think the town really should be spending more money trying to help black and minority students through reducing the some times rampant forms of racism in GHS, instead of removing a logo that I've never heard anyone ever complain about. Because the fact is, there are a lot of racist students and faculty members in this school, and removing a logo isn't going to stop the fact that they're racist. Anyways, sorry if this was hard to read, I'm not the best writer, but I think speaking from the standpoint of the entire student body, don't change the logo, focus on more pressing issues in the school.
7/10/2020 11:45:51	Victoria McBrien	4 MacIntosh Lane	I'm writing regarding the name change of the Glastonbury Tomahawks. Native and indigenous communities have been asking for decades for their likeness and imagery to stop being used as mascots and symbols for sports teams. It's time we listen to them. While the Tomahawks name may not be as overtly offensive as the Washington Redskins or Cleveland Indians, the Tomahawk and the feathers on the logo show that our mascot undeniably fits into the narrative of schools and sports teams appropriating native culture in a way that erases native existence and experience. This issue has come up multiple times in my own lifetime, showing that this is not going away. If we don't change it now we will be having this conversation again in another couple of years. It's time to do the right thing, and change it. Glastonbury is a strong community full of pride and spirit and that will not go away with a name change. We will keep our strong educational system, caring community, and sports teams that dominate, we will just do it under a logo that doesn't hurt anyone. What's in a name? For our community, not much is at stake. For native communities in Connecticut and across the country, it's much more important. It's time for Glastonbury to begin to create a new legacy with kindness and understanding at the forefront. My one request of the BOE is to please come up with a better name than the Apple Pickers. My personal suggestions are the Grey Wolves or the War Hammers. Go Big G!
7/10/2020 12:05:54	Colleen Carroll	85 Oxbow Drive A1 Glastonbury	MANY residents would like a vote/voice on whether or not the GHS tomahawks should be changed. It does not represent anything negative in any way other than pride and strength to so many. We're tired of changes being forced upon us without a say.

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/10/2020 12:12:27	Katrin Ryan	73 Somerset Road	<p>We are no longer in America as each day someone is offended by something new they see and feel they have to express their opinion. We live in a cancel culture. From the email I received as a GHS parent (and a GHS 1989 graduate) from Dr. Bean, it sounds like she already made the decision to eliminate the tomahawk "due to harmful stereotyping that negatively impacts Native Americans." I disagree. Does that matter that I disagree? No, it does not. We are in a fear mongering society now that if one disagrees with anything involved in race, they are a racist. We are wiping out our history bit by bit. As teachers that should worry you. We learn from history. Your town will now change day by day and not look the same --as this is just the start. Someone will be offended that the pedestrian traffic lights light up in white bulbs or a historic Glastonbury native will come down as notable as that person lived a life according to the happenings of that time of history. Growing up with this mascot as I knew it to be a "a light axe used as a tool or weapon by North American Indians." GHS was always fierce and proud in our sport competitions and that is what it meant to me while recognizing Native Americans. Yes, recognizing. A tribute. I am positive and love history and America and do not look for hate. Never once thought of this a negative. You are eliminating history and symbols that remember where we came from. OK let's forget about Native Americans as you can't find anything non-offensive now. If you portray and person, that's points out race and offensive to someone - good luck. You will change the mascot as I know you will cave to the cancel culture. If one person is offended, the decision was already made. This is no longer America and sad to watch cities burn, the erasing of our history and lawlessness -- what a world that is left for our children. They are the ones who will suffer the most. History is not something to cancel. It is fact. Not an opinion. Best of luck.</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/10/2020 12:38:15	Christine O'Hare	125 Farmstead Lane	<p>Concerning the change of name of the Glastonbury Tomahawks. Thank you for the ability to send this comment. This is a highly sensitive topic that has strong opinions on both sides. I am a life long resident, GHS 1993 grad, and a mother of three children in the Glastonbury public schools.</p> <p>I encourage all of you , if you have not already done so, to do some research on the history of the Tomahawk before rushing to such an important decision.</p> <p>I have included below a link to a great article by the Revolutionary War Journal. http://www.revolutionarywarjournal.com/tomahawks-hatches-part-3-of-3-military-use-the-american-revolution/</p> <p>This article outlines the history of the Tomahawk tool. Here is an excerpt from the article.</p> <p>"The original iron and later steel hatches were introduced to America by the Spaniards as early as 1500, followed by the French. By the early 1600's, they had spread throughout North American from Canada to the southeast and far southwest. These hand held axes and throwing axes were eventually termed tomahawks (Virginia Algonquin tamahak meaning stone cutting implement and Nova Scotia Algonquin tomehegen meaning a striking instrument). The first axes introduced were made in northern Spain and southwest France in the Bay of Biscay region and were termed Biscayne Axes. They were solely to be used in trade with the Native Americans for furs and other resources plentiful in America. Stone age war clubs were a common weapon in native tribal battle so it was natural that these metal axes would also be used as such."</p> <p>"Eventually, the European trade was not limited to Native Americans as white settlers saw a need in these hatches as useful tools and in war. Local blacksmiths were employed to provide them not only to hunters and trappers, but to local military organizations."</p> <p>Perhaps the district could consider keeping the name and eliminating the feather images from the few remaining uniforms that have it. (Only a few teams have the axe and feathers. Most only use the "G" symbol and/or Tomahawk name). Perhaps also we can include curriculum that educates the students on the history of the tool... instead of allowing the focus to remain on the false narrative behind this history and the stereotype created by the lack education on this topic.</p> <p>Please also consider making this a public decision. There are many residents who do not believe the name should be changed. This has been discussed many times over the years and it would be a shame to see the BOE rush to a decision because of the current political environment.</p> <p>Finally, some of my best memories of Glastonbury schools involved the education we received about the Native Americans that settled in CT... including learning about and reenacting the First Thanksgiving meal between the Pilgrims and members of the Wampanoag tribe at Hopewell school with Richard Lakin at Hopewell School, and more recently as a mother taking my daughter's 5th grade class to the Glastonbury Museum and learning about the Naubuc and Nayaug tribes that settled in Glastonbury.</p> <p>We should not erase history based on reactions to the current political environment.</p> <p>Thank you for your time. Sincerely Christine O'Hare Life long Glastonbury resident.</p>
7/10/2020 13:00:14	Audrey Yellen Quinlan	90 Candlelight Dr	<p>My family ha lived in Town for four generations and our root are deep. Let's let the Tomahawk remain the symbol. It is a tool. If the Tomahawk symbol is retired because it is offensive, will Arrowhead Dr. be the next target? We should remember the Tomahawk recognizes that the Indians had a presence in Glastonbury as is also reflected by the names Nayaug, Naubuc, and Neipsic. No one intended the Tomahawk to demonize Indians.</p>
7/10/2020 13:02:47	Mary Damato	232 Dayton Rd, South Glastonbury	<p>Have any Native Americans expressed their offense to the Tomahawks mascot? We are a PROUD Tomahawks family. My husband was born and raised here. He is, and will always remain, a Tomahawk. Changing the name, without merit, is ridiculous. The fact that this is even on the agenda is offensive to me.</p>

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7/10/2020 13:46:05	Asirva Alahari	325 Paxton Way, Glastonbury, Ct	Hi, I am a rising senior at Glastonbury High School, and I wanted to express my objection towards a new mascot. Firstly, I am not Native American in any way, so I myself do not find this offensive. However, a name like the Tomahawks doesn't really seem to be racially insensitive. It was a weapon used by Native Americans, and later by Europeans. This weapon made by the initial invention of the Native Americans, and the improvement (of using a metal blade) was created by Europeans. I think it would be considered wrong if we were to use the Tomahawk Chop which symbolizes the misrepresentation of Native Americans and depicts them in a kind of brutal and savage way. Banning this chant (which we don't use very often) could be a way to avoid any racism, but banning the logo is not the way to go. Eric Anderson, professor of Indigenous and American Indian studies at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, says the tomahawk, historically, is merely a weapon. Also, since the tomahawk is just a weapon, it is almost the same as using logos such as Pistol Pete, Warriors, or Matty the matador. Mascots such as Indians, Chiefs, Redskins, or any Native American names, would be definitely be wrong, but the Tomahawk name represents a weapon not an ideology perpetrating Native Americans as not important.
7/10/2020 13:47:18	Jordan Meneo	81 Duxbury In	If the board does decide to change this name, which many Glastonbury students, alumni, and families are opposed to, would the town be able to provide input on possible names and have us vote?
7/10/2020 13:51:59	Asirva Alahari	325 Paxton Way	The tomahawks are not an offensive thing, it's a tool not tied to race at all. We beg that you do not let those who are privileged try to find a way to tell you it's racist. This is Glastonbury's history.
7/10/2020 14:01:52	Kara Czapiga	31 Treat Rd, Glastonbury, CT	Dr. Bean mentions that the Student Council board is in favor of changing the logo, but I do not think it is fair to change the entire logo based on the opinions of a few. Since the logo is representative of our entire school, this input should be given by the entire school. Being a member of student council does not make your opinion any more important than any others, and seeing as so many people have signed the petition, most do not support the changing of this logo.
7/10/2020 14:02:10	Laura Hancock	255 weir street	i was just talking to my family about the possibility of changing the glastonbury tomahawks logo for the future, and i was just curious how it harmfully and negatively stereotypes native americans? the logo is simply a tool and was not only used by native americans, so the people saying that the "tomahawk" is offensive is offensive in itself. i am personally upset that this is even something in consideration because this great tradition should not be lost. both of my parents went to glastonbury high school and they agree that we should continue to pass on this towns tradition of being known as the glastonbury tomahawks. i am very proud and blessed to even be able go to this amazing school and i personally think it is ridiculous that this is even a topic of discussion. i'm speaking up for so many of my friends through this. my friends and i are curious if the Glastonbury native American population or student population in glastonbury has personally suggested a change in the logo? if so, then i understand. but i think that the people making it about race are the ones being offensive and racist, because it shouldn't have to be about race. it's a tool. this is getting out of hand. none of my friends have a problem with the logo as it is, and even one of my friends in my grade told me that she is actually part native american and it doesn't bother her in the slightest because it's history. i've never in my high school experience heard a student complain about our logo being offensive. a tomahawk a tool that's used around the world every single day, and was used by this culture YEARS ago. this is basically suggesting that if i were to use a tomahawk it's offensive. it's not. if people in the town are concerned about protecting the Native Americans and their culture, i think it is important to ask them if the native american population in glastonbury is ok with the logo/mascot, since it is a long tradition and i would hate to see it be given up. Montville High School changed their school logo/mascot from the Indians, even though the town got permission from the Indian tribes around them to continue using the name. i would be very saddened to see this glastonbury tradition gone.
7/10/2020 14:19:22	Katie	Simmons	Please keep the tomahawk in Glastonbury. I grew up in this town and am now raising my family here. The tomahawk is a tool, not insensitive and erasing it from Glastonbury is also essentially erasing the Native American history that is a part of Glastonbury. Maybe instead consider adding a history unit on the local Native American tribes from this area and teach the significance of the tomahawk rather than removing it and essentially erasing Glastonbury's Native American history. Thank you.
7/10/2020 14:24:36	Christine O'Hare	125 Farmstead Lane	With regards to the issue of keeping the Tomahawk name - a Tomahawk is tool that Native Americans use to form stone heads. It is in no way a derogatory, slang, condescending or racist word. Instead of disregarding our history and trying to bury everything associated with our past, why don't we try to celebrate our heritage? Maybe by installing a plaque at the high school with the history of the word and how the tool was used by our ancestors?
7/10/2020 14:25:16	Kara Czapiga	31 Treat Rd	Sharing this petition in support of keeping the name... in case it has not already been shared. http://chnng.it/Jb9GXQsFj glastonbury was previously called "Naubuc Farms," and was purchased from native americans for twelve yards of cloth and was named Glastonbury. guess it's time to change the town name along with the towns high school logo then!!

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7/10/2020 14:29:54	Theresa Tine	1493 New London Tpke Glastonbury CT 06033	I have lived in this town 44 years and am a graduate of the class of 1994. I am asking the boe to reconsider changing our Tomahawk name. It is wrong in my opinion to change the name based on the fact that it was a Native American word. What next? Are we going to change the name of our state? Because I do hope everyone knows why we were named Connecticut... The Native American presence in Connecticut represents an important part of our state's heritage. The Algonquin title refers to a large group of native peoples occupying territories including Canada and New England, as well as the plains states. You can't just erase our history! It is a part of who we are. Please reconsider changing the Tomahawk name because once you do you will be renaming everything and it's a real shame! Thank you for your time.
7/10/2020 14:56:31	Allison Bouzakis	7 Knollwood drove	Keep the name
7/10/2020 15:04:36	Nick Damato	232 Dayton Rd	Surely you must be considering changing the names of a few of our schools, as well? (Nayaug, Naubuc)? Or are you suggesting that only the tools which these Native Americans used are considered offensive??
7/10/2020 16:11:16	Abby Peterson	62 Cutter Lane	There is no "harmful stereotyping" present by the Tomahawk logo at Glastonbury High School. The symbol of a tomahawk represents our past that brought us to this thriving community today. We should not throw away our history- that history is still part of us today. Those who oppose the logo should understand that the logo's intent is NOT to stereotype, but rather represent the resilience and proud past of Glastonbury citizens. The logo is a part of every Glastonbury citizen and should not be waived because of misinterpretations.
7/10/2020 16:13:59	Nicholas Murphy	12 Mark Drive, Glastonbury, CT 06033	The logo of Glastonbury High School should not be changed because the tomahawk is an inanimate object that was invented by Native Americans and is used by people all over the world for many different tasks. Frankly, taking away the tomahawk logo would erase the Native American history and heritage that it represents, further distancing our student body from vital knowledge of our country's history. More importantly, the tomahawk was never used in an offensive manner towards Native Americans and their culture. The student body at Glastonbury High School has always supported its tomahawk sports teams with respect and dignity. Never once have I seen a student using our logo and pride offensively towards Native American populations. I am sure that if an instance like that arose, many students would condemn those actions and work to be inclusive towards people of all walks of life because that is what a Glastonbury Tomahawk does; that is what the Glastonbury Tomahawks represent. Thank you.
7/10/2020 16:24:59	Sal Neri	Glastonbury, CT 06033	GHS has used the tomahawk as its symbol since it was founded so why should it be changed now. The tomahawk is a tool! it is not derogatory. It was used by the Native Americans as well as all the early settlers as a tool. It was physically used to build this nation as a hunting weapon as well as a tool to construct housing. I see it as a tribute to the Native Americans for inventing such a useful tool! The United States is becoming a pathetic nation of cry babies. If you are offended, then move out of the country! STOP CAUSING PROBLEMS WHERE THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS!
7/10/2020 16:37:37	Rosemary Bagot	1 Mill street Glastonbury , Ct.	I believe because of all the people opposed to changing the name and in favor of changing the name . This meeting should be sidelined until we can have a public hearing . I do not believe it is so urgent that we have to have to have a virtual meeting. And that it can't wait to have a public hearing.
7/10/2020 16:39:55	Megan Burns	meganmburns@cox.net	" The tomahawk is a perfect symbol of the fusion of Old and New World elements that characterized colonial America. Both the word and the weapon itself are of Indian origin, but the metal-headed tomahawks you see in pictures, movies, and museum displays weren't available until European technology arrived in the Americas. Both whites and Indians alike made use of them, and killing wasn't the only thing they were doing with them, since metal-headed axes were common trade items. It's a Native American instrument altered by Europeans and used by both Indians and whites as a weapon, tool, and commercial product." (https://pastinthepresent.wordpress.com/2013/03/13/whats-offensive-about-tomahawks/) We should educate the population on the positive meaning of a tomahawk. We should also engage in discussions with the Native American population. If a significant amount of them are offended, that needs to be considered. Has the town sought out the Native American viewpoint on this? If they find it offensive, let's discuss a change. If not, let's celebrate the tomahawk as a fusion of Native American and European culture!
7/10/2020 16:42:45	Claire Chen	61 Island Green	Although there might not have been any intentions of being offensive by using the tomahawks as a mascot, people are still rightly offended by it. Using this mascot promotes stereotypes against Native Americans, and our town should use a mascot that everyone is comfortable with. Even if tomahawk isn't the most offensive name (like redskins etc), it is still derogatory to Native Americans who want to keep their culture and identity. If Native Americans are feeling oppressed, it is not up to a white person to decide what is culturally appropriate or not.

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7/10/2020 16:44:12	Allen Bagot	1 mill st	It's so great to see that you guys have already come to the conclusion to change the nickname and logo of the high school. You all deserve to be replaced for not listening to the majority of the town. Not to mention you will cost this town hundreds of thousands by having to replace uniforms, the sign outside of the school, etc. that's great to see especially in this economic climate. I for one being a football and wrestling alum will never go to another sporting event at the hs again. I also know there's plenty of alumni that feel this way and will never donate another penny if this name change goes through. Have a great day
7/10/2020 16:44:58	Bonnie Reid	365 Bidwell St Manchester Ct	I don't understand the reasoning behind this. The Tomahawks are a homage to the Native people that lived on that land. It is a useful tool and should be celebrated, not forgotten. Even my children who were instrumental in changing the Indians to the Red Hawks thinks that this change is unnecessary.
7/10/2020 17:04:34	Kara Rondinelli	49 Glazier Drive, South Glastonbury	The Tomahawk mascot is a prime example of culture appropriation and is not representative of the Town of Glastonbury. Firstly, I am a rising senior at Glastonbury High School and there is blatant racism among the students and teachers in my school. The Tomahawk, a symbol of Native American culture, should not be celebrated as the mascot for a school that doesn't celebrate or respect Native American people, and even other minority groups. The argument that the Tomahawk is simply a "tradition" is not a valid reason to keep this mascot when this high school and town isn't entirely tolerant of diversity. Just because something is tradition doesn't mean it's right. Secondly, the Tomahawk is not representative of this town. Although Native Americans are the root of Glastonbury's origins, the current demographic of people in the high school and town consists of less than 1% Native Americans (to be exact 0.1% in the high school and 0.15% in Glastonbury). I understand that paying homage to Glastonbury's past is important, for instance naming our elementary schools after the specific tribes that initially inhabited Glastonbury. However, the Tomahawk isn't paying an homage to our past, it's vague and doesn't serve as a reminder of those original tribes because it's simply a general object that is stereotypically associated with Native Americans. Even a local animal would suffice as a better mascot because the people that currently live in this town can identify with it. Yet, in the end, changing the mascot for Glastonbury High School is unimportant and pointless because it doesn't change the fact that there is racism in this school and town. Most students couldn't care less about what the mascot is, we want systemic change and equity for the students that are BIPOC.
7/10/2020 17:25:28	Sherry Cesana	54 Brewster Road Glastonbury	This is getting ridiculous we have always been the Tomahawks! This should not be changed and I would like to know who is going to spend the money to have the logo changed? It shouldn't be the tax payers we pay enough taxes in this town! I love this town and grew up here and my parents did as well as their parents and so on and so on to change the name would be horrible!
7/10/2020 19:26:08	Gabriela Vatafu	63 Southpond Road, S. Glastonbury	I found no rational reason in changing the logo and the nickname of Glastonbury High School. The change will also affect the sport teams of Glastonbury, leading to a useless increase of town expenses and creating stress and confusion. The town should use those money for a better purpose that would bring a true benefit to our children. The tomahawk was a tool used by Native Americans and later by European colonials with whom they traded and often used as a weapon. The board of education should explain in what way a name of a tool/weapon is offensive for the Native Americans. I consider the measure has no other purpose than following a trend.
7/10/2020 20:58:36	Paul Coco	982 Mott Hill Rd	I would like to comment on the proposed name change of GHS mascot from the Tomahawk. I understand that recent events have caused us to take a closer look for symbols that may be offensive to other races. I don't believe that the tomahawk and its depiction as the mascot is one of those and here's why. The tomahawk as we know it is essentially a hatchet or small axe With a metal blade. Native Americans did not have the technology to forge metallic Blades. Those blades were traded With Spanish, French, and British settlers. I see the Tomahawk as a hybridization of native Americans and the colonial Cultures. The Tomahawk was used by both sides as a weapon and a tool. I think it's a symbol of coexistence And respect. Removal of this as the mascot polarizes both sides and divides us. Thanks for your service and consideration.
7/10/2020 22:25:12	Kennedy Williams	32 plank lane	Please change the name it is so important. I know our name is a bit more nauce but if we even have to debate it that means it should be changed
7/11/2020 0:16:10	Anthony Drenzo	54 Brewster Road Glastonbury	I'm going to be a senior this year and changing the Tomahawks is erasing history. I'm part Native American and this is not offensive a tomahawk is used as a tool. My moms side of the family has lived in Glastonbury forever and it's always been the Tomahawks, changing it would be a disgrace.
7/11/2020 8:56:27	Robert Savinelli	20 Sand Hill Lane	Respectfully submitted, can the BOE defer making a determination on mascot name change and set a mechanism to have a vote from all Glastonbury residents? Perhaps putting the question on November ballot for residents to weigh in on, or, if not possible, some other voting mechanism to ensure this is the will of the majority of residents? Thank you for the consideration.

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7/11/2020 11:53:30	Christine O'Hare	125 Farmstead Lane	<p>I wrote earlier and wanted to add one more link with very interesting information on Tomahawk history.</p> <p>I believe eliminating the Tomahawk as our mascot will only feed into a false narrative about what the tool actually is. Do we want to feed into a stereotype or do we want to use this as an opportunity to better educate our students and community on the rich history of Native Americans and European Settlers that settled in Glastonbury and CT?</p> <p>http://www.revolutionarywarjournal.com/hatchets-tomahawks-of-the-american-revolution-part-1-early-history-of-axes-and-battle-axes/</p> <p>http://www.revolutionarywarjournal.com/tomahawks-and-hatches-part-2-of-3-trade-axes-of-america/</p> <p>Thank you Christine O'Hare Life long resident of Galstonbury GHS 1993 grad Mom of 3 children in the Glastonbury public schools.</p>
7/11/2020 11:59:39	Julie Pierro	45 Overshot Drive South Glastonbury	<p>I want to voice my concern about the return to school option where all of the students are back in school with the exception of students of the high school. I think it is totally unfair that our high school students are the "sacrificial lambs" of this situation. My rising freshman needs to be in a classroom just as much as a fifth sixth seventh or eighth grader. And we are a community we should be in this together we should not be singling out these children and leaving them home all day without teachers. 14 year olds are very much still children. Online learning in the spring worked well as a temporary solution but this is not why I moved to Glastonbury. This is not why I pay very high property taxes. This is not why I am sending my child to Glastonbury public schools. We need to find a solution where we can be inclusive of all of the children and meeting all of their needs. I think we need to go back to the drawing board and figure out a way we can get all of our students back in the classroom. Maybe we establish temporary structures outside of the high school to accommodate social distancing. Maybe we separate into different groups so they alternate a week in school, a week remote. I don't know the solution but I do know this- I am VERY VERY angry to hear we would consider one group of children's educational needs a priority over another. All of our students, including our high school students need to learn in an academic environment. They need the structure of resources. They need the social interaction. I urge GPS to find a way to educate ALL OF our children in a way that accommodates all of their needs.</p>
7/11/2020 12:24:50	Carrie Conroy	47 Hampshire Drive	<p>Being a GHS graduate, the tomahawk was always a symbol of pride and strength. And my children who attend GHS now feel the same way.</p>
7/11/2020 12:43:28	Asirva Alahari	325 Paxton Way	<p>If the board decides that this logo needs to change, then Hopewell, Naubac, Nayaug, and any other Native American names need to change.</p> <p>Furthermore, if the term "tomahawk" offensive by NATIVE AMERICANS then we should reevaluate and make a change. But ultimately, focusing on a school mascot rather than facing the ugly truth upturned by account like @blackingbury only further perpetuates a problem. Ignoring the blatant racism in our schools while changing a LOGO is only performative action. By ignoring the lack of diversity in our schools, the board must decide on whether they will take active steps to fight racism or to change the logo which is simply a performative/unimportant action. Don't let a polarizing but trivial arguments distract you from the injustices you peers, neighbors, and friends endure daily. To those who have remained silent on major, urgent societal issues but have chosen to speak up about her mascot, I cannot demand that you broaden the scope of your activism, but perhaps consider why you only feel compelled to act when the issue disrupts your own privileged lifestyle.</p>
7/11/2020 12:45:54	Carrie Conroy	47 Hampshire Drive	<p>Being a GHS graduate, the tomahawk was always a symbol of pride and strength. And my children who attend GHS now feel the same way.</p>
7/11/2020 15:41:23	Jared Hanas	215 Belle Woods Drive	<p>we do not need to change the tomahawks mascot.</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/11/2020 16:01:54	Wendy Marques	3514 Hebron Ave	<p>Like many parents, I am hopeful for a complete return to school for all students in the Fall, (and in fact feel more comfortable knowing masks will be required). I have incoming 10th, 8th and 7th graders. I am very concerned by the second option (hybrid model) which moves all GHS classes to e-learning. These students, as much as the younger ones, need social interaction. Additionally, there are a number of courses that will be almost impossible to do with 100% e-learning. My son is going to be in AP Biology - how do you propose he will be able to participate in Lab work. Without in-person instruction and lab activities, how on earth can he be expected to pass the AP test at the end of the year? This is an example, but I feel that there are many classes that we should try to have in-school, even if it is only a few days a week for the HS students. Science is one example, but any classes that have a significant amount of hands-on activities should fall under this category. I would include foreign language as well since part of the experience is listening to the teacher and classmates speak that language. If a hybrid model is something that we are forced to implement at some point during the year, I think serious consideration should be given to allowing HS students to go into the school building at least once a week. The proposed plan does not take into consideration the needs of HS students, and does not give equitable opportunities for the students to attend in-school classes. I would rather have my middle schoolers only go a couple times a week in order for my HS student to attend some in-school classes. I know this is very difficult and everyone is doing their best, but I have to look out for ALL my kids, and the proposed hybrid plan is not in the HS students' best interest at all. I am asking that you consider other options which will not shortchange the 1500+ High School students as significantly as this proposal would. Thank you.</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/11/2020 16:42:31	Jacqueline Weiss	25 Lazy Valley Rd.	<p>My name is Jacqueline Weiss, and I am the mother of Vivienne Lovelace who will be in the 5th grade at Hopewell Elementary School in the fall. As a parent, I am writing to voice my concerns as the Glastonbury School District decides how the 2020 fall semester will look when returning.</p> <p>My first concern is regarding forced mask wearing for our school district and how detrimental that would be for our children's immunity, development, psychology and academic progress, not to mention their incessant discomfort.</p> <p>Science has proven that children require more oxygen than adults because they now only breathe more rapidly, they breathe in more air. Children have a larger lung surface area in proportion to their weight than adults as well as have faster heart rates than adults, again, requiring more oxygen to breathe properly and remain healthy. Masks will inherently inhibit our children from getting the proper amount of oxygen when they need it most, and will stifle any opportunity to thrive in an academic setting.</p> <p>My daughter has had multiple trips to the school nurse's office over the years due to severe overheating. She experiences bouts of dizziness and lightheadedness and needs medical attention to address it. Covering her face for up to 6 hours a day is going to cause harm to my child. I am putting it on record that I am completely opposed to her being masked and I will hold any person in authority liable if my child has any physical or mental health effects from these measures. Additionally, she should not be relegated to an "alternative" form of learning because of her condition. This is akin to ADA discrimination, which is obviously not a minor transgression.</p> <p>Mandating that our children wear masks all day will not only negatively impact them physiologically, as masks are detrimental to the children's health and long-term development, but the psychological impacts can be just as devastating.</p> <p>We have a population of roughly 890,000 in Hartford county as of July 10th, 2020, and there have been 11,185 confirmed cases of Covid-19 with 1,068 resulting in "confirmed" deaths. Keep in mind the CT Department of Health defines "confirmed" deaths as "patients who test positive for COVID-19 around the time of death; this is not a determination of the cause of death." These words can be found verbatim on the Connecticut Department of Health website. The obvious interpretation is that confirmed deaths are overstated. So, of the 890,000 people in our county, less than .0012% of the population has succumbed to this virus. While every death is tragic, these numbers do not support the actions and reactions that are happening. As of July 10th, 2020, there were currently 31 people in our entire county hospitalized with this virus. The entire population of Connecticut is 3.56 million. The number of confirmed deaths of children ranging from ages 0 to 19 is 2. So, 2 out of 3.56 million is .00000055%. Please share with me the reasoning behind masking our children, the population that is LEAST likely to be impacted by this virus.</p> <p>https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Data-Tracker</p> <p>Lastly regarding the mask mandate; it has been brought to my attention that many parents have been told that children will be required to wear masks because "that is the law". My husband and I own a business in town, so it is our job to know what is actual law. Wearing masks is not a law, and there is no debating that statement. The governor's executive order 7BB regarding face coverings, which was issued on April 20th, is NOT a law, but rather a mandate issued as part of a state of emergency response to the Coronavirus outbreak. The purpose of such an order is to persuade or encourage persons to follow the order to accomplish the governor's policy set out in that order. Laws follow a specific process. They must be introduced by either a legislator or committee (depending on whether it is a short or long session). They then have to be passed by both the House and the Senate before being signed by the governor. A law cannot be put in place by a unilateral statement by the governor. The governor's executive orders cannot remain in effect for more than 180 days. Therefore, this mandate is set to expire in October.</p> <p>My other major concern is in regards to the proposed curriculum. In short, we are in disbelief at the information that has been presented. We received an email from the Glastonbury Public Schools on July 2, 2020 with information regarding action steps being taken to promote the district's anti-bias and anti-racism work in the classroom. It is my strong opinion that parents should have a voice in any controversial curriculum being taught to our children that could potentially cause divisiveness when none exists. To play into the narrative that is sweeping our country is not only harmful, but is morally suspect, and it's very discouraging that this prestigious town is following that narrative. Public schools, which are funded by tax payer dollars, are not the place for a radical left indoctrination. Suggesting that teachers read "How to Be an Antiracist" (and implement those ideas into lesson plans) should not be allowed. Our school district should never "take a side" on a controversial matter, and it's embarrassing that our highly ranked schools are publicly caving to any sort of pressure. The moral of that book is to "help us recognize that everyone is, at times, complicit in racism whether they realize it or not." This is not only factually inaccurate, it is outrageous that this is the lesson you want to teach our children. I am personally offended and incensed that it is being insinuated that we as parents and our children engage in racist acts, and it further infuriates me that my child will be taught to believe such a radical viewpoint. This sort of curriculum endorses the teaching of comprehensive and widespread hatred. This approach will produce a definitive result, which is that white children will be taught that they should feel guilty for their skin that they are born into. I refuse to subscribe to that indoctrination, and I'm enraged that we pay an exorbitant amount of taxes to take advantage of the educational system in this town when it takes such a polarizing stance. I think a better idea would be to teach our children about things that ARE ACTUALLY HAPPENING TO EVERYONE, not a manufactured and offensive "systemic racism" problem. Let's talk about starting a D.A.R.E program in our schools to teach our children good decision-making skills to help them lead safe and healthy lives. D.A.R.E's vision is to provide "A world in which students everywhere are empowered to respect others and choose to lead lives free from violence, substance use, and other dangerous behaviors." Although it is not talked about, our town is riddled with teenage drug use. That is what is really happening around our children. I know I am not alone in my feelings. It is disturbing that my child may be force-fed an agenda that has nothing to do with education. This is a serious problem, and it needs to be taken seriously. Children are precious, and we are obligated to give them the best foundation for success. Ignoring these concerns is nothing short of tyranny.</p>

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7/11/2020 16:49:14	Nancy W. Berlet	202 Carriage Drive	<p>Changing the name Tomahawks is not a wise decision for the town of Glastonbury. Our town is resplendent in Native American words(Naubuc, Nayaug, Neipsic) because we are one of the oldest towns in Connecticut (another Native American word) and the first settlers to Glastonbury chose to continue to use those words. The tomahawk was a tool used by the settlers for building and farming.</p> <p>If Tomahawks is changed, what comes next, Glastonbury?? The name of our town was specifically picked by the first residents because they needed a minister before Wethersfield would allow Glastonbury to petition the state to become its' own town in 1693. Our town is named after Glastonbury, Somerset, England as it is the birthplace of Christianity in that country. It was hoped that would attract a young Christian minister to serve the new town. The Reverend Timothy Stevens answered the call and Glastonbury was no longer a part of Wethersfield.</p> <p>So, does the name Glastonbury offend some because of its Christlan origins? PLEASE, Glastonbury has a strong Native American and Christian heritage! Celebrate the past...learn from it and about it! Do not change the name Tomahawks! Thank you!</p>
7/11/2020 16:52:54	Nicole Niland	3271 Hebron Ave	What is being done to limit the large classes at the high school like concert choir which was at about 40 students last year and the current issues class which has the entire senior class in the auditorium at once (500ish students)?
7/11/2020 17:04:38	Allen Blake	73 Linden st Glastobury CT	Keep the name , pride and tradition the Glastobury Tomahawks!
7/11/2020 17:30:56	John Cavanna	63 woodland street Glastonbury	Please do not change the name of the tomahawks, the pandering to individuals that can find hate and racism in everything they look at it out of control and needs to stop. The tomahawk is tool, nothing more. It was not "invented" by Native Americans it was adopted by them. My town council needs to stand up to this nonsense once and for all, what's next? It will never end!
7/11/2020 18:21:31	Molly Murphy	308 Georgetown Dr	<p>I want to comment on the GHS mascot. I understand how important traditions bind our community. I also understand that many people feel that Glastonbury has always treated our mascot with respect as a symbol of strength. However, the most important voice in this discussion is that of Native Americans. I am not Native American and do not pretend to speak for them. I only want to advocate for listening to their voice about their culture.</p> <p>https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2020/02/strong-opposition-to-native-american-mascots-team-names-shown-in-university-of-michigan-research.html</p> <p>This is a link to a study that was done about Native American Mascots. Maybe we could also find other sources or people to help us better understand the point of view of Native Americans.</p>
7/11/2020 18:33:58	Charlotte Bassett	132 Horizon Lane	I'm actually a GHS student and am about to be a senior, therefore I'm more relevant about this "debate" than any 30 year old woman that starts a petition. If that's not good enough, I'm also Native American and apart of the Mi' kmaq tribe, therefore having the most important say. I ALSO PLAY SPORTS!! I cannot think of a better "mascot" to wear on the back of my jersey for all the games I play. You take away the Tomahawks, you take away tradition and pride.
7/11/2020 18:59:18	Mary LaChance	281 Cedar Ridge Drive	I am speaking on behalf of myself and not as a Town Council member. I appreciate that the BoE is looking into multiple options for the upcoming year. I am most in favor of the complete opening. While we understood the need for distance learning in the Spring, it was definitely not the same as in-person instruction. I am not in favor of the hybrid approach. This approach seems to favor younger grades over the high school. I understand that there are challenges to creating distance with younger children. However, it is not fair to make the high school students receive an inferior education to address some of the concerns with younger students. The subject material taught in high school requires much more engagement to thoroughly learn the material. There was a marked difference in how much the students learned while at home versus at school. I cannot imagine the lost ground if the students had to learn remotely for an entire year.
7/11/2020 21:42:17	Caroline Beattie	255 Foote Road, South Glastonbury, CT	I think that getting rid of the tomahawk would be very costly to the school realistically, and to keep or lose the tomahawk would result in anger both ways. For a compromise, I propose more focus on celebration of native american tribes that used to live in Glastonbury. Like truth about hate, we could dedicate a day to learning about the native american roots in glastonbury, so the mascot would be more appreciation and celebration rather than appropriation.

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/11/2020 23:00:13	Gary Paragone	92 Ridgecrest Rd.	<p>Ms Pisarski's opinions regarding the necessity to remove the Glastonbury HS Tomahawk mascot should carry no more weight than any opposing opinion. Every comment she makes about racism, injustice, discrimination, trivialization of culture, and disrespect toward Native Americans is her own projection and perception of history. I've lived in Glastonbury for thirty four years, have four sons who participated in countless athletic activities and graduated from our excellent education system. Two of them graduated the same year as Ms Pisarski. When they were young, we participated in Indian Guides. I also served as Booster Club President for a decade and am proud to say that I never observed or heard of any of Ms Pisarski's accusations taking place. As far as the "Tomahawk Chop" is concerned, again, you can infer whatever negative you like, however, a stronger argument can be made for the symbolic nature of strength and power that the gesture projects (not "scalping or decapitating"). It is also acts to promote school spirit and unity.</p> <p>I may have missed it in the Glastonbury Citizen article, however, has Ms Pisarski named one public comment or behavior that she witnessed during her four years at Glastonbury High School that truly illustrates disrespect or bigotry toward Native Americans? If the National Congress of American Indians opposes the use of native mascots, logos, or symbols, they certainly don't make their opinions prominent on their website. I couldn't find any reference relative to this subject, however, in a recent counsel update, what appeared most important to Native Americans was improving healthcare, education, judicial processes, and strengthening their economies, particularly the hemp industry. I mention this only to help put some perspective on how important this issue may, or may not, be to our Native Americans.</p> <p>We can all be proud of the long standing tradition that the GHS Tomahawk mascot represents and I strongly recommend continuing that tradition.</p>
7/11/2020 23:06:03	Elizabeth Foote	Millstone Road	<p>I always thought you named something after Someone or a group out of respect. It always bothered me that in 2000 Squaw mountain in Maine was changed to Big Moose Mountain. Squaw means a strong North American Indian woman and I always thought it was the most respectful name for a ski mountain. A Tomahawk is a weapon of strength used by our North American ancestors. I grew up a Tomahawk - having pride knowing it was a symbol of strength from where we came from. It has never been a racist thought - It has only been a symbol of honor and respect to me.</p>
7/11/2020 23:16:21	Kelsey Landers	Kelsey. landers05@gmail.com	<p>Let the name stay the tomahawks. It runs in my blood and I've had family members who represent the tomahawks very well over the past years and created a legacy and tradition. This is ridiculous, this is a tool and if it was harming Native Americans they wouldn't have created such a useful tool that helps them survive and trade. To this day there's acts throwing contest and nobody has a problem with that so I don't see why we should change our name when no one has a problem with it especially Native Americans I think she said with me and I can speak on that. My cousins Ryan and Madi are actually native Americans and they attend Glastonbury high school. Ryan loved being a tomahawk and is proud to represent throughout soccer and the community. He does not find this racist at all and loves being a tomahawk and will do anything to keep the name. Native Americans are the ones who have a say and the students not a math teacher in Meridian.</p>
7/11/2020 23:36:15	Gary Paragone	92 Ridgecrest Rd.	<p>Ms Pisarski's opinions regarding the necessity to remove the Glastonbury HS Tomahawk mascot should carry no more weight than any opposing opinion. Every comment she makes about racism, injustice, discrimination, trivialization of culture, and disrespect toward Native Americans is her own projection and perception of history. I've lived in Glastonbury for thirty four years, have four sons who participated in countless athletic activities and graduated from our excellent education system. Two of them graduated the same year as Ms Pisarski. When they were young, we participated in Indian Guides. I also served as Booster Club President for a decade and am proud to say that I never observed or heard of any of Ms Pisarski's accusations taking place. As far as the "Tomahawk Chop" is concerned, again, you can infer whatever negative you like, however, a stronger argument can be made for the symbolic nature of strength and power that the gesture projects (not "scalping or decapitating"). It is also acts to promote school spirit and unity.</p> <p>I may have missed it in the Glastonbury Citizen article, however, has Ms Pisarski named one public comment or behavior that she witnessed during her four years at Glastonbury High School that truly illustrates disrespect or bigotry toward Native Americans? If the National Congress of American Indians opposes the use of native mascots, logos, or symbols, they certainly don't make their opinions prominent on their website. I couldn't find any reference relative to this subject, however, in a recent counsel update, what appeared most important to Native Americans was improving healthcare, education, judicial processes, and strengthening their economies, particularly the hemp industry. I mention this only to help put some perspective on how important this issue may, or may not, be to our Native Americans.</p> <p>We can all be proud of the long standing tradition that the GHS Tomahawk mascot represents and I strongly recommend continuing that tradition.</p>

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7/12/2020 1:42:19	Meredith Elbaum	6 Bigelow Street Somerville MA	<p>GHS 1993 graduate.</p> <p>I am in full support of changing the name. When I was at GHS we found swastikas painted on our synagogue and after returning from a trip to Poland and Israel, I presented, at 17, on the horrors of the holocaust to the entire senior class. I know the power of symbols. Research tells us that use of Native symbols whether in good faith or not are harmful psychologically to Native Americans. That should be enough. Some argue the Tomahawk isn't a native symbols. To those I say, then why are there feathers on some GHS logos and why did we do the tomahawk chop? I didn't know better then. The school system didn't teach me that. It's time to change the name.</p>
7/12/2020 7:41:07	Sheetal shah	57 church hill road	<p>I'm concerned with full reopening of schools and the health risks. What is the plan for shared bathrooms? So many students using the same bathrooms.</p>
7/12/2020 7:43:29	Christine O'Hare	125 Farmstead Lane	<p>Addition article on history of the Tomahawk and how it is still a common tool used by our United States military. Tomahawks Now</p> <p>Today, the tomahawk continues to be part of the American Military where it is used in operation in Afghanistan and Iraq. The current models are robust in that they can be used to destroy Kevlar helmets. The soldiers mostly use because of its multi-purpose purposes such as smashing windows, breaching doors, breaking locks, deflating tires, chopping through cinder blocks, and opening crates. It can also be used for recreation where people throw it for sport and amusement to pass the time. The history of the tomahawk continues to be made now in the present so do not let it die down and keep talking about the all mighty tomahawk.</p> <p>https://thetacticalexperts.com/best-tactical-tomahawks/history-of-the-tomahawk/</p>

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7/12/2020 8:29:37	Deborah McFall	40 Bidwell Street, Glastonbury	<p>To Dr. Bookman and the BOE,</p> <p>I read through the initial plan outline that will be discussed at Monday's BOE meeting and would like to share some thoughts.</p> <p>I am glad to see a plan that incorporates best to worst scenario based on where we are as a community and state with COVID 19.</p> <p>I do not see Option 2 as a hybrid approach. Letting all other students back into the classroom at the expense of another entire student body (high school students) is hybrid at the system level but not the student level. Being in a classroom interacting with others is just as critical and important to high school students as it is elementary school. And while I appreciate the thinking likely going into this with regard to the independence of high school students vs elementary students (most freshmen are in no way ready to stay the course in a remote setting with no parental oversight if parents need to work. High School students, who are preparing for a career or higher education will have a compromised education at the expense of all other students (ei science labs cannot be done remotely as one example). High school students' emotional/mental health will be at stake.</p> <p>Here are some ideas worth considering:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spread out classrooms in large tents outside for as long as the weather will permit. And if we are still in a crisis when the weather turns cold, turn high school and middle school into hybrid days - half of the student body goes in the morning for in person instruction, then goes home for at home work, then the other half comes for the afternoon. 2. Ask parents to formally commit to driving their kids to and from school from Sept - Dec so that you can more effectively plan out bus routes to accommodate those whose parents cannot drive their students. Not only can you plan the schedule better, you can also eliminate anxiety for school, bus drivers and parents ((i wonder how many kids are on the bus today?). Initial communications weren't clear on if this was going to be an informal/do it when you can approach of a formal commitment to this from parents who are able to do it. (similar to the idea that when 5th graders were allowed to stay at their old school, parents agreed to drive their kids to and from school, no bus would stop at their house/stop). 3. Consider converting other town owned buildings into temporary classrooms - academy, eastbury, riverfront community center, boat house. I see the logistics of this being a bit more challenging but not impossible. <p>Here are a couple of questions: What will trigger plan 1, 2 or 3. For example if today were the first day of school and CT was at a .6% infection rate what plan would be implemented for school?. And what change would cause us to move to the next plan? I think its important for all of the families to understand those thresholds.</p> <p>With regard to the last statement in the summary: There is concern stated about PPE, is it a financial issue or ability to secure PPE supplies issue? If it is a financial issue, what is the expected cost of this?</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Deb McFall</p>
7/12/2020 9:17:25	John Laplante	188 Country Lane	<p>"The term tomahawk was first recorded in Captain John Smith's brief Indian vocabulary, which was written sometime between 1607 and 1609. In the writing, it appears as the word "tomahacks" and was apparently a native word used to refer to English axes, not indigenous stone weapons like popular culture would have us believe."</p>

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7/12/2020 9:28:57	Kerry Green	197 Griswold Street, Apt 4B, Glastonbury, CT 06033	<p>To the Board of Education,</p> <p>I understand that in these changing times, everyone wants to be politically correct and to not offend any group, race or religion. I support that.</p> <p>I am a registered card-carrying Native American and I have seen racism and bias at its worse! Not only was I teased and taunted as a child for being a Native American, but, in the 70's my mother remarried an African American man.</p> <p>Racism has no boundaries. Every culture has some form of racism. As a child, my family was shot at, spit at and called names that are so offensive we can't use them now.</p> <p>I'm sure I don't have to go into details about the atrocities that happened to my ancestors.</p> <p>Over 150 years after the last treaty was signed and Native Americans were forced and ordered to inhabit only in specific areas of this country, Native Americans have a voice that needs to be heard.</p> <p>"Tomahawk" is a multi-purpose tool that was primarily used to build, craft, hunt, and to protect. Yes, it was used a weapon to protect food supplies and defend against aggression towards the tribe. It was initially the only means of protection against assimilation. As a point of interest, the Tomahawk was used as a ceremonial symbol of peace at the signing of treaties leading to the phrase "bury the hatchet".</p> <p>If you want to stand with the Native Americans, then choose your battle with the name "Redskins" which is offensive.</p> <p>Do I find it offensive that the school wants to use Tomahawk as their school name? No, I do not. I look at it as way to honor the history that the Native Americans, who once inhabited our town and who have fought to be recognized as the original inhabitants of this country. A tool that sustained life even in our darkest time against all odds. My ancestors survived and I'm here today because of it.</p> <p>As the great-great-great grandson of a Native American Tribal Chief, I hope the school board takes my opinion into account and allows Glastonbury to continue to honor the Tomahawk.</p> <p>Respectfully, Kerry Green</p>
7/12/2020 11:14:11	Rick Giaccone	1956 Chalker Hill, Glastonbury, CT	<p>Time to Ax the Tomahawk??? Are you kidding me? Another example of a lefty loon who thinks something is offensive. When does it stop???? I would like to know how many Native Americans think it is offensive - I have never heard of one complaint. Because it is not offensive, in fact, if you look up tomahawk in the dictionary you would see many different types of tomahawks and nothing specific to Native Americans. Ridiculous! And this is from someone, Ms Pisarski, who no longer lives and works in Glastonbury. 750 signatures out of a town of some 50,000,, what about the majority who live in town? I would bet that most of us are not offended by the tomahawk, doesn't that matter? People like Ms. Pisaski seek to wipe out our history and erase our values. I would hope that the BOE is an educated group who know history and remember those people who last tried to erase history, Hitler and Stalin were truly evil men. Ms Pisaski states that the tomahawk trivializes the cultures of others. Really? I think, if anything, it honors them. It is a symbol of strength, not weakness. Think of all of Glastonbury sport teams who proudly wear the uniform when they go out to battle an opponent. To people like Ms. Pisaski, it is always easier to destroy than to create. I didn't see any of her ideas of a new name - could it be she doesn't have one or creative enough to name a few? Lastly, and this is important, what does the town and it citizens do with all the signage and uniforms that already have the tomahawk on them? We really want to spend all the money necessary to change signs and buy new uniforms just because some nut, who no longer works or lives in town, wants us to change it? Unreal. That is a real cost unlike some imagined one that Ms. Pisaski believes. If she doesn't like the logo, don't wear it, I believe this is still a free country. People like Ms. Pisaski think they are on some type of crusade - maybe in their own mind. One thing is certain, she most likely not going to stop with the tomahawk issue. After this, what next, school colors? To them, it is always something. When does it stop? It stops when rational people stop trying to appease lefty loons. We need to do that now. Let's stop this craziness and focus on real issues.</p> <p>Sincerely, Rick Giaccone</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/12/2020 12:29:50	Laura McCarthy-Ha	57 Longfellow Rd Shrewsbury, MA 01545	<p>As an alumna of GHS (2004), I strongly support the changing of the mascot from the Tomahawks. I firmly believe that the use of the tomahawk, decorated with Native American design, constitutes cultural appropriation. The use of this image fetishizes Native American artifacts and borrows from Native American culture without doing any work to honor or remember the history of local tribes or to educate students on either the history and culture of local Native Americans or on the atrocities that were committed on Native Americans in New England and nationwide.</p> <p>As an school, GHS laid a great foundation for me as a critical thinker. My education there helped me to learn to consider ideas from multiple angles and to wrestle with challenging questions. As an institution that promotes and develops critical thinking skills in children, GHS has a responsibility to think critically about the use of this mascot. The school and town should lead by example and demonstrate to the students and community of Glastonbury that change is both possible and necessary, especially when the change seeks to correct a mistake.</p> <p>Like many others, I have thought for a long time that this mascot needed to change. I have thought this since I attended GHS from 200-2004, and have talked to other community members who have sought to make the change dating back to the 1970s. While the issue is certainly not a new one, the current social-political climate demands this change. Our country is working to dismantle the ways that white supremacy has hurt and damaged people of color-- both intentionally and unintentionally. The ongoing use of this mascot is an example of the ways in which growing up in a largely affluent, majority white community creates a social blind spot for noticing what might be hurtful or offensive to people of color. While the changing of this symbol will not incite any great social change, it will go a long way in teaching students about taking perspective, caring for others, and shifting one's thinking when someone introduces new information to you. Please consider teaching this important lesson to the students of GHS and please right this wrong that has gone on for too long.</p>
7/12/2020 12:31:43	Julie Fuller	168 Tall Timbers Road	Option 2 cannot be an option. All the kids need to be back at school, including the high schoolers. While the town did its best this spring, our high schoolers also need to be in a classroom learning. There is only so much they can learn at home on their own. Especially starting a new year with new teachers, online learning will not be acceptable.
7/12/2020 12:42:10	Laura Fitton	1053 Hopewell Road (1972-1996)	Please make the long overdue change to the GHS "mascot" - it is an embarrassment to our town that we have allowed that to remain for so long, My half (South Asian) Indian daughters were horrified when they saw my yearbooks, and they are right.
7/12/2020 12:44:23	Tracie Galanek-Olsson G	30 Vettura Court Malta NY 12020	Back in the 1980s, attending GHS, I knew that tomahawks was inappropriate as a mascot. I hope that the current Board of Education has more intelligence and compassion than the board who originally chose that mascot. Please find something more suitable. I saw a suggestion to use red-tailed hawks as the new mascot and to call ourselves the Glastonbury Hawks. I think that idea is brilliant. Please choose compassion. Please do the right thing and change the school mascot. Thank you.
7/12/2020 12:49:29	Laura Larsen	76 Shipman Drive	Please change the name from Tomahawks to Hawks. My Native American ancestors deserve better.
7/12/2020 13:03:44	Linda Preston, GHS '84	Longmeadow, MA	As a student at GHS in the 80s, I was always uncomfortable about the racist 'mascot' chosen to represent our school. Those who claim tradition is enough reason to keep it overlook the fact that 'tradition' is the root of ALL racist institutions. Impact matters more than intent. Even if the name was chosen with the intent to honor native people, the impact is negative and lasting. Dehumanizing the people that should be respected, and showing the majority community that it's okay to do so, is the legacy of racist names such as 'Tomahawks'. Please bring and end to this shameful choice.
7/12/2020 14:16:00	Heather Newandee	88 GreenTree Drive	As someone who doesn't have any known ethnicity of any Native American decent, I believe that this matter shouldn't be about us, it's about the Native Americans. Personally, I never thought about our high school's logo as being culturally inappropriate, but I'm not the one who would be offended by it. If the Native Americans in our town are offended by the logo, the logo should absolutely be changed. The logo is not what defines Glastonbury High School, we will still be the amazing community with the same traditions, only changing the parts of us that can cause potential insult to others.
7/12/2020 14:42:14	Kaitlyn Parent	176, Three Mile Road	Keeping the tomahawk is a form of cultural appropriation. A friend of mine reached out to a Native American influencer on instagram to discuss this situation and become more educated on the topic and response she received explains it very well. "Native mascotry, includes cultural appropriation - as you mention the 'tomahawk' - that stereotypically takes native culture or objects and claims it as white property they are entitled to use or perform as 'honor' in whatever way they(the school) seems fit"(Temryss Lane, @temrysslane on instagram). Temryss Lane is not the only Native American who has expressed concern with using the Native culture as mascots for sports and schools. "1,500+ native organizations and advocates [have] signed a letter demanding the removal of all native mascots & imagery" (quote from @_illuminaives on July 11, 2020 from instagram). If the school truly wants to honor Native American culture, we should focus more on teaching it in our history classes. I personally don't remember learning about Native Americans in history unless it involved white people, which was typically white washed as well. Teaching students Native American culture and history would be a great form of honoring Native Americans and an example of culture appreciation. As I mentioned earlier, most people think the tomahawk is a form of cultural appreciation, when in reality, it is a form of cultural appropriation. I urge the change of the current mascot of our school, the tomahawk, as it is a form of cultural appropriation.

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/12/2020 14:48:26	Mikayla Balatbat	318 Feldspar Ridge	People say that we should honor the Native Americans who lived here by representing them with the Tomahawk logo. If the real reason is honor, then why is it that we aren't taught anything regarding Glastonbury's Native American history in school? Why should we be proud of doing the bare minimum to honor our Native American history? Furthermore, many Natives have spoken out against the cultural appropriation of Native mascots and have stated that it's both damaging and dehumanizing. The Tomahawk logo may not be an extreme case of this, but nonetheless it's still an example of cultural appropriation and can offend Native Americans. Finally, the Tomahawk does not make Glastonbury the community that it is. What really represents Glastonbury is the unity of the people and our endless amount of pride.
7/12/2020 15:51:18	Linda Obedzinski	66 UConn Ave., Glastonbury	I support the proposal to eliminate the Tomahawk as an emblem of Glastonbury High School and its sports teams. Many Native American groups have decried the use of their symbols outside of their cultural context, and we should be sensitive to those concerns. Hundreds of GHS students and alumni have expressed their support for making a change. I hope you hear their voices and vote accordingly.
7/12/2020 16:35:21	Joan Sheehan	114 Farmstead Lane	We have lived in Glastonbury for thirty four years. We raised our children here. We have been proud of the education they received here. But as communities have become more aware of the effects of team names and logos, we believe it is past time for our town to change from the Tomahawks to something better. Suggestions have been made for Fisher Cats and other more neutral names. My husband and I attended RHAM High School where our teams were called the Sachems. That name was changed a few years ago. It's time for Glastonbury to do the same.
7/12/2020 18:05:54	Matt Sheehan	Glastonbury High Class of 2001	I support the process outlined on your Monday meeting agenda to make the elimination of the Tomahawk logo a student led change. An appropriate replacement should come from the student body. As long as it's not the Glastonbury Apple Pickers!

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/12/2020 20:52:02	K. C. Warren	173 Tall Timbers Rd	<p>I'm writing to oppose the elimination of the "Tomahawk", as the Glastonbury High School logo and nickname. Let's start with the history of the tomahawk as a tool, because that is what it is and has always been. The tomahawk was created and used initially by Eastern Native Americans as a general purpose tool that had many uses. The name came into the English language in the 17th century as an adaptation of the Powhatan (Virginian Algonquian) word, tamahaac. Early versions of the tool were wood handled with stone, bone, antler, or shell attached to the top by rawhide. Metal tomahawk heads were adapted to the tool after European settlers began trading with Native Americans. One of the most interesting adaptations of the tool was that of the pipe tomahawk. Opposite of the cutting edge, the head of the tool was adorned with a bowl that connected to the hollowed out handle, to allow for the smoking of tobacco. These tomahawks were often gifts used in diplomacy, as the European settlers and Native Americans met to discuss issues of the day. The tool symbolized the choice faced by both sides, of war or peace. These tomahawks are recognized as some of the first "peace pipes". They were present at the signing of peace treaties, and used in ceremonies to mark the end of hostilities. The latter is credited for creating the phrase, "bury the hatchet". The widespread use of the tool quickly spread from the East through the South and to the Great Plains. The feathers adorned on a tomahawk signify acts of bravery. The tomahawk continued to be widely produced and used by both sides. Modern adaptations continued, starting with the military. During the American Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress mandated that a soldier carry a tomahawk or sword. Firearms of the day were cumbersome, unreliable, and took too long to reload. The tomahawk was perfectly suited for hand to hand combat, or the "melee" fighting of the day. Military use continued through WWII, Korea, and then saw a significant resurgence during Vietnam. Peter LaGana, a WWII veteran of Mohawk descent, founded the American Tomahawk Company and designed a tactical tomahawk known as the "Vietnam tomahawk". Later adaptations continued to be issued to American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Non-military use sees the tomahawk finding a valuable place with law enforcement, the fire service, camping, recreation, bushcraft, sport, martial arts, and the entertainment industry to name a few. The tomahawk has given its name to a missile program, airplane, high-end steak, towns, Speedway, and a host of other uses. All this, and many more positive aspects of the tomahawk can be derived from a short amount of research. The tomahawk is really the original multipurpose tool, and quite possibly the most adapted continually used tool in the history of this land. There is certainly some irony in its potential demise as our logo and nickname, as it was used to help bring people together hundreds of years ago. Now its abolition may be intended to do the same, but stands to do the opposite. There are multiple studies and polls out there that aim to find where today's Native Americans stand on imagery used in sports. All of these studies are refuted by the other side, with both sides saying the others data is flawed, or it was collected wrong, or the sample size was incorrect. What none of these studies did was have a set of parameters that the tomahawk would fit into without being skewed by other imagery. When lumped in with Redskins, Redman, Orangemen, and the like, the tomahawk would not stand a chance. But on it's own, it stands tall with a strong history on so many fronts</p> <p>There are other things to consider in what should be an open, honest, and inclusive discussion. I am not Native American. I can only attest to how the Tomahawk makes me feel. I'm hard pressed to see a downside, but I'm open to being educated in this discussion. Hopefully we can all do that. There is a letter from Dr. Bean in the agenda. In the opening line she states, "Glastonbury High School would like to eliminate the use of the Tomahawk logo and nickname due to the negative stereotyping of Native Americans that result from its use". I find this statement to be absurd given the history of the tool, but more importantly, who is Glastonbury High School? Surely Dr. Bean doesn't think she is Glastonbury High School. Nor is it the current administration and the students. Glastonbury High School is the entire community of Glastonbury. To this point, and in an upcoming Zoom meeting, the Glastonbury community cannot adequately be included on what needs to be an open and honest discussion. As a current member of the athletic department, I have not been privy to any discussions related to the potential phase out of the logo or nickname. Point being, for such a substantial decision, we can't leave the process open to suggestion.</p> <p>Lastly, where does this all end? Do we change the names of schools, roads, sections of town, and hosts of other things next? I hope not. Rather, I'll echo a couple suggestions of Rebecca Pisarski in last weeks Citizen. She sits on the other side of this issue from me, but offers a couple good common sense ideas that may help establish a productive common ground. First, eliminate the Tomahawk Chop. Although I've never seen it done at a soccer game that I've had the pleasure of coaching, it has no place at one of our athletic events. Secondly, please ensure the current curriculum allows for the teaching of Native American history and its impact on our town at a minimum. The story of our history can't be told without it. Thank you for listening, and thank you for your service to our town.</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/12/2020 21:36:11	anonymous	61 Island Green	<p>The Tomahawks has been Glastonbury's logo for too long. It wasn't acceptable now, nor should it have ever been. It is an example of cultural appropriation and perpetuates the violent and extremely harmful stereotypes against Native Americans. The tomahawk is a tool invented by Native Americans, and it is not anyone's place to appropriate their culture by using it as a mascot at a school. It is not simply "just an axe." It holds value and symbolism to their culture and shouldn't be used for entertainment. Having a tomahawk as our mascot reminds our opponents, team members, and spectators of "savagery" in our sports teams, which casts Native Americans in a violent light. Even saying that you "respect" the bravery and courage of Native Americans doesn't make it any less derogatory. It still perpetuates the stereotypes of Native Americans.</p> <p>It is also disconcerting that as a predominantly white community, people are saying that it was never meant to be offensive. I don't think the majority of people in Glastonbury understand facing cultural and racial discrimination. Although I'm not of Native American descent, I am a person of color, and I have had many experiences of people telling me that I was being "too sensitive" or that they were "just kidding" about micro aggressions and cultural appropriations. It feels very demeaning and I never want anyone to ever feel that way. If Glastonbury actually wanted to respect Native Americans, we would be learning more about their culture and impact. I appreciate that you have recognized that it is time to incorporate a new mascot and I strongly encourage our town to change it. I am aware that there are many students and adults who oppose this change because they view changing our mascot as breaking tradition, not to mention the cost of getting new uniforms and such, but when a tradition is harmful and disrespectful it needs to be changed.</p> <p>Changing our mascot is included in "working as a team to dismantle the structures and practices that support inequality, privilege, and racism", as stated on the Glastonbury Public School's Equity and Social Justice page. Choosing a mascot that makes everyone feel welcome can help Glastonbury become an anti racist community.</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
			<p>Board of Education -</p> <p>Thank you for all of your hard work during these difficult times.</p> <p>After reading Dr. Bookman’s overview of what he plans to discuss at the upcoming BOE meeting, I became very concerned when I read the second scenario for the school year. This option is terribly unfair to GHS students. I am very disappointed that a plan exists where high school students will not return to school while younger students are allowed to return.</p> <p>Option two treats the education of GHS students as if it is less important than the education of our younger students. Teenagers are STILL KIDS! Most are not ready to learn on their own for an entire school year. They need to be in school for science labs, to collaborate with other students, and receive direction from their teachers. Most parents can not teach calculus, chemistry, Latin, history, or British Literature. Most parents can teach elementary school subjects. It is MORE important for high school students to be in school because parents are less able to teach older students.</p> <p>It will be very difficult for our GHS students to get to know their teachers and form any type of relationship with them under the conditions established in scenario two. It will be very difficult for the teachers to know if a student needs extra encouragement, a hint where there is a glitch, or some kind words when family issues interfere with learning.</p> <p>The most logical plan would be to keep the kindergartners home rather than the high school seniors. Kindergartners have a full TWELVE YEARS to make up any learning that they may miss by not attending school this year. High school seniors do not have ANY time to make up learning. This is their last opportunity to attend public schools. It is the last time education is FREE. Anything that they miss will NEVER be made up because after June, they will never again attend public schools. Shouldn’t those who can not make up any lost learning be our primary focus? I understand that this may cause day care issues for some kindergarten parents, but the school system should not be basing their decision on this. High school student’s education should not suffer as a result of kindergartners needing day care.</p> <p>Keeping GHS students at home for the year means that they will not have an education which is equal to those in the younger grades. All students are supposed to receive an equal education. Clearly, students who physically do not attend school will not have the same quality education as those who do get to attend. It is not fair or ethical to send a 13 year old eighth grader to school for 180 days while a 14 year old ninth grader does not go at all. High school parents pay the same taxes as elementary school parents. Why should the students of GHS parents receive a less for their tax dollars?</p> <p>From what I understand, part of this plan was created because younger students can’t be left at home alone, but is it smart to leave a 14 year old home alone day after day? High school students can get into all sorts of dangerous situations. Also, they are very likely to sit home and play video games all day rather than complete any schoolwork. The education of all, with the exception of the most motivated high school students will suffer if they are left home alone. It is no more desirable to leave a 14 year old home alone than a 9 year old. High school students are still children and they still behave like children.</p> <p>How will grades have any meaning if GHS students do not attend school? There is no way for the school to know if students took a test on their own or with the help of their parents. In a town like Glastonbury, parents want their children to have good grades so that they can get into a quality college. Parents will help their children because better grades can not only result in better college admissions but also higher scholarship dollars. Better grades can mean substantial savings on college costs. How will GHS grades have ANY meaning if students only have e-learning?</p> <p>Two possible solutions to this problem would be the following:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SOLUTION # 1</p> <p>All Students attend schools every other day with half of the students attending on A days and the other half attending on B days. This would enable all students to attend school with greater social distancing. In the high school, the freshmen and sophomores could go on A days and the juniors and seniors could go on B days.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SOLUTION # 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday and Tuesday</p> <p>GHS Freshmen go to SMS (to help with social distancing). Arrangements would have to be made for classes where freshmen are with upperclassmen.</p> <p>GHS Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors go to GHS where they are better able to spread out due to approximately 400 freshmen not being in the school.</p> <p>SMS and GW students stay home.</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/12/2020 21:37:48	David McKee	47 Cardinal Drive, Glastonbury	<p>With regard to the upcoming discussion on the change of the Tomahawks mascot name please consider where the objection is coming from. I don't have a vested interest in the name or logo one way or the other but I object to Rebecca Pisarski deciding that her opinions outweigh all others. Please take the time to consider the opinions of the actual "victims" of this alleged cultural appropriation. If actual authorized representatives of the native american community have objections then I think the decision to change the name becomes obvious and you should do so urgently.</p> <p>However, if this is nothing more than a perceived slight that has been created in order to advance some personal virtue signalling by one individual then I feel it is a dangerous path to go down in pacifying it without adequate research. Reacting to one persons perceived slight and impacting thousands of Glastonbury residents will likely be the start of much more negative change to come. The Board of Education has a responsibility to the citizens of the town to treat these issues seriously and I am sure you will.</p> <p>We know that the name of the school mascot in addition to the names of several of our schools (Naubuc Elementary, Nayaug elementary) pay homage to the native american history in town and were created with respectful intentions. To suggest otherwise simply because our country is going through unprecedented times of sensitivity is not being intellectually honest with ourselves. Please consider the actual harm rather than the perceived harm when you make your decision.</p> <p>Thank you for considering an alternative perspective.</p>
7/12/2020 22:29:49	Amy Corey Assante	2758 Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury CT 06033	<p>I graduated from GHS in 1992. Two of my children currently attend GHS. I do not believe that the Tomahawk logo and nickname is "harmful stereotyping," as Dr. Bean wrote in her email. In addition, no evidence has been provided that the use of the logo and nickname "negatively impacts Native Americans," as Dr. Bean also wrote.</p>
7/13/2020 0:08:38	Matthew Tobin	179 South Highland Street W. Hartford, CT 06119	<p>Dear Members of the Board of Education,</p> <p>Thank you very much for taking the time to address the issue of GHS's mascot, as there are so many other challenges that are, understandably, taking up so much energy and focus. However, it is the mark of an advanced society to improve in multiple ways simultaneously.</p> <p>The name of "Tomahawk" is, at first glance, not as blatantly offensive as names such as the Washington NFL franchise, or the previous name of St. John's University, etc., but I have always wondered what it exactly has to do with Glastonbury as the town has existed (since 1693).. If it references the indigenous peoples who lived on this land before, despite the fact that European settlers colonized the land and committed atrocities toward those peoples, what are we actually saying? That, to me, says "Sorry we took your land, but we honor you by remembering something your people used before we came and took over but it looked cool." There are still members of native tribes in the state of Connecticut. Their heritage belongs to them, but for us to "borrow" it disrespects both their agency to exist out of the purview of White People in charge and also subconsciously (if not blatantly) ties them to a particular time period, one that has continued to paint indigenous peoples as primitive savages.</p> <p>We have an opportunity to make a change that, in my eyes, is long-overdue. There will be pushback from select members of the community--this is understandable. No one likes to think of their youth as having been anything short of idyllic. When I was in high school, I constantly thought it was "just a tool" and couldn't be offensive. After leaving Glastonbury and living in other parts of this country, I grew. I realized that our extremely-white town using the Tomahawk as a mascot is bewildering at best, downright racist at worst. There was no part of the Glastonbury High School curriculum that addressed the people who used to live here when I attended. To say it is part of our history only extends back as far as when the naming decision was made (at which time it was apparently in vogue to use indigenous peoples' imagery and likenesses for high school mascots in the Hartford river valley) . For us to grow and make Glastonbury a town that is actually dedicated to caring about less-advantaged people, the act of changing to a more benign mascot is, very simply, the least we can do.</p> <p>Sincerely, Matthew Tobin (Class of 2003)</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/13/2020 0:15:16	Rebecca Pisarski	11 Allen St, Apt 2, Mystic, CT 06355	<p>Dear Glastonbury Board of Ed:</p> <p>Please change the Tomahawk mascot. If you decide you must keep it, please get permission to use the mascot from the five federal and state recognized tribes in CT, ban the Tomahawk Chop, and create a curriculum to teach Glastonbury students about the Native American people who lived here and challenges facing Native American people currently.</p> <p>The National Congress of American Indians' website says: "The intolerance and harm promoted by these 'Indian' sports mascots, logos, or symbols, have very real consequences for Native people. Specifically, rather than honoring Native peoples, these caricatures and stereotypes are harmful, perpetuate negative stereotypes of America's first peoples, and contribute to a disregard for the personhood of Native peoples." Please listen to Native peoples' opposition and uphold your June 4th promise to "fight racism, injustice, and discrimination and not tolerate their presence whether in practice or in policy."</p> <p>Suggestions I have received for new names include: the Grizzlies, the Riverhawks, the Hawks, the Bobcats, the Fisher Cats, and the Rattlesnakes.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Rebecca Pisarski</p>
7/13/2020 7:09:12	Cori MacCallum	60 Blue Hills Trail	<p>Regarding the re-opening plan for GPS, in addition to the three options listed, as a parent of an elementary school student, I recommend an additional option that is an alternative for parents, students and teachers. Parents who choose not to send their children to school in the fall can have a GPS teacher assigned to them. A "cohort" of these children and the assigned teacher would gather at a non-school location – such as a student's home or other location TBD. This allows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Teachers who are afraid for their own health reasons or that of people they care for to still do their jobs with less exposure/risk to COVID. •Students to benefit from the same GPS curriculum while having social interaction with kids their age. •Parents a seamless transition if the public schools have to switch due to an outbreak to an alternative that is already in place as well as peace of mind knowing that they have minimized exposure for their kids/families. <p>This also enables more flexibility to combine students that are in the same grade but from different districts.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
7/13/2020 8:33:17	Tammy Welch	188 Hale Road Glastonbu	<p>If you move forward with all students returning to the class room:</p> <p>How is the board of education and our superintendent comfortable sending our students, teachers, staff and bus drivers back to school in the fall when town and state facilities are not yet opened and, when the Governor has recently paused the next phase of re-opening the state as a precaution. Would you be comfortable joining them for 8 plus hours each day, sitting in a class room and walking the halls with them as they change classes? As a parent of a High School student what is your plan for social distancing close to 2000 students that attend our High School not including teachers and staff members. Lastly, what is your plan for at risk, student, teacher, staff, bus drivers or students with at risk family members that they share a home with? How are you going to protect our Students, Teacher, Staff Members and Bus Drivers from being exposed to or contracting COVID19?</p> <p>Should we be e-learning in any capacity:</p> <p>If we continue with e-learning what improvements have been made? Will students be taught in a virtual class room setting for each class using tools such as Zoom, Skype or Teams?</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/13/2020 8:57:13	Christine O'Hare	125 Farmstead Lane	<p>Hello</p> <p>Thank you again for your time.</p> <p>I am writing to request that the conversation about the GHS mascot be tabled and pushed back until a time when the proper research and conversations could be had. The BOE has a monumental task at hand on planning how to get our children back to school in a safe and responsible way. The topic of changing a mascot name , one that has come up before should not be pushed through during such a highly sensitive time.</p> <p>Delaying a decision would allow everyone to research more and give the topic the attention it deserves.</p> <p>If you do not delay the decision, I have one additional piece of information I ask you to consider. "Tomahawk" is the name given to a European tool that was used by many cultures.</p> <p>tomahawk (Powhatan): a light ax used as a throwing or hacking weapon; as verb, it means "use a tomahawk"</p> <p>Several other objects used regularly in the English language were also given names by Native Americans... including canoe, kayak, woodchuck, moose, raccoon, opossum, skunk, squash and Husky.</p> <p>Is UCONN considering changing their mascot name as well... because it too was named by the Native Americans?</p> <p>The situation is the same here.</p> <p>https://www.dailywritingtips.com/55-american-english-words-derived-from-algonquian-languages/</p> <p>Other google searches of English words used regularly named by Native Americans will find the same information.</p> <p>Thank you Christine O'Hare.</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/13/2020 9:43:07	Joanna Papa Kenney	20 townline rd North Haven	<p>Maya Angelou wrote "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." The time is overdue for North Haven to do better in regards to finding a more appropriate emblem for our sports teams. We have a wonderful opportunity right now to expand our knowledge, increase our awareness and take an action that, even if we can't see it up close, can really benefit others. Why wouldn't we do that?</p> <p>This is not a new issue. I am a 1977 graduate of Glastonbury High School whose family lived in town for 3 decades. I have been hearing this request for pretty much my entire life. I've heard it at my dinner table when I was in elementary school (with the brother of a past Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians, the organization that started campaigning for this in 1968 http://www.ncai.org/proudtobe); I heard it discussed during car rides with homesick Native American students from Dartmouth that my parents mentored; and then, memorably, at a thanksgiving dinner while those students watched some of their friends occupy the Mayflower! It was talked about in the campgrounds at pow wow after all the white people had gone home, and was among the topics my parents addressed while leading educational programs all over Connecticut. How long do a People have to ask before we finally comply?</p> <p>Disclaimer; although born in South Dakota, spending the first part of my life on the Yankton reservation, having two parents and two grandparents who were adopted into the Blackfoot and Santee Sioux tribes, and enjoying strong Native American connections up through the present day, that is my cultural and social background, but not my heritage. This highlights the distinction between what might be our traditions and history from a specific heritage - as in what is hereditary through bloodlines. GHS may have a tradition of a certain symbol, but those who have an inherited claim should have their requests respected.</p> <p>Clearly the administration has already been exposed to the the history of when and why such symbols were adopted and the disconnect in that period between an official government policy of assimilation while simultaneously appropriating the same cultural icons for sports teams and schools. I can tell that you are aware of the growing amount of research regarding negative affects such representations can have on both Native and Non-Native American alike. Certainly not the learning environment this town desires for their students. My experience so far is that the research that informs the administration has not been widely shared with the general population. Understandably, because signs and symbols do carry such powerful significance, I have encountered the expected misunderstanding and anger that changing a longtime emblem evokes. (https://www.zocalopublicsquare.org/2019/04/02/sports-fans-dont-love-native-american-mascots-just-resent-political-correctness/ideas/essay/) My hope is that the town will seize this teachable moment and continue to provide evidence and information to the public and alumnus to facilitate this transition. And that in order to truly honor the Native people of this area, the administration will increase the curriculum at all levels regarding its rich indigenous history.</p> <p>Traditions are started by people, and now is the right time to start a new one. It won't erase all of the wins, records and accomplishments of our past athletes, nor suddenly dissolve the bonds of team relationships forged, and it certainly won't deprive the present teams of these same experiences. In fact, most schools who have made this change have found their students fiercely attached to their new mascots because they have helped choose it. I urge the Board of Education to finalize the process that you have clearly, already started and retire the present mascot. Thank You.</p>
7/13/2020 9:51:29	Kate Olschefskie	28 towhee lane	<p>While I continue to be concerned with this virus, e.learning is not a go back to school solution. High school students also need in person learning, they need to be able to interact with their teachers and fellow students to learn in real time. E.learning through the spring, while was done very well, will never replace in person teaching especially to go back to school. Teachers don't know the students and students that were not engaged in the spring will further disengage. The mental and social impacts are being seen already with children being isolated from school for months. Please figure out solutions that will get teachers and students able to attend school in person this fall.</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/13/2020 10:27:22	Catherine F. Evans	83 Valley View Road, Gla	<p>Dr. Bookman and Board of Education,</p> <p>I have read the initial back to school plan that is being presented at the July 13th Board of Education meeting and appreciate the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>I am very pleased to see that we have multiple plans depending on how the virus is affecting our community and our state. While I am very happy to see Option #1, having all our students back in the classroom, I have great concern regarding Option #2 as it is currently presented. I do not think one group of students (high school) should be excluded from a back to school approach. My concerns are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I have great concern for the mental health fall out from the isolation and lack of socialization that can result from e-learning. 2. In addition, e-learning limits access to reliable meals, physical and mental health care and reduced the availability of support for those with special needs. 3. High school students are preparing for college or entering the workforce. This cannot be done as effectively with e-learning. 4. How are students going to be able to perform lab work or any other hands on academics that needs to be completed in school? 5. While it certainly is easier to have a high school student home e-learning (versus elementary), do we really want our teenagers home all day, potentially unsupervised? 6. What message are you sending to high school students? They want to be in school just like everyone else. <p>I would prefer Option #2 include middle schools (6th, 7th and 8th) and include 50% in school and 50% at home e-learning. This can be implemented several different ways: A/B schedule, ½ days, alternating days, etc.</p> <p>Also, parents need to have some additional information to make the best decision for their child(ren) whether to send them to school, keep them home e-learning or do something completely different. At a minimum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What criteria would warrant the district changing from Option to Option? i.e. we start school year at Option 1, what will be the deciding factors to go to Option 2, etc. 2. What is the deadline to commit to in school vs. e-learning options? Once committed, what is the timeframe of the commitment? i.e. Will you be committed to the end of the year and then another decision will be made when we return from holiday break? 3. Busing or parent provided transportation – will this be all or nothing? You sign up for one or the other and have no flexibility to change if need to for a day, week, etc. 4. What is lunch time going to look like? Where will middle school and high school eat lunch? <p>I would also like to add that I see two main factors needed to send kids back to school safely: space and money</p> <p>I would like to see our district consider alternatives beyond our school buildings for additional spacing. Suggestions would include using outside space of school buildings and town parks, available space at town facilities (Eastbury, Town Hall, Academy building, GPS home office, etc.), as well as, reaching out to the community for available space that is not currently occupied.</p> <p>Money is a tough one. I personally do not feel the burden of these additional costs should have to reside on districts, towns, states and the federal government alone. Again, we need to get creative and tap into local business owners and individuals who have the means and want to invest in our future.</p> <p>Thank you for all your hard work in putting together these options for our kids and our future. You have a very difficult task, for sure, that is constantly changing with no end in sight. I am grateful for all that you have done and continue to do for our students. I also appreciate the time you have taken tonight to hear what myself and others have to say.</p> <p>Cathy Evans</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/13/2020 10:39:11	Richard Wilson	839 Mott Hill Road	<p>Dear BOE STOP THE MADNESS. Why is it that when a few people want to change history, everyone feels guilty, and goes along with the minority who want to change history. To often, elected officials do the easy thing, and just avoid confrontation, to try and make a controversial issue go away. They were elected to represent the majority of what the people want and not cave during every little controversy. We, the working people, just do not have the time or energy to push back on items that come before the board. I proudly served as President and on student council of my class. While flying in the US Air Force, I wore my Letterman's jacket proudly until my final deployment in Arizona. Not once was I confronted with a comment that the GHS Tomahawk symbol was offensive.</p> <p>Why now is it offensive? Because one person deems it? Is it out of guilt? We need to start re-educating our students about local and national history. We need to teach all the good and bad of our history, not change or delete it.</p> <p>Again, this is a symbol of pride, history and town unity, that has stood for the many, many years with a good intentions, and should for decades to come! Keep the TOMAHAWK logo!!</p> <p>Sincerely, Richard S. Wilson, Jr.</p>
7/13/2020 11:12:16	Samantha Williams	32 plank lane Glastonbury	The mascot of tomahawks is inherently offensive and shows the lack of awareness that Glastonbury has towards marginalized communities.
7/13/2020 11:12:28	Elizabeth Hassan	86 Surrey Lane	For option # 2 there needs to be an alternative. All the students should have an equal amount of contact time when using an in-person classroom model. The stakes are high for all students and the high school students should not have to make an unequal amount of sacrifice. We need to plan on using hallways and even setting up outside classrooms when the weather permits.
7/13/2020 11:13:51	Elton Williams	32 Plank lane	The mascot is inherently racist especially for a community that does not have a Native American community.
7/13/2020 11:15:36	Trina Williams	32 plank lane	Although some names and imagery are worse there should be an elimination of all.

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
			<p>The report that was submitted for removal of the Tomahawk logo and mascot states that the Tomahawk should be removed due to "negative stereotyping of the Native Americans." However, there is no explanation of how this is a negative stereotype. The Native Americans invented the tomahawk, that's a fact, just like how the Egyptians invented hand saws and the Romans invented the claw hammer. Additionally, just like any invention, over time with the accessibility of new resources and the loss of old ones, it gets developed. For the tomahawk specifically, even the Native Americans changed pieces of it, varying the materials they used for the tomahawk from a stone head to a metal spike because of access to new materials from Europeans. The Tomahawk is an invention that has evolved over time just like all the other tools that have been created and developed to fit in with the changing world today. Not to mention, no one picks up a Tomahawk or ax and immediately finds themselves lessening the Native American population or demeaning them in any way.</p> <p>While many will say it's just an ax, there are others who will recognize it as a creation by the Native Americans. So rather than just saying it's use as a logo is negative (which is a stereotype in itself), let's actually learn about it and it's ties to Glastonbury. In schools we can educate on the origin of the Tomahawk, how it has evolved in today's society, and ultimately how the Native Americans shaped the town we live in today as the original settlers of Glastonbury. There is no need to erase history by getting rid of the mascot. Instead, we can continue to value it's worth by teaching about the people who came before us and learning the reasons why the Tomahawk was chosen as our school mascot and has stood for sixty years in our town.</p> <p>While we're teaching about the Native Americans in our town, otherwise known as the group of people who invented the Tomahawk, we should also teach about the names of our elementary schools: Hopewell, Eastbury, Nayaug, and Naubuc. In this short paragraph found by searching "The History of Glastonbury," three of these elementary school names have significant ties to the Native Americans in our town,</p> <p>"In 1636, thirty families from Pyaug (Wethersfield) were settled in Naubuc Farms, a tract of land belonging to Wethersfield on the eastern bank of the Connecticut River bought from the Native American Chief, Sowheag, for 12 yards of trading cloth. The Native Americans of Glastonbury were members of Algonkian-speaking tribes. They lived in clans of approximately 100 individuals and each group was ruled by a sachem or chief. Clans took names from features of the land where they were centered. Naubucs lived in the plains to the east, the flat area at the north end of town. Nayaugs lived near the Noisy Water at the mouth of Roaring Brook. Wongonks lived at the Bend in the River behind today's Town Hall, where the Connecticut River turned in the 1600s. The tribes were peaceful and farmed the land. In the summer, clans lived along the river in longhouses. In winter, they moved to the hills and lived in south- or west-facing caves. In 1672, Wethersfield and Hartford were granted permission by the General Court to extend the boundary line of Naubuc Farms 5 miles to the East, purchasing the land from the natives, forming Eastbury." Hopewell also stems from the Native American culture that developed along rivers.</p> <p>It's clear our town is rich in Native American history and this is further evidenced by the Town of Glastonbury naming not one but four schools in town after Native Americans and their history and culture. One would have to assume this was done consciously to represent our town's heritage and honor the Native Americans that originally settled on the town's land, not to demean them in any way. The Tomahawk selection as a mascot and logo is no different. It was selected to honor the Native Americans as the original settlers of our town. Additionally, it represents strength and power. These are all positive reasons, so it doesn't make sense to get rid of something that was created by the same people who influenced the development of our town and its schools today.</p> <p>It is only looked down on if people choose to look down upon it, and many people are choosing to do so by trying to change the reason behind how it came to be the mascot and logo sixty years ago. They claim it's insensitive to the Native Americans or that it's being used for personal gain. This was not why it was created, and will never be the reasoning behind how the Tomahawk mascot came to be.</p> <p>The basis and thought process used to select the Tomahawk as the mascot and logo sixty years ago is the exact same basis and thought process used to name the schools Naubuc, Eastbury, Hopewell, and most recently in 2007, Nayaug. Therefore, suggesting the Tomahawk is racist or that it negatively impacts Native Americans would mean the elementary school names need to be changed as well. In reality nothing should be changed, because as mentioned above, these names were all selected to honor the Native Americans and their rich culture of our town.</p> <p>An email was sent out stating "Glastonbury High School would like to eliminate the Tomahawk." Meanwhile, whoever is referenced in this sentence as "Glastonbury High School" is trying to make a decision for other people. They are telling the people who want to keep it that they are being insensitive and demeaning it's worth. This has never been the case. A mascot is something you honor. It's never something you bring down, it's something you raise up and appreciate. With the Tomahawk we are honoring it's worth. Some believe it's a tool or weapon, so those are honoring its usefulness and its presence as a tool of strength. Some believe it has ties to Native Americans, and in that case we are honoring their creation, culture, and impact on the Town of Glastonbury. This is the light that has forever shined on the Glastonbury Tomahawk.</p> <p>Just like how no one picks up a tomahawk and immediately finds themselves "making fun of Native American culture," nobody at Glastonbury High School wears the name to mock the people that shaped their town or ridicule a race of people who have impacted the society we live in. No mascot serves that purpose. As discussed before, the purpose of a school mascot is to unite the students and teachers in the school. It's meant to make them feel like they're a part of something bigger and to make them feel attached to a community that takes pride in who they are. The Tomahawk mascot has and continues to do just that by bringing together the people of Glastonbury High School and giving them something they all have in common.</p> <p>In less than three days, my petition to keep the Tomahawks mascot has produced over 2,100 signatures and over 100 positive comments from those that have signed it (link below for petition and comments).</p> <p>https://www.change.org/p/glastonbury-board-of-education-keep-the-glastonbury-high-school-tomahawks-mascot?signed=true</p> <p>The count of signatures on the petition to keep the Tomahawk is almost double the amount of signatures the opposing petition to remove the mascot garnered in over three weeks. The signatures and comments on my petition include current students, teachers, and coaches, as well as alumni dating back over thirty years. These people shouldn't be ignored. It's evident how the majority of residents of the Town of Glastonbury feel about the mascot.</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/13/2020 11:16:36	Jill Williams	32 plank lane	I am ashamed and embarrassed that our mascot has survived for so long it is time to change it
7/13/2020 11:16:57	Cathy Williams	32 plank lane	CHANGE THE NAME
7/13/2020 11:33:47	Allison Peterson	139 Marlborough Rd	<p>The high school experience is invaluable to the development of teens, in more ways than the educational aspect. Aside from learning from their parents/family, teens evolve and learn significantly more during their high school years. High school helps educate on considerably more than Algebra and Chemistry; it helps educate our children on the world in which we live and helps expose them to all different types of people with whom they will live and work in the 'real world'. No one can question the growth that occurs during high school, and that is something you cannot achieve if our teens are solely Elearning. The social and emotional complications that will result from Elearning could far outweigh the risk of exposure to the virus. According to the CDC, children make up 22% of our US population, yet only account for 2% of the Cases showing it is not affecting our children in the same manner as it does adults. Also, it is extremely rare that children experience complications from Covid-19. Obviously, reopening safely (with all precautions in place) would be required, as well as an option for Elearning for those that cannot physically attend due to preexisting conditions or any other reason that would warrant Elearning.</p> <p>Additionally, the high school years are the formative years that colleges review in their decisions, including activities, clubs, & sports. Yes, everyone is on a level playing field at this point, but given that every district across the country is making their own plans (with guidance from their state), it will surely not be level in the end. This could have long term implications for our children in regard to college placement.</p> <p>There seems to be a large amount of evidence showing the pitfalls of Elearning.</p> <p>No one wants anyone to get sick, but with the proper social distancing and equipment, we can safely keep our essential teachers and students in school so that they are afforded all that the high school experience has to offer. Because of this, it seems obvious that option1 is the only way to go. Thank you.</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
			<p>Dear Dr. Bean, Dr. Bookman, Mrs. Coggeshall, Mr. Peniston, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Foyle, Mrs. Notarangell, Mr. McFall, Mrs. Couture, Mr. Sahay,</p> <p>Thank you for time and attention on this matter. I think that we need to take a step back and move a little slower on this topic. I understand that the world we live in is changing rapidly and we are trying to build a safer and more inclusive world but at what cost? Do we need to erase history and a legacy attached to the name because a non-resident of our community started a petition? There are things we need to consider before making a decision like this one. For example,</p> <p>Has the current GHS body been polled? Has this ever been a discussion in CI? What was the intention behind using the Tomahawk tool as a symbol for GHS when it was first conceived? Was it to instill fear and threaten? Was it meant to demean Native Americans? Or was it instituted as a symbol of hardwork? Was it a symbol representing the foundation that the Native Americans used to build their village and provide for their families? Was it a tribute to the people that developed the tool that built the village that became Glastonbury as we know it? Is the "Tomahawk chop" that has been referred to on social media still occurring? Or did it happen years ago and not now? Has GHS ever discussed it in English, History or Science classes? Has the district met and discussed how they can "change the perception" of a "negative stereotype" being associated with the Tomahawk tool? In our community, is there a negative stereotype associated with the Tomahawk tool? Have we had open forums with the community and invited Glastonbury Native Americans to give their views on the topic? Or Native Americans in CT? Or in New England? Have we asked the Native American students attending our schools? Have we done our due diligence in all grades to give this topic the consideration and education it deserves?</p> <p>Or are we leaping without looking? Is the state of unrest in our country causing us to make hasty decisions? Are we missing the opportunity to engage our students in an opportunity to discuss, analyze and participate in a true current event?</p> <p>I think as one of the best educational systems in our state, we would be remiss not to give this topic the due diligence it deserves. Once we can confidently say that we have done our due diligence then a decision can be made.</p> <p>I appreciate all the hard work that all of you give to make our educational system what it is today. Thank you "hearing the community" before making a decision.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
7/13/2020 11:33:53	Megan DuBaldo	226 Woodhaven Rd	Megan DuBaldo
7/13/2020 11:39:06	Bette Pisarski	270 Overlook Road	Change tomahawks name
7/13/2020 11:40:03	Elizabeth Wall	26 Kelsey Lane	<p>I am writing to you from the perspective of being a Native American citizen of Glastonbury for more than 25 years. I have been extensively involved in anything to do with Indigenous history while parenting my daughters through Glastonbury's public school system to ensure our Native ancestors were portrayed authentically and respectfully.</p> <p>The Native imagery used by Glastonbury schools IN ANY FORM is, and always has been, embedded racism disguised as honor. Questioning the eradication of these symbols as a "Should we..?" rather than "We are going to because it is the right thing to do..." is troubling. Please, do what is correct in this day and age and retire these culturally insensitive, and just plain wrong, symbols entirely.</p> <p>Glastonbury is a wonderfully vibrant and diverse community. Please ensure that ALL citizens are treated with dignity and respect. Thank you.</p> <p>Elizabeth Wall Haudenosaunee Mohawk/Seneca Iroquois Nation</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/13/2020 11:42:04	Zhong Ouyang	9 Broad Moor	Suggest "Hawk" as new Mascot name. Also one email talked about add more social studies. I , a single lady, came from China long ago with \$1000 in pocket, within 4 years without one day rest, I got two masters and one Ph. D. In Physics , I realized my American dream through good education and hard work. I knew countless people just like me. There are endless opportunities in this beautiful country. I would like to suggest you to put up a math, science class as a choice for your added social studies, so my daughter could learn math and science, ladies can lead high tech too. I went through the end of Chinese culture revolution years, each day we had to self criticize and memorize the red book, all history was bad, we had to clean up history and start new. China killed rich families and used up their property. Do not want to repeat this in America.
7/13/2020 11:54:46	Valerie Salsgiver	24 Tall Timbers Road, Gl	Unless the Board can provide statements from actual Native Americans whose lives have been "negatively impacted" caused by "harmful stereotyping" due to the use of a tomahawk as a school's logo, I oppose eliminating the Tomahawk as Glastonbury High School's nickname and logo. There is nothing inherently negative or derogative in the term "tomahawk". Thank you for your consideration, Valerie Salsgiver
7/13/2020 11:58:37	Bob Cabana	138 Candlelight Drive Gla	The following questions need to be answered before a decision on changing the Tomahawk can be made: 1. Who exactly is represented in the statement "Glastonbury High School would like to eliminate the use of the Tomahawk logo and nickname"? If that statement is not representative of the majority of current and former students, teachers, coaches, or residents of the town then it's simply not a true statement. 2. Exactly how is the Tomahawk an example of "harmful stereotyping that negatively impacts Native Americans"? It's a symbol of strength and courage and is being honored and revered as such. 3. It's clear that the Town and the Board of Education have made many conscious decisions over time to represent and honor our town's Native American heritage by naming our schools Nayaug, Naubuc, Eastbury, and Hopewell. The Tomahawk was also selected as the mascot and logo for the exact same reasons. If someone or some entity (an entity that doesn't represent Native Americans and doesn't even represent the majority of the town and the majority of the students) decides to literally change that reasoning and tries to say it isn't to honor the Native Americans anymore because it is now viewed as being "insensitive" then that same person or entity needs to be prepared to change all the school names as well because those would also have to be categorized as "insensitive". Can't have it both ways.
7/13/2020 12:00:13	Christine McKenna	Millstone Rd	In FAVOR of keeping the Tomahawk mascot as our school/town symbol. Glastonbury has a strong Native American history and by using the "Tomahawk" as a symbol, shows we are honoring the Native American heritage and therefore should not be changed.

From: Doug Foyle dougfoyle@cox.net

Subject: Special Committee on Native American Views About the Tomahawk Logo/Nickname

Date: July 15, 2020 at 11:58 AM

To: Doug Foyle dougfoyle@cox.net

Bcc: Julie Thompson jt06033@gmail.com, david peniston Jr jpeniston@cox.net, Matt Saunig matthew.saunig@gmail.com, Alison Couture alisonjcouture@gmail.com, Ray McFall mraymcfall@gmail.com, Rosemary Coggeshall rosecog@sbcglobal.net, Kristy Notarangelo knotarangelo@mac.com, Alan Bookman BOOKMANA@GLASTONBURYUS.ORG

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Hi Everyone,

Based on the Board discussion Monday night and under my authority as Chair, I've created a Special Committee on Native American Views About the Tomahawk Logo/Nickname.

Following our normal committee structure, I've asked Julie to chair the committee and Dave and Kristy to serve as members and they have all agreed (I'll serve also ex-officio). Thank you!

The specific charge of this committee is to:

Gather and present to the Board the views, in their own words, of local Native Americans and local Native American groups on the use of the Tomahawk as a logo/nickname by Glastonbury Public Schools.

I've asked that this work completed by the end of July if possible with August 10 is the final deadline.

As with all our committees, you can attend any of the committee meetings. Also as normal, these will be public meetings and be noticed.

Best wishes,
Doug

Bcc: Board, Bookman

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/13/2020 14:18:30	Shana Belmont	7 Mark Drive	I am writing in regards to how Special Education services will look at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. With the state not releasing any specifics regarding Special Education I am wondering what Glastonbury's plan is? I was wondering what will be done to ensure special education students are being provided a LRE when the State of CT is making it a priority to strongly encourage districts to develop independently functioning cohorts of students/teachers? Specifically for those who currently attend both the LINKS academy and their respective home school during the school day. Thank you for your time.
7/13/2020 15:08:34	Joe Oros	Cambridge Drive	I do not support option #2 having GHS students virtually learn again. As the parent of two high schoolers this is not an equitable answer and not every student does well with virtual learning. I strongly oppose this option. You also can not have GHS students running around town when they should be in school. I do not see any options about rotating teachers in classrooms instead of students, outdoor classrooms and trailers-temp class rooms as well as utilizing gyms for social distance learning.
7/13/2020 18:41:31	Kendall Sercombe	155 Old Farms Road	I urge you to remove the Tomahawks as the mascot for Glastonbury. Cultural appropriation is not the legacy we want our educational systems to have. This has gone on long enough.
7/13/2020 19:10:09	Mary Ann Barcikowski	62 Ledgewood Drive	No opinion at this time
7/13/2020 21:00:56	Carly Brownell	Former Glastonbury Resid	<p>I graduated from GHS in 2016 and I strongly support changing the GHS mascot away from the Tomahawks. Before moving to Glastonbury I lived in Shiprock, New Mexico on the Navajo Reservation. From a young age I was exposed to the horrific way that Indigenous people are treated by this country, and the damaging effects this has on their lives. I also have done extensive research on Indigenous rights issues. There are countless studies that prove how detrimental it is for Indigenous people, especially youth, to see their race and aspects of their culture depicted as caricatures and mascots. This is not "just a tool," this is a part of Indigenous culture that has been appropriated and used for profit, and it is harmful and racist. For a school district that claims to care about the growth and development of young people, they should absolutely care about this. It also impacts the opinions, perceptions, and biases that non-Indigenous youth internalize about Indigenous people - often only ever learning about them through history books and mascots. As long as this continues, Americans will struggle to see Indigenous people as full human beings.</p> <p>I love the petition that was written by Rebecca Pisarski, because I think she brings up an important point by saying that she felt embarrassed to wear her GHS sweatshirt in front of her Native American friend. I could not agree more. I have never purchased anything that included the Tomahawk logo. I would be humiliated to wear anything with that logo in Shiprock. I now work for a climate justice organization that supports Indigenous rights causes and has a large population of Indigenous employees from all over the world, and I would be horrified if any of my co-workers saw me wearing that logo. Glastonbury should want a mascot that makes people proud to show off, not ashamed.</p> <p>This is not an issue that only impacts Glastonbury, but GHS now has the chance to either be a leader in showing what justice can look like, or it can continue to promote harmful racist stereotypes about the people whose stolen land our school sits on.</p>
7/13/2020 22:18:43	Bette Pisarski	270 Overlook Road	Change tomahawks name

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/14/2020 9:42:24	Julia Dumaine	62 Loveland Street, Middl	<p>I am a former GHS graduate and lived in Glastonbury for my entire childhood. I support changing the GHS mascot. The memories I have associated with playing sports during high school are far outweighed by the disrespect and harm caused to the indigenous communities of Connecticut and their heritage. Perhaps it would be different if there were any kind of education provided to GHS students about the Nayaug tribe and the impact of colonization on their history in our school system. I cannot recall any significant discussion of indigenous Americans outside of the "story" of Thanksgiving in fifth grade and some discussion of Andrew Jackson and the Trail of Tears in our American History course.</p> <p>Considering there are only 2,945 (according to the Census Bureau) American Indian people in all of Hartford County, "Tomahawks" are not relevant to the heritage or culture of the vast majority of the student population in Glastonbury. There are numerous options for alternative mascots. If you want to keep it locally representatives, things like Rattlesnakes and Bobcats are good places to start. Please do not turn this discussion into a joke and recommend something like "The Apple Pickers" again either.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Julia Dumaine</p>
7/14/2020 9:51:42	Stella Maris Splettstoesse	145 Wood Pond Road	<p>Native Americans have been treated as less than human since America was discovered. Using a mascot that references a tool commonly associated with Native Americans is just as offensive and derogatory as names like Redskins, Chiefs, Indians, etc. They are all meant to mock Native Americans and belittle their culture. It does not matter that the Tomahawk is a tool used in multiple cultures, as it is closely associated with Native Americans. Chants such as the "Tomahawk chop" that reference the gruesome scalping of Native Americans have been banned at GHS, so why is this mascot still accepted? The Tomahawk mascot is an embarrassment to our town and should have been changed a very long time ago.</p>
7/14/2020 10:55:03	Anita Winters	145 Wood Pond Rd	<p>While some support maintaining the Tomahawk name because of the nostalgia it holds for them, and make the specious argument that it is merely a tool and not intended to demean Native Americans, the only opinions that require consideration are those of actual Native American people who have been caricatured for far too long. In response to the passing of a statewide law prohibiting Maine's public educational institutions from adopting "a name, symbol or image related to a Native American tribe, person, custom or tradition for use as a mascot, logo or team name," Maulian Dana, the tribal ambassador for the Penobscot Nation, said that it "sends a message of truth and honor and respect. It is part of a big picture of historical oppression of Indigenous people. When you see people as less than people, you treat them accordingly. That actually points to the very core of it, is that they make us invisible and turn us into stereotypes." The name needs to go.</p>
7/14/2020 11:42:13	alyson flanagan	1026 Mott Hill Road	<p>Please change the mascot. The Glastonbury Public School system claims to want to change their ways and address racism. By changing the mascot, it will be their first step in the right direction. Thank you.</p>
7/14/2020 12:14:28	Eli Carrillo	17 gayfeather Lane	<p>Please change the mascot. Having a native american tool as the mascot of a predominantly white school is not right. By changing the mascot, it will be a good way to address racism as the Glastonbury public school system claims they want to change. Thank you.</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/14/2020 12:28:35	Caroline Merritt	18 St Andrews	<p>Thank you Mr. Chairman and through you to the Board Members. My name is Caroline Merritt. I am a 2014 graduate of Glastonbury High School, and a lifelong resident of Glastonbury, CT. I feel extremely grateful to have been raised within the Glastonbury Public School (GPS) System for the entirety of my K-12 education. The exemplary public education I received in this town equipped me with a foundation to excel in higher education, as well as in the professional world. However, it is through the values I began to learn in the GPS system that I must provide testimony before you this evening in staunch opposition to preserving the Tomahawks mascot at Glastonbury High School.</p> <p>According to the American Psychological Association (APA), “the continued use of American Indian mascots, symbols, images, and personalities undermines the educational experiences of members of all communities - especially those who have had little or no contact with Indigenous peoples” (APA Resolution, 2011). This can be applied to our very own school district, where roughly seventy percent of students identify as White, and virtually no students identify as American Indian or Alaskan Native (CT Department of Education, School District Profile 2018-19). Not only that, but in turn, Native American youth in this country are more likely to experience mental health and suicide than their white counterparts (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2017). To trivialize these symbols for superficial gain is to trivialize the history of how our country was really founded, and further trivialize the existence, experiences and hardship of Indigenous Peoples, especially youth, to this very day.</p> <p>In regards to the petition that was created to uphold the Tomahawks mascot, although well-intended, psychological research overwhelmingly shows the negative impacts of these images on all students, disproportionately those whose very ancestors created the Tomahawk (Gettysburg College, Queequeg's Tomahawk: A Cultural Biography, 2005). When extrapolated out, the misuse of such symbols and imagery further permits more entitled, ignorant or discriminatory behaviors towards different groups of people to arise (APA Resolution, 2011).</p> <p>It is now time to shed the overt and covert racism and prejudice our town and its institutions are complicit in contributing to. Although this gesture of removing a mascot is a start to this work, it is certainly not the end. As we continue to educate current and future students of Glastonbury High School to become the next generation of leaders, it is imperative we also teach our students the depth and nuances of social justice issues, to further prepare them to positively impact our world. Schools are places of learning. Mascots such as the Tomahawks, and other stereotypical, misleading, and insulting images of Native Americans send the wrong message to all students at the greater expense of Native American youth. I am hopeful that Glastonbury will rise to be a leader among Connecticut school districts in this work, so that we all may share in pride of our schools more equitably. Thank you.</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
7/17/2020 8:36:32	Julia Dumaine	62 Loveland Street, Middl	<p>I am a former GHS graduate and lived in Glastonbury for my entire childhood. I support changing the GHS mascot. The memories I have associated with playing sports during high school are far outweighed by the disrespect and harm caused to the indigenous communities of Connecticut and their heritage. Perhaps it would be different if there were any kind of education provided to GHS students about the Nayaug tribe and the impact of colonization on their history in our school system. I cannot recall any significant discussion of indigenous Americans outside of the “story” of Thanksgiving in fifth grade and some discussion of Andrew Jackson and the Trail of Tears in our American History course.</p> <p>Considering there are only 2,945 (according to the Census Bureau) American Indian people in all of Hartford County, “Tomahawks” are not relevant to the heritage or culture of the vast majority of the student population in Glastonbury. There are numerous options for alternative mascots. If you want to keep it locally representatives, things like Rattlesnakes and Bobcats are good places to start. Please do not turn this discussion into a joke and recommend something like “The Apple Pickers” again either.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Julia Dumaine</p>
7/19/2020 1:35:16	Kara Rondinelli	49 Glazier Drive, South G	<p>The Tomahawk mascot is a prime example of culture appropriation and is not representative of the Town of Glastonbury. Firstly, I am a rising senior at Glastonbury High School and there is blatant racism among the students and teachers in my school. The Tomahawk, a symbol of Native American culture, should not be celebrated as the mascot for a school that doesn’t celebrate or respect Native American people, and even other minority groups. The argument that the Tomahawk is simply a “tradition” is not a valid reason to keep this mascot when this high school and town isn’t entirely tolerant of diversity. Just because something is tradition doesn’t mean it’s right. Secondly, the Tomahawk is not representative of this town. Although Native Americans are the root of Glastonbury’s origins, the current demographic of people in the high school and town consists of less than 1% Native Americans (to be exact 0.1% in the high school and 0.15% in Glastonbury). I understand that paying homage to Glastonbury’s past is important, for instance naming our elementary schools after the specific tribes that initially inhabited Glastonbury. However, the Tomahawk isn’t paying an homage to our past, it’s vague and doesn’t serve as a reminder of those original tribes because it’s simply a general object that is stereotypically associated with Native Americans. Even a local animal would suffice as a better mascot because the people that currently live in this town can identify with it. Yet, in the end, changing the mascot for Glastonbury High School is unimportant and pointless because it doesn’t change the fact that there is racism in this school and town. Most students couldn’t care less about what the mascot is, we want systemic change and equity for the students that are BIPOC.</p>

Dear Chairman Fogle

Please see attached my reasons for opposing the proposed mascot name change at GHS.

Hopefully there are still enough voices of reason left to recognize that the history of this nation of immigrants is noble, while imperfect. But the use of the word "Tomahawk" for a sports team does not fall into the latter category.

Please include the attached in any record of the discussions. Best Regards,

Robert DiNino



To: The Board of Education, Glastonbury CT
Re: Name Change, GHS Nickname

Don't change the GHS nickname from Tomahawks to something else just because it offends Rebecca Pisarski's sensibilities. A tomahawk is a Native American weapon. It is not, and never was intended to be a disrespectful reference to anyone. When fans do the "Tomahawk Chop" or mimic the war chant it is done to intimidate the opponent in a competition and as an expression of group fun; it is not meant to denigrate a people whom most of us have a high regard for - why else would we have incorporate so much Native American language, symbols and traditions into the main body of the greater, unique American culture?

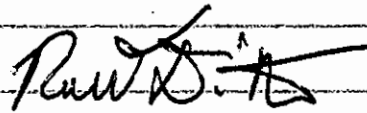
The Ms. Pisarskis of the world are forever searching our heritage looking for words, objects, symbols and writings that they find offensive. They puff them up with air, changing the shape and context of the original thing into a new, offensive form that fits their narrative of "injustice", then they ram that narrative down the collective throats of our society. The more they succeed, the more embedded they become.

Who appointed Ms. Pisanelli as Glendonburg's
moral compass, as a judge of all things
offensive? Make no mistake, this is a
stepping stone for her. If she succeeds here
she'll move on to the next self perceived symbol
of insensitivity: Slurbs, Mayans, all our names,
symbols, words and religious books. Line by
line she'll erase the uncomfortable pieces of
our history and heritage. There is plenty
of offense to find in a free society - and it
comes with the territory. A simple "No"
answer might slow her progress in reshaping
our world to fit her perspective.

Regarding "cultural appropriation", there is another
word for it: evolution. The Romans incorporated
the weapons and tactics of the peoples they
conquered: the Spanish short sword and
cavalry. The English language is filled with
common words taken from Latin, French, German,
Spanish, Japanese, Mandarin, Indian, African
and yes Native American peoples. We are a
nation of worldwide immigrants, that's how
we meld our cultures and evolve together. That's
a natural process - copying is the highest form
of flattery. Our culture is a beautiful, complicated
tapestry of all these peoples and cultures, good and
bad. The Ms. Pisanellis of the world come out
and bury the pieces of it that they don't
like, leaving us with a false, censored heritage.

Finally: "Any fool can spend money".
We have larger problems to concern ourselves
with. If Ms Pisarski wants to change
the name Tomahawk, let her raise
the funds to do it, propose it to
the Board of Ed. and pay for it all.
Please don't waste a dime of taxpayer
dollars on it.

Thank you, respectfully,



ROBERT DININO

115 WOOD POND RD

From: Kristy Notarangelo <knotarangelo@me.com>
Date: August 6, 2020 at 11:10:21 PM EDT
To: Julie Thompson <jt06033@gmail.com>
Subject: Committee

Hi Julie -

Hope you are doing OK during this disaster - I think we just all need 2020 to end at this point!

Here is what I have for the committee report:

I spoke with Brenda Geer, Vice chair of the tribal council. She reported that the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation does not take offense to the usage of the Tomahawk as a mascot for GHS. She encouraged education for the community, students and staff to educate them on Native America history and culture. She also offered to attend a zoom call and assist in the education process. I followed up with an email including my contact info.

I spoke with Kerry Greene, who I have known personally for several years. He submitted a statement for public comment (which we have on file) who is not offended by the mascot. I am part Native American, and as I have preciously indicate,,d I am not offended by the mascot. I have also spoke with 4 women from my pool club. I have not been there since we had our meeting Monday. I was hoping to see them this week, however due to the power outage, the club has not been open and I have been unable to contact them (other than one individual). I would only state their name of course with their permission. I have an email into one of the women, and I did ask her for her support. I have not as of this moment heard back from her. If I am able to obtain permission to use their names I will notify you and perhaps we can add an addendum prior to the BOE meeting.

That is all I have for now.


Thank you and stay safe,
Kristy

Sent from iCloud

Native American Opinions regarding “The Tomahawk”

- John Kane > Mohawk Tribal Member and host of the Internet’s #1 Indigenous Talk Show (Let’s Talk Native). Very informative gentleman. He said that the tomahawk is not just a benign object. It was used as a war club. But it is “their” symbol and not for us to use and is not who they are today. He also said this is an example of implicit racism when we use this object as a mascot. John also explained that the tomahawk is not about pride or peace. Because if it was, Glastonbury would have never used it as their mascot.
- David Weeden > Mashpee Wampanoug – Historic Preservation Officer. He also does not agree with the use of ANY Native American symbols or names being used as mascots. He admitted that yes the word, “Redskin” is worse than the name Tomahawk in regards to a mascot. However, the tomahawk is a weapon of war. And Native American people place a higher value in preserving a life over taking a life.
- Ralph Thompson > Mohegan and GHS graduate class of 1982. Mr.Thompson still lives in the area and has never felt comfortable with Glastonbury using the Tomahawk as their mascot.
- Ted Trujillo > Passamaquaddy Tribe (Maine). Currently living in Illinois and is trying to get two towns in that state (Morris and Minooka) to change their town mascots from the Redskins and the Indians. He said that Native people do not want the stereotype that is associated with a Native Warrior wielding a war club.
- Mike Markley > Seekonk Wampanoug – feels that it is not up to White people to decide if this is offensive. He admitted that he is half Irish and half Native. But he was raised by his Native mother. And feels that it depends on how you were raised not by how much Native blood you have running through you.
- Ian Record > Vice President Tribal Governance of the National Congress of American Indians. He sent me a personal email reiterating what he had sent to Nancy that ANY use of Native Mascots perpetuates stereotypes of warrior and savage myths. And just reinforces racist views that Indians are uncivilized.
- Brenda Geer > Vice Chair Eastern Pequit – just spoke with her today (8/3/20). She said that one of the Glastonbury Coaches reached out to her as well. She admitted that she is on the fence a little about this. But really feels that CT needs to do a better job with educating our kids about Native history and culture. And agrees that even a Tomahawk should not have a place as a school mascot, as it was a killing instrument.

- Lynn Malerba > Chief of Mohegan Tribe – very nice woman who was very informative. She confirmed that the tomahawk is a weapon of war and should NOT be used as a mascot. She went further to say that Native people have evolved, and the use of the tomahawk is putting them back in time as a warrior type of people.
- Brooke Waldron > Connecticut Indian Council Member and also a Seekonk Wampanoug and Narragansett Native American. She confirmed that although this is all coming to light now, this is NOT a new story when it comes to Native people not liking their culture being used for display as mascots. She also mentioned that the tomahawk is a weapon of war and is NOT a wood axe for cutting wood and doing domestic work. She does not understand why non-Native Americans have such a hard time giving up mascot names that are not part of their culture. She lastly said when it comes to mascots named after Native American culture, “they all need to go”.

From: Doug Foyle dougfoyle@cox.net 
Subject: Ad hoc committee report attached
Date: August 11, 2020 at 11:56 AM
To: Doug Foyle BOE dougfoyle@cox.net



Hi Everyone,

The ad hoc committee report from Julie is attached. It includes everything that was submitted. It will be attached to the Tomahawk agenda item for August 17.

As we said when we last discussed this at the Board, I let Chris at the Citizen know it will be on the agenda and GPS will be sending out an announcement to GHS students (look for it when the agenda is published). I also mentioned in my Chair report last night.

Thank you to everyone for their work on this. A special thanks to Julie who completed this without power, limited Internet, and getting her daughter down to school in Florida. Thank you!

Best wishes,
Doug

Bcc: Board, Bookman



ad hoc
commit....20.pdf

SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

August 17, 2020 7:00 PM

SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88987342186?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88987342186?pwd=c3UxMXpld21VZ1NuYTFVbnJhODI1dz09)

pwd=c3UxMXpld21VZ1NuYTFVbnJhODI1dz09

Passcode: 456321

Or Telephone:

+1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312

626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782

or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 889 8734 2186

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Special Reports**
 - a. Update Reopening Plan**
- 4. Business Requiring Action**
 - a. Approval of Glastonbury Public Schools Reopening Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year**
 - b. Approval of the Elimination of the Tomahawks Logo from Glastonbury Public Schools**
- 5. Reports and Discussion**
 - a. Glastonbury Education Foundation**
 - b. Magnet Schools**
- 6. Committee Reports**
- 7. Chairman's Report**
 - a. Public Comments**
- 8. Superintendent's Report**
 - a. Self Insurance July 2020**
 - b. Dates to Remember**
- 9. Adjournment**
 - a. Please note: It is possible that the Board of Education may go into Executive Session**

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee

The Committee was created by Board Chair Dr. Douglas Foyle and tasked with gathering the opinions of Native American individuals, groups, and tribal entities on the use of Tomahawks as a mascot or logo at Glastonbury High School. Julie Thompson served as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee and Board of Education members Kristy Notarangelo and David Peniston Jr. were members of the Committee with Dr. Foyle as ex-officio. The Committee first met on July 24th at 8am by Zoom meeting to create a central question and a list of individuals and organizations to contact.

The July 24 meeting was attended by Dr. Foyle, Julie Thompson, Kristy Notarangelo, David Peniston Jr., Rosemary Coggeshall, Allison Couture, Ray McFall, Dr. Alan Bookman and Dr. Nancy Bean. Dr. Bean reported that she has formed a committee of students who are Native American and sought their opinion about the use of the Tomahawk as a mascot. There are 19 students at GHS who identify as being Native American. About half of those students agreed to be on the committee. Some of the 19 students said that the Tomahawk mascot and logo did not offend them but many of the students said it was offensive and should be changed. Dr. Bean spoke of studies discussed by the group that indicate the harmful and negative stereotypes have a damaging impact of Native young people and their mental health. Finally, Dr. Bean stated that the student committee had spoken to Rochelle Ripley, a long-time Glastonbury resident and a Native American, who advocated for the end of the use of the tomahawk as the GHS mascot, stating that use of the tomahawk does not honor the original Native American inhabitants of Glastonbury, but perpetuates harmful and negative stereotypes of Native Americans as savages.

The Committee then discussed how they should go about seeking the opinion of Native Americans in Connecticut. There are two federally recognized Native American tribes in Connecticut, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and the Mohegan Tribe. There are three tribal entities recognized by the State of Connecticut. The Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, the Golden Hill ill Paugussetts and the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation. Julie, Kristy and Dave divided up this list with the task of contacting these tribal entities to ask for their opinion regarding the use of the Tomahawk as a mascot. Additionally, the Committee members each said that they would seek the opinions of Native American individuals who reside in Glastonbury or the surrounding areas.

The Committee agreed to meet again by Zoom on August 10 and report their findings. At the August 10 meeting, each member gave a summary of their findings and agreed to provide a written report of their conversations or emails. This is attached here to this report.

Julie Thompson reported that both she and Dr. Foyle had been contacted by the National Congress of American Indians. NCAI is an organization founded in the 1944 and representing over 500 tribes across the United States with the purpose of being the “unified voice of the tribal nations.”

NCAI has repeatedly stated that the “use of racist and derogatory “Indian” sports mascots, logos, or symbols, is harmful and perpetuates negative stereotypes of America’s first peoples. Specifically, rather than honoring Native peoples, these caricatures and stereotypes contribute to a disregard for the personhood of Native peoples.” NCAI has adopted two policies advocating for the end of the use of Native American imagery and logos, including the tomahawk, by schools and sports teams. The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Mohegan Tribe, the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation and the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation are all members of NCAI.

The American Psychological Association and The NAACP have passed resolutions calling for the end to all Native American mascots and imagery. The American Sociological Association has called for the discontinuation of Native American nicknames, logos and mascots in sports.

In January 2020, Mohegan Chief Lynn Malerba said the tribe believes it is time to end the use of American Indian mascots and team names. The Mohegan tribe released a statement as follows: “While the stated intent may be to ‘honor’ American Indians, there is a great potential for less than respectful behaviors to occur in conjunction with these mascots. Additionally, people should not be considered mascots. It is demeaning to be relegated to a stereotyping of a people. This should not be allowed to continue,” The statement was on behalf of the tribal council, elders council and medicine woman.

In 2020, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation released a statement. “Native Americans are not mascots, nor should our cultures be misappropriated as such. Race or ethnic-themed mascots or school nicknames perpetuate the stereotypes and racism that harm Native and non-Native students. [I]t implies Native people are of the past as if we’re artifacts - something that’s extinct. For centuries, our ancestors strived to assert their identity, protect our culture and maintain our existence, and we want people to know that we are alive and well, and continue to be an essential part of American society.”

Julie contacted Rochelle Ripley and asked her for a letter stating her position on the use of the tomahawk logo. That letter is attached.

Julie contacted Gary O’Neill, a resident of East Hampton and a direct descendant and tribal elder of the Wangunk people. The Native American people who originally resided in Glastonbury area were the Wangunk people. Mr. O’Neill spoke at length about his objection to the use of the tomahawk as a logo or mascot for any sports team. He stated that the use of the tomahawk does not honor the original inhabitants of the area but perpetuates negative stereotypes instead. The European colonial settlers erased much of the history of the Native Americans of the area and the Town and the schools should find a different, better way to honor the Wangunk people, including educating residents about the Wangunk culture. He stated that “language is a symbol of attitude” and it is the responsibility of the current residents of Glastonbury to rise above past actions and attitudes and find “room at the table for everybody” including Native Americans. He urged the Board of Education to vote to

discontinue the use of the tomahawk as a logo and mascot and offered to attend any meeting of the Board or of GHS students to discuss this further.

Kristy Notarangelo reported as follows:

I spoke with Brenda Geer, Vice chair of the tribal council. She reported that the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation does not take offense to the usage of the Tomahawk as a mascot for GHS. She encouraged education for the community, students and staff to educate them on Native America history and culture. She also offered to attend a zoom call and assist in the education process. I followed up with an email including my contact info.

I spoke with Kerry Greene, who I have known personally for several years. He submitted a statement for public comment (which we have on file) who is not offended by the mascot. I am part Native American, and as I have preciously indicated I am not offended by the mascot. I have also spoke with 4 [Native American] women [from Town]. Due to the power outage, I have been unable to contact them (other than one individual). I am requesting their permission before I state their names. Kristy stated at the August 10 meeting that each of these women had said they were not offended by the use of the tomahawk as a mascot.

David Peniston, Jr. reported as follows:

Native American Opinions regarding “The Tomahawk”

- John Kane > Mohawk Tribal Member and host of the Internet’s #1 Indigenous Talk Show (Let’s Talk Native). Very informative gentleman. He said that the tomahawk is not just a benign object. It was used as a war club. But it is “their” symbol and not for us to use and is not who they are today. He also said this is an example of implicit racism when we use this object as a mascot. John also explained that the tomahawk is not about pride or peace. Because if it was, Glastonbury would have never used it as their mascot.
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- Mike Markley > Seekonk Wampanoug – feels that it is not up to White people to decide if this offensive. He admitted that he is half Irish and half Native. But he was raised by his Native mother. And feels that it depends on how you were raised not by how much Native blood you have running through you.
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- Brenda Geer > Vice Chair Eastern Pequit – just spoke with her today (8/3/20). She said that one of the Glastonbury Coaches reached out to her as well. She admitted that she is on the fence a little about this. But really feels that CT needs to do a better job with educating our kids about Native history and culture. And agrees that even a Tomahawk should not have a place as a school mascot, as it was a killing instrument.
- Lynn Malerba > Chief of Mohegan Tribe – very nice woman who was very informative. She confirmed that the tomahawk is a weapon of war and should NOT be used as a mascot. She went further to say that Native people have evolved, and the use of the tomahawk is putting them back in time as a warrior type of people. She sent an email stating: “Despite this long history, it is the position of the Mohegan Tribe that the use of American Indian mascots and American Indian named teams be discontinued. While the stated intent may be to “honor” American Indians, there is a great potential for less than respectful behaviors to occur in conjunction with these mascots. Additionally, people should not be considered mascots. It is demeaning to be relegated to a stereotyping of a people. This should not be allowed to continue. It is a bit ironic that during the formulation of the United States, native people were forced to assimilate, not allowed to practice their traditional dress or way of life and yet cultural appropriation continues to occur with regard to sports teams and their mascots.”
- Brooke Waldron > Connecticut Indian Council Member and also a Seekonk Wampanoug and Narragansett Native American. She confirmed that although this is all coming to light now, this is NOT a new story when it comes to Native people not liking their culture being used for display as mascots. She also mentioned that the tomahawk is a weapon of war and is NOT a wood axe for cutting wood and doing domestic work. She does not understand why non-Native Americans have such a hard time giving up mascot names that are not part of their culture. She lastly said when it comes to mascots named after Native American culture, “they all need to go”.



hawkwing inc.

To: The Glastonbury Board of Education
From: Rochelle Y. Ripley, President and Founder of hawkwing, Inc.
Date: July 31, 2020
RE: The Tomahawk Mascot

I am writing to share with you my opinion regarding the discussion of the Glastonbury School Mascot the “Tomahawks”. It is the Native way to introduce yourself to people so they know who you are. I was born in New York City, the daughter of a Jewish Mother (grandparents were immigrant Orthodox Jews from Lithuania and Austria) and a Native American Father (Lakota/Sioux and Irish/German). I am the descendent of two cultures which were targets of genocide and racial discrimination. I was fortunate to have a diverse heritage which allows me to have a broad understanding of the richness of and the conflicts toward people. I am a 50 year resident of Glastonbury and my two children attended Glastonbury schools in the 1970s and 80s. One of my grandchildren also briefly attended Hebron Avenue School. I spent summers through my younger years learning from my Lakota/Sioux Grandmother and made a promise to her when I was 5 years old to “go home and help the People when I grew up.” Twenty years ago I founded hawkwing, Inc. based in Glastonbury to help my tribe in South Dakota, the Cheyenne River Lakota/Sioux Tribe, which is the poorest place in America by US Census (2000 and 2010). I am blessed to have widespread support for hawkwing in Glastonbury as well as throughout Connecticut and the Nation. In the ensuing 20 years, we have delivered over \$18 million in help to the Tribe and had over 150 people join us on the Reservation to provide services including medical/dental clinics, a holiday Give Away for the children each year, home repairs for Elders, educational support and by operating the Tribal Food Pantry. More information can be found at www.hawkwing.org. The Tribe named me Wawokiye Winyan: Woman Who Helps the People. In 2015, I was selected as a Top Ten CNN Hero.

In addition to the humanitarian work of hawkwing, we provide education and advocacy programs to bring the reality of Native America today to the broader American culture. Little is taught about Native Americans and, what is, minimizes us as a people. Information is often inaccurate and mostly ignores the Native voice. We are mainly absent from the media so that the picture of today’s Native World is not portrayed respectfully nor accurately. There are two attachments to this letter which express the official stand of the National Council of the American Indian (NCAI) mascots.

hawkwing inc, 306 Cavan Lane, Glastonbury, CT 06033 | 860-633-8933 or 860-402-1064 |
rochelle@hawkwing.org | www.hawkwing.org | Rochelle Ripley, President & Founder

Let me add my personal thoughts. The NCAI mentions “harmful” images. So you may be thinking what is “harmful” about a tomahawk? Native People were a diverse group of cultures in the Americas - hunters/gatherers; sheep herders; fishermen; farmers; crafts people and defenders. But the image of Natives is as warlike and savage. The US Declaration of Independence calls us “murderous Indian savages.” Yes the Declaration of Independence. We were not even citizens of this government until 1924 and had no religious rights until 1978 despite the US Constitution. Anything that promotes the image of warlike savages is unacceptable. The NCAI statement explains that the pejorative “redsk*n” term emerged from the government paying bounties for killing Indian men, women and children, so long as their “bloody red sk*n” was brought in as proof of the death. Some people have stated that the tomahawk was used as a spiritual object. Most Native Tribes kept their spiritual practices private as it was illegal to practice their faith. While I am not a New England Native, I have serious doubts about this. But even assuming this to be true, what right would a non-native group/school have to display someone else’s sacred object for high school sports?

Native Americans have the highest rate of suicide in the country - mostly among our youth. We also have the highest rates of poverty and unemployment. According to Department of Justice analysis, “American Indians are more likely than people of other races to experience violence at the hands of someone of a different race.” Opportunities are few - higher education is mostly out of reach. Education funding is the lowest one percent of all schools. Ironically, the current epidemic caused a foundation to provide internet and chrome books for our students, for most their first opportunity for technology. When images demean or distort the Native image, such as warlike; the children think even less of themselves. Icons in the broader American culture, such as Columbus, are honored despite the reality of their true history of genocide, rape and slavery of Indigenous People. Hollywood images, books and newspapers both past and present, depict Natives as riding horses, wearing buckskin and shooting guns. L. Frank Baum, the author of the Wizard of Oz, was also the Editor of the Aberdeen (South Dakota) newspaper. After the Massacre at Wounded Knee, he called for the elimination of all these “worthless” Indians calling it a “good start.” At Wounded Knee, nearly 400 unarmed Elders, woman and children were slaughtered by the Seventh Calvary after which 27 of these men received the Congressional Medal of Honor. I was taught in middle and high school that 1890 was the end of the American Frontier. When I learned from my relatives that this meant that the “Indians” were finally gone, I was so sad. I am related to those who lost their lives at Wounded Knee. This is not how our children should have to view themselves.

I often hear that “we are just honoring the Natives.” I am speaking clearly- this is NOT an honoring. It is cultural appropriation. How can this be an “honoring” when the original peoples of Glastonbury were slaughtered by those who stole their land and on which we live today? We know little about the Nayaug Indians today as they were erased by the incoming European cultures. We cannot speak for them. As Indigenous relations, we stand in their place. There are no other cultures in America who are “honored” like this. And that is the reason I am stating that if the people being portrayed tell you this is not an honoring, please respect that. Unfortunately there are no Nayaug Indians in Glastonbury today to speak for themselves. This is historical reality. Take the time with the community to brainstorm what is a symbol that represents Glastonbury. It would be a great exercise. Pilamaya ~ Thank you ~ Rochelle Ripley

ATTACHMENTS

NCAI's Long Standing Opposition to Harmful "Indian" Sports Mascots

As the nation's oldest, largest, and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native advocacy organization, NCAI has long held a clear position against derogatory and harmful stereotypes of Native people—including sports mascots—in media and popular culture. In 1968 NCAI launched a campaign to address stereotypes of Native people in popular culture and media, as well as in sports. Since this effort began, there has been a great deal of progress made and support to end the era of harmful "Indian" mascots in sports.

NCAI's position is clear, longstanding, and deeply rooted in our seventy years as a leading voice for Indian Country - we advocate for and protect the civil rights, social justice, and racial equity of all Native people in all parts of American society.

About "Indian" Sports Mascots & Harm

Born in an era when racism and bigotry were accepted by the dominant culture, "Indian" sports brands have grown to become multi-million dollar franchises. The intolerance and harm promoted by these "Indian" sports mascots, logos, or symbols, have very real consequences for Native people.

Specifically, rather than honoring Native peoples, these caricatures and stereotypes are harmful, perpetuate negative stereotypes of America's first peoples, and contribute to a disregard for the personhood of Native peoples.

As documented in a comprehensive review of decades of social science research, derogatory "Indian" sports mascots have serious psychological, social and cultural consequences for Native Americans, especially Native youth. Of today's American Indian and Alaska Native population, those under the age of 18 make up 32 percent, and Native youth under the age of 24 represent nearly half, or 42 percent, of the entire Native population.

Most concerning in considering negative stereotypes of Native people, are the alarmingly high rates of hate crimes against Native people. According to Department of Justice analysis, "American Indians are more likely than people of other races to experience violence at the hands of someone of a different race."

These factors together indicate a very real need to take immediate action in a number of areas, including the removal of harmful images as well as the education of the general public, to diffuse additional hateful activity against Native peoples.

Over the last fifty years, a ground swell of support has mounted to end the era of racist and harmful "Indian" mascots in sports and popular culture. Today, that support is stronger than ever. Hundreds of tribal nations, national and regional tribal organizations, civil rights organizations, school boards, sports teams, sports and media personalities, and individuals have called for the end to harmful "Indian" mascots.

Rooted in the civil rights movement, the quest for racial equality among American Indian and Alaska Native people began well before NCAI established a campaign in 1968 to bring an end to negative and harmful stereotypes in the media and popular culture, including in sports.

As a result there has been significant progress at the professional, collegiate, and high school levels to change once accepted race based marketing practices. Since 1963, no professional teams have established new mascots that use racial stereotypes in their names and imagery. In 2005, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) established an extensive policy to remove harmful “Indian” 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.

(Example) The NFL's Washington football team name “Redsk*ns” is a dictionary defined racial slur. The slur's origin is rooted in government bounty announcements calling for the bloody scalps of Native Americans in the 1800's. From the early 1900's up until today, the term has been carried on as a racial slur in popular culture. For much of the 20th century the term was used interchangeably in movies and books with the word "savage" to portray a misleading and denigrating image of the Native American.

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians

Resolution #TUL-05-087

TITLE: Support for NCAA Ban on “Indian” Mascots

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the use of “Native American” sports mascots, logos, or symbols

perpetuates stereotypes of American Indians that are very harmful. The “warrior savage” myth has plagued this country’s relationships with the Indian people, as it reinforces the racist view that Indians are uncivilized and uneducated and it has been used to justify policies of forced assimilation and destruction of Indian culture; and **WHEREAS**, sports teams with “Indian” logos represent Native Americans as archaic stereotypes when Native Americans are members of and contributors to contemporary society, and two-thirds or over 2,000 of such “Indian” references in sports have been eliminated during the past 35 years. The stereotypes of uneducated warrior savages cause employers to discriminate against American Indians who are seeking jobs in fields that require education and sophistication; and

WHEREAS, NCAI also understands that Indian tribes, universities and sports teams can work together in ways that are respectful of tribal culture and ensure that Indian imagery is utilized in an honorable manner and NCAI respects the right of tribal councils to make their own decisions regarding their relationships with school district and university sports teams; and

WHEREAS, some tribes enjoy a positive relationship with local universities, having experienced many years of fruitful endeavors meant to bring about progress for tribal members, with universities who demonstrate their commitment to serve the Indian community through scholarships, grants, academic curriculums, etc., and seek out cooperation with the tribes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby oppose the use of racist and demeaning “Indian” sports mascots and strongly supports the National Collegiate Athletic Association ban on “hostile or offensive” mascots in postseason NCAA activities. NCAI supports a complete ban on the use of offensive and derogatory “Indian” mascots in all sports arenas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI acknowledges that tribes, schools and sports teams can work together in ways that are respectful of tribal culture and respects the right of each tribe and tribal community to decide for itself how best to protect and celebrate its heritage and make their own decisions regarding their relationships with school and university

sports teams; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that absent specific approval or consent from the relevant tribal council(s), that the NCAI will continue to oppose the use of any “Indian” sports mascot; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI reiterates its support of and commitment to the Native position in the ongoing litigation, Harjo et al v. Pro Football, Inc., and reiterates its support of and commitment to all prior NCAI resolutions on the subject of “Native” references in sports; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

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CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2005 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the 62nd Annual Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma on November 4, 2005 with a quorum present.

Joe Garcia, President

ATTEST:

Juana Majel, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2005 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians held from October 30, 2005 to November 4, 2005 at the Convention Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
8/13/2020 13:37:04	Jennifer Gifford	31 Buttonball Lane	<p>I strongly hope that the BOE will eliminate the Tomahawks name and logo. The current logo does not honor Native people; rather it's a symbol that is harmful as it perpetuates negative stereotypes if Native Americans. Continuing to use this logo contributes to a disregard for the personhood of Native Americans. I am a graduate of GHS Class of 1993 and thought the logo was silly then but didn't understand it's harmful implications. Now that I'm a parent of three GPS students, I can't shrug off the notion that we are teaching our kids that it's okay to continue to use a symbol that demeans a group of people, and that may be perceived as a weapon. While certainly the object can be used for benign purposes, in addition to its association with Native Americans, the term has multiple meanings that relate to weapons used by military forces (Tomahawk missiles; hatchets used by Navy Seals, etc.). Please replace the logo with a symbol that is more closely aligned with the values of our school system and the wishes of its current students and recent graduates who have requested this change. I have always appreciated that this school district teaches great critical thinking skills and I am confident that our community can come up with a better name and logo to represent the high quality and strong spirit of our sports team.</p>
8/13/2020 13:46:35	Allison Martinez	398 Tall Timbers Rd	<p>With regard to changing the Tomahawk mascot at GHS, it is unnecessary. It is not a symbol of hate or disrespect. It is not cultural appropriation, if anything it is appreciation. It symbolizes strength, team pride, and tribal unity as a student body. The students do not employ caricatures or inappropriate chants when utilizing it. I don't think the students at GHS view the Tomahawk mascot as a negative representation of Native American tribes. Rather, the students are proud to associate themselves with the roots of this country. What did the Native American GHS students have to say on this issue? Did they mind?</p> <p>But more than anything, this decision should go directly to the students. To have the BOE decide and then pass down a decree amounts to spoon-feeding. We expect these students to function as adults but then we do not let them think about and act on this decision themselves? Give the issue to the student body as a vote. Then if THEY vote for a change, proceed from there. These students are smart, free-thinking individuals. By deciding for them it becomes "we know better than you", rather than "let's all think about this and decide together." Thank you.</p>
8/13/2020 14:42:28	Stephanie Johnson	50 Smithbrook Terrace	<p>Please consider keeping the Tomahawk logo for Glastonbury High School. The logo does not encourage violence nor does it explicitly discriminate against Native Americans. One must make several assumptions and inferences to conclude that this logo is derogatory. Anyone could make similar conclusions about any type of dog mascot. (ie., There have been dog attacks on people, therefore they are threatening to humans therefore the logo stands for advocating human harm, OR puppy mills or dog racing or dog fighting is a real issue plaguing our days and as we use the dog mascot we are advocating for and allowing this type of behavior to continue.) If this makes you laugh or roll your eyes then you now understand how many people in town feel about this current debate. We should not be cancelling parts of our culture and history even with the blemishes (both large and small) that history may contain just because we find that history offensive to our current popular opinion. Here is an opportunity to share and educate instead of trying to remove and erase our past.</p> <p>Moving forward with the elimination of the logo will lead to a slippery slope with no end to abating the vicious cycle of being politically correct.</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
8/13/2020 15:00:03	Miles Ingram	61 Boulder Circle, Glastonbury	I'm writing to encourage a thoughtful discussion of the tomahawks name and mascot that focuses on listening, and does not devolve into partisan, knee-jerk reactions. We have more than enough of that these days. As a white man, I am not as interested in the opinions of my white neighbors as I am in the opinions of anyone from town with Native American ancestry. I am not personally aware of negative or derogatory connotations for the word tomahawks, but I can count on one hand the number of Native Americans I know personally--so I have little basis to judge, and I would hope others with little direct experience would similarly reserve judgment. If there are Native Americans in our community, or elsewhere, who see the term as inappropriate or offensive, then their concerns should be given full consideration, and perhaps we need a new mascot. If Native Americans in our community support the term--let's keep it. If there are few or no Native Americans expressing a position at today's meeting, then maybe that should tell us something about the perspectives we hear and don't hear in our community, something that goes deeper than what our mascot's name is. -Miles Ingram
8/13/2020 15:34:51	Mike Bagot	1 mill St	So you said that there is 19 students that are Native American in GHS and you met with about half of them then you say some didn't find it offensive but "many" did. Also anything that you change the "logo" to will be offensive to someone so you might as well leave it as Glastonbury "insert sport" team. All I know is I hope you guys have enjoyed your time on the board because it's about to come to end when the town votes all of you out. Have a great day Go Tomahawks
8/13/2020 16:57:56	Chris Bowman	21 Rolling Hills Drive	Tomahawk pride ! There is nothing whatsoever that is offensive about the name Tomahawks. This is absolutely ridiculous there's actually gonna be time wasted on this. I was Class of "84" and one of the greatest pride factors while playing football and baseball was being referred to as The Glastonbury Tomahawks !! Bookman and Principal will go down in Gbury history as a laughing stock along with the rest of this crazy year. The players will be ridiculed for years as having a spineless town. Some of you people are amazing and I'll leave it at that. Every person I've talked to, at least a hundred are in favor of keeping the name and think it's ridiculous there's even a forum to change it. Not even one single person thought it was offensive in the least. One small minded former student who wants her 5 minutes created this ridiculous controversy, you should be ashamed this topic is even on the docket ! Hail to the Tomahawks !! State Champions !
8/14/2020 11:29:23	Melissa Bouchard Cafazz	811 Manchester Rd	It seems to me the the Board of EDUCATION should use the Tomahawk symbol to promote positive aspects of the Native North American heritage and deter representation of the Tomahawk that would be demeaning to Native American cultures that run thick in our history. It seems to me the the BOE could use this as a teachable moment but instead just want to erase history. I am part Native American- my family and I are not offended by the symbol. We are more offended that our history is being erased.

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
8/14/2020 17:17:34	Christine O'Hare	125 Farmstead Lane	<p>In my opinion the administration at GHS is trying to take advantage of a highly political and stressful time to push through the mascot change.... a change they admitted they have already started without an official vote. Students (aside from a few on the executive board of student council), town athletes, and the community have not been included in this process...and do not have the ability to speak publicly at BOE meetings. The executive order that allows public meetings to proceed online due to Covid was meant for critical decisions that need to be made in order to proceed with town/school matters. This topic, in my opinion, is not critical. What IS critical is opening our school in a safe way. The BOE should have all of it's attention on the school opening and this item should be tabled....allowing time to survey the whole student body and to consider putting this question to a town referendum.</p> <p>Many of us are asking only for a fair process that considers the whole GHS student body, the athletes in our town, and the community. This involves tabling the agenda item until public meetings can occur... with in person public comment. And the ability to spend time talking with local Native American tribes (who have expressed mixed opinions on this so far).</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration on this. Showing that the BOE cares about the majority opinion in town would go a long way in helping all of us gain confidence in all the decisions being made by the BOE.</p>
8/15/2020 8:34:52	Christine O'Hare	125 Farmstead Lane	<p>Please consider how West Hartford dealt this this 5 years ago. It was a very open, thoughtful, and inclusive process.</p> <p>It was a process that took almost 1 year and included outreach and input.</p> <p>It was not like the GHS process that ignored any public outreach to gather input, and placed it on an agenda during a pandemic and when public comment it not allowed at meetings. Hundreds of people showed up at WH meetings during this decision and were allowed to have their voices heard... from both sides. The same would have happened in normal times in Glastonbury.</p> <p>Students (except a couple), coaches, staff, and the general community were never included in this conversation.</p> <p>Allowing this to pass, without due process and during a time when the public can not voice their positions, only supports the growing feeling in much of the community that the admin and the BOE do not care about what the majority of the citizens want.</p> <p>One of many articles you can find online about the inclusive and thoughtful process WH followed in 2015. And it should be noted they decided to keep the name and eliminate the images and symbols. This should be an option discussed.</p> <p>https://we-ha.com/board-to-propose-policy-tuesday-on-high-school-mascots-and-names/</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
8/15/2020 13:57:29	David Fite	161 South Huntington Ave	<p>RE: MASCOT -</p> <p>I was a varsity athlete multiple years in track and field (indoor & outdoor) and was a captain my senior year. I ran with some of the best athletes GHS has ever produced. I went to countless GHS sporting events, they are some of my first memories. The Tomahawk mascot meant a lot to me.</p> <p>The nastiness I observed from several mascot supporters recently is disappointing. One person on my graduating class's Facebook group went onto a profanity laced tirade in which he directly compared this nickname to the Washington Redskins, talked about how the "Neanderthal population" used Tomahawks, and other things I'd rather not repeat. He then encouraged me to bring this to your attention. These comments were liked by other people who want to keep the mascot. I have observed this group of people take several other positions related to racial justice which I have come to consider racist.</p> <p>I stopped wearing all my GHS athletics stuff in early 2016. It was not an easy decision. Although the school does not feature the Tomahawk logo anymore, team parents continued with clothing drives that featured it. It was this clothing that I stopped wearing. High School Athletics media such as MaxPreps also continue perpetuating the old logo. Glastonbury Athletics can't fully control the distribution of this image until they change the nickname itself.</p> <p>Those who support the logo have not been honest about its intention. The old logo depicts a Tomahawk illustrated in a way which indicates use by Native Tribes. In the petition to keep the mascot, the girl who wrote it claims a Tomahawk can be purchased at a hardware store. Hardware stores do not sell Tomahawks that have decorations on the handle. Those are only sold by Native Tribes. Many racist chants and gestures such as "the chop" and appropriating of headdresses, have occurred at GHS over the years including while I was there in the mid 2000's. If the Tomahawk is "just a tool," why did our students consistently associate it with Native Americans for decades?</p> <p>This is a PR disaster waiting to happen, for a majority white school to have a faction of mostly white alum and students behaving this way is an image problem in and of itself. If something like this got major media attention like in Killingly, it would damage Glastonbury's reputation. I trust that as professionals you will prevent that occurring instead of reacting after the fact. I trust you will fulfill your duties as you always have: preserving and furthering Glastonbury Schools as a publicly held asset in which, by definition, all in town must feel welcome. I encourage you to honor the findings of the report on this issue and the majority of Native American residents who find this logo offensive.</p>
8/15/2020 14:35:31	Patricia Sivo Cole	109 Littel Acres Road	<p>it is time to move on from a symbol of war from a native community as a mascot regardless of whether or not native people are upset or not. It is not a respectful and there is really no connection to our suburban town. There will always be people opposed to change and counting noses should not be the sole reason our representatives should be making decisions, but doing the right thing for the next generation of kids coming through. They deserve a mascot that is above controversy and the adults in town can learn to adapt.</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
8/16/2020 9:22:21	Christopher Haaf	39 Strickland St	<p>Phasing out the Tomahawks Logo prior to formal discussions and Vote</p> <p>Certain Board member (and high school principle Nancy Bean) openly admitted to past unilateral decisions to systematically eliminate the Tomahawks Mascot and Logo without formal vote, approval and/or authorization. To hear this from our principal and elected officials was shocking. It appeared to be a point of pride, worthy of bragging during a recorded Board of Education meeting. Their admission of these actions flew in the face of every Voter, Parent, Teacher, and Student who would like the Logo to remain. Will the Board of Education be taking steps to officially censure those individuals to ensure that similar offences are not perpetrated in the future?</p>
8/16/2020 9:22:49	sandy cassanelli	44 Hanover Field Rd	<p>A survey was sent out to all parents about return to school. 90% of high school parents said we would return to school. My question/comment is why are we not returning to school all day everyday? We are the tax payers. I think 90% is clearly the majority! Governor Lamont & his staff are encouraging all districts to open all day everyday. Our state is one of the safest in the nation.</p> <p>Also we should be wasting time with changing the logo of Glastonbury High School. The BOE should focus on getting our schools open everyday all day. The changing of the tomahawk should be on the November 3 ballot so the people of Glastonbury can decide not the BOE</p>
8/16/2020 10:00:08	Mary Damato	232 Dayton Rs	<p>Why is the BOE voting on the tomahawks name change? Shouldn't this be added to the ballot on November 3rd?</p> <p>Practicing outside of your scope-</p>
8/16/2020 10:02:57	Christopher Haaf	39 Strickland Street	<p>Alan Bookmans 2% raise to his Retirement fund</p> <p>Alan Bookman has made positive contributions to the Glastonbury schools. If that wasn't true, there wouldn't be so many political awards and Glastonbury taxes wouldn't be so high. The recent renegotiation of Alan Bookmans contract came at a time when most parents and taxpayers are struggling economically. In addition, parents are struggling with the negative impact of e-learning and partial school openings. The threat and specter of "Plan C" is always on their minds. It would speak volumes if this increase was reversed and all contracts frozen until all students go back to school full time. It would help to secure Alan Bookman's legacy as an extraordinary educator ... and not as someone tied to something so ordinary as Money. In addition, It's a good political move to help to re-build confidence in the Glastonbury Board of Education.</p>
8/16/2020 10:20:49	Katrin Ryan	73 Somerset Road	<p>No one is thinking of the EDUCATION of the student. Only fear. Allowing 6-12th graders to elearn remotely consistently is insanity. If both parents work, you think 6-12th graders will stay on task home alone? Or are you assuming parents quit their jobs to monitor this? You can't fix this issue unless they are in-person and have accountability. They are NOT mature enough yet. These are the basics of learning and it is being overlooked. This will be a lost generation. Take everything away from these kids all out of fear (mascot, sports, real education, mental health, socialization, learning from peers). You will see the end result is a disaster. All for what? Fear. Let the parent choose the education and mental health of their student. If you can't find teachers to BE ESSENTIAL WORKERS find those who will. Every other industry has. Please consider opening in-person education full-time. You didn't even try it. And where's your real data to support your blind decisions? I see fear only.</p>
8/16/2020 10:21:23	Michele Smith	256 Naubuc Avenue	<p>What is the phase in plan to get students back to school full-time in person? I also don't think GHS students should be charged for parking during the reduced in person school schedule. They paid 100.00 per person last year and lost three months.</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
8/16/2020 10:21:30	Christopher Haaf	39 Strickland St	<p>Timing of the Tomahawks vote</p> <p>The timing of the Tomahawks vote is curious. It has no direct impact to the Corona issue. And, Its parents understanding that these closed sessions would focus just on school reopening. Ray McFall's comments that we have more important matters to attend to (i.e. safe school opening) resonated loudly with parents. There are many examples that can be sited of other schools taking their time to get this right. I strongly encourage that Board table the Tomahawks item until schools are fully reopened, and there has been time to gather more information. In addition, the Board is developing a reputation for ignoring petitions and surveys. I would encourage that the petition be given more weight as the number of signature (and awareness) continues to increase.</p>
8/16/2020 10:55:58	Christopher Haaf	39 Strickland Street	<p>\$100 Student Parking</p> <p>Per Page 44 of the student handbook: There will be a lottery and students will pay \$100 for parking 5 school days a week. Would it be safe to assume that until school opens back up full time, that the fee will be waived?</p>
8/16/2020 11:18:03	Danielle Haaf	39 Strickland Street	<p>Per page 44 of the Ghs handbook, student driving passes are \$100 for the year, since this year kids and parents are being urged to transport themselves/their children will the fee be waived? Also, are their enough parking spaces at GHS to accommodate for ALL students of age who wish to drive?</p>
8/16/2020 11:24:29	Christopher Haaf	39 Strickland Street	<p>Question for Kristy Notarangelo</p> <p>When opposition is heard, the narrative is almost always something to the effect "why should non Native Americans decided"? As the only board member with Native American Ancestry (Shawnee Tribe), how does it make you feel that the non-native American board members do not give weight to your input on the Tomahawk matter? But then give weight to opinions of people that are not our local representatives, and are not even located in our local community?</p>
8/16/2020 11:42:46	Danielle haaf	39 Strickland Street	<p>It is my belief the question concerning whether we keep the Tomahawks name & logo should be handled via referendum or at least tabled until schools are open 5 days a week.</p>
8/16/2020 12:15:46	Matt Sheehan	GHS Class of 2001	<p>I applaud and appreciate your research into the Tomahawks matter, and thank Dr. Foyle, Ms. Thompson, and Mr. Peniston for their initiative. I understand the opposition to the Tomahawks mascot is by no means universal and absolute; however, I also believe that there is more than enough reason for the BOE to vote tonight to eliminate the Tomahawks. "Tradition" is never a good reason to stand by any decision. I know other towns in your area have recently eliminated their Native American mascots (i.e. RHAM/Region 8), and turned them into great community-building experiences for their current students.</p>
8/16/2020 12:23:22	Susan Sokoloski	9 Blueberry Lane, South C	<p>I have read the report of the ad hoc committee put together to study whether or not to change GHS's mascot from the "Tomahawks." The preponderance of native Americans were in favor of this change, with good reasons. I support the idea of changing our high school's mascot at this time.</p>
8/16/2020 14:49:41	Brendan Cumming	28 little acres road	<p>The rhetoric on this topic is exactly why D&I teachings need to happen in corporate, private company, public entity & education systems. the majority's might not get or doesn't care to hear the minority voice..... systematic, it's real.</p>
8/16/2020 15:31:15	Jill Kehl	39 Cranesbill Drive	<p>Why are we discussing the elimination if the Tomahawks mascot name when there is not a full plan in place to get our kids back to school full time and with sports? Furthermore, this decision should be based on pubic and tax payor opinion and not the sole discretion of the BOE.</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
8/16/2020 21:44:22	Cynthia D. Walls	31 Checkerberry Lane, G	I want to congratulate the Board of Education on your thorough investigation of Native American opinions regarding the tomahawk mascot at GHS. It is obvious that the vast majority of Native Americans find the use of the tomahawk image to be offensive, racist, and perpetuates negative stereotypes. Glastonbury should not be promoting racist images. Please vote to eliminate the tomahawk logo. Thank you.
8/16/2020 22:04:52	Laura Hancock	255 Weir street	Please do the right thing by tabling the decision on replacing the Tomahawk mascot. I personally have never even considered the idea that the Tomahawk was at all offensive. However, based on the fact that this topic is on the agenda it has made me think twice. I still have yet to find any substantial evidence that it is offensive but it has made me want to truly research this topic and learn more about CT's Native American history. If after a thorough study it is deemed that it is truly offensive to the Native people then it should be replaced. It should not however be replaced without a thorough study that has had time to be discussed and dissected. If the BOE chooses to replace the mascot without thoughtful discussion then abuse of power and just overall lack of consideration is no longer a perception but a sad reality and there will always be a shadow cast on the entire process. Why would waiting a few months to discuss be so bad? Is it because the BOE members who have already made up their minds know it will be more difficult to pass with a public group present? Don't abuse your Covid power! Your purpose and focus should be solely on the safe reopening of schools and getting the 6-12 kids back in school full time. The fact that you are even wasting your time reading this message about a mascot actually makes me angry! Table this discussion and get my kids in school full time in a safe manner. Thank you.

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
8/17/2020 0:00:45	Jennifer Jennings	34 Cranesbill Drive	<p>Children will not learn about the world around them through a screen or even a cubicle. This disruption in education will not just affect their ability to learn new things, but also how they interact with others and how language and social skills develop. The deprivations are wide spread and unknown... more unknown than the virus itself.</p> <p>What I find most frustrating is that this deprivation of education (the reason many of us live in Glastonbury) is being pushed forward without any end measure in place.</p> <p>*** What measurement are we using to return the children to "regular school"?***</p> <p>There is a negative correlation and there has been for a couple months (even with activity, kids back on fields, summer camps, etc.), as the numbers of tests rise, the number of new coronavirus cases in CT decline. Providing a goal, an end measure, allows for a light at the end of the tunnel and optimism for our youth.</p> <p>What is being dubbed as tragic side effects of a pandemic is entirely unacceptable and unprecedented. We are releasing dangerous criminals under the presumption that they are not getting adequate legal counsel through a video conference "being effectively deprived of legal counsel", yet we are accepting that is good enough for our children's education.</p> <p>Distance-learning solutions were implemented to ensure education continuity during what was intended to be a short shut down to slow the spread and ensure our healthcare system was not overrun. Here in our local district our healthcare system is not overrun... in fact it had an exact opposite effect with several nurses and healthcare employees laid off throughout the state.</p> <p>As elected officials, serving the community of Glastonbury, making decisions on our children's education, please do not forget that you were elected to be our voice, you are here to speak for the people, the survey results are valuable, use them for guidance! I understand you believe potential learning loss is only temporary (and the schools intend to catch the kids up)... I do believe that children are one of the most resilient creatures on the planet, however, other elements that happen in the absence of traditional schooling, will have a long-term impact on students outcomes.</p> <p>Can they be caught up to maintain testing scores, in a time where standards are adjusted to the lower denominator? of course! But what about the studies showing lack of engagement, attendance challenges, (still largely undocumented), increase the risk of disengagement, especially among students in difficult socio-economic and family situations, including working class families, (the vast majority of Glastonbury).</p> <p>As a mother of three students (Kindergarten, 5th grade and 8th grade), I have endless gratitude for every single teacher and staff member of Glastonbury Public Schools, yesterday, today and tomorrow... I have never once viewed the schools as childcare... teachers have one of the greatest responsibilities, no, they are not the parent... but their role may be just as strong... they have a profound effect on the lives of their students and assist in shaping their life chances by imparting knowledge – bringing the curriculum to life... and that is done in a classroom... by a teacher. No other environment will replicate it... and not every parent is a teacher, not even close.</p> <p>I have worked every day since March and so has my husband... We altered hours and made it through, we spent endless hours this spring working through distance learning with all three of our kiddos at very different ages... But that was temporary... and now they need you... they need their teacher's skills, their passion, their classroom. They need the Board of Education to do what is right and give them the option to a full Glastonbury education as they know it.</p>

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
8/17/2020 8:04:28	John Sparaco	33 Sand Hill Lane	We appreciate all the steps the schools are taking to keep our children safe. Many businesses and school districts have implemented a thermal screening process, and we are concerned that we are not. While it might logistically be difficult at some schools, it seems as though it would be easier at the elementary schools. There are common locations as the children come to school that they could be scanned (unloading at drop off or coming off the buses). If it's that you don't have enough staff, I know some in the community would be happy to volunteer.
8/17/2020 8:24:04	Marisa Tuhy	9 Woodfield Crossing	The BOE represent the community. The community has a right to be heard.
8/17/2020 8:45:04	Daana Anderson	Glastonbury Hunt Lane	This needs to be tabled. This is not the time to be making these decisions. There are way more important things to worry about. Please know how important our tomahawks are to students and families past and present. Give us our time when we can be present and talk this through properly.
8/17/2020 8:48:11	Jeanee Rubano	Charlton Drive	"The BOE represent the community and should spend the time to hear what the students and community have to say. Your priority should be making sure the students get the best education this year during this difficult time, and not what our mascot is and has been for decades! We won't even be playing sports this fall to even have to make this a "priority". ASK the town what THEY want and stop pushing your agenda on us. Are you going to change everything in town that is offensive because there is a LONG list that I have seen. And whatever you change anything to, people can find that offensive as well...when does it end. MAKE THE CHILDREN YOUR TOP PRIORITY RIGHT NOW and table the discussion when we can all be heard. Every meeting you have right now should be discussing schools and all the obstacles we are going to be met with this school year! Because you already pushed our school year back a week and I don't want to lose anymore time so you can "prepare" more, because you were too busy meeting about a mascot.
8/17/2020 8:55:55	William Croce	302 Great Pond Road	BOE: I'm concerned about changing the GHS Tomahawks nickname and logo. I want to make sure that that the BOE has thoroughly researched this and sought the opinion of many native Americans. If a tomahawk is not offensive to most native Americans then the name shouldn't be changed. The proposed elimination of the name seems to be an overreaction to an online petition. There is a competing online petition in support of keeping the tomahawk name that was signed by many more people and it should be taken into consideration as well. It seems like Glastonbury is getting caught up in the change culture. In professional sports, the Washington Redskins changed their name because it was offensive. The Atlanta Braves, Cleveland Indians and Chicago Blackhawks are not changing their names. In fact the Braves logo is a tomahawk across the front of their jersey and it's not changing. These professional teams did extensive research and determined that their names are not offensive. Let's thoroughly research whether or not the tomahawk name is truly offensive to local native Americans and not overreact to an online petition to change the name. Thanks, Bill Croce
8/17/2020 9:03:50	Leeza Gutt	702 Chestnut Hill Road	The BOE represent the community and should spend the time to hear what the community has to say.
8/17/2020 9:04:28	Leigh Lessard	89 Harvest Lane	The BOE represents the community and should spend the time to hear what the community has to say. Postpone the Tomahawk vote.

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
8/17/2020 9:10:20	William Croce	302 Great Pond Road	<p>BOE:</p> <p>I'm concerned about changing the GHS Tomahawks nickname and logo. I want to make sure that that the BOE has thoroughly researched this and sought the opinion of many native Americans. If a tomahawk is not offensive to most native Americans then the name shouldn't be changed. The proposed elimination of the name seems to be an overreaction to an online petition. There is a competing online petition in support of keeping the tomahawk name that was signed by many more people and it should be taken into consideration as well. It seems like Glastonbury is getting caught up in the change culture. In professional sports, the Washington Redskins changed their name because it was offensive. The Atlanta Braves, Cleveland Indians and Chicago Blackhawks are not changing their names. In fact the Braves logo is a tomahawk across the front of their jersey and it's not changing. These professional teams did extensive research and determined that their names are not offensive. Let's thoroughly research whether or not the tomahawk name is truly offensive to local native Americans and not overreact to an online petition to change the name.</p> <p>Thanks, Bill Croce</p>
8/17/2020 9:14:09	Colleen Cosby	68 Evergreen Lane	I am the parent of 3 children in town and I am not in favor of changing the name of the high school mascot without more input from the community. The BOE represent the community and should spend the time to hear what the students and community has to say.
8/17/2020 9:29:07	Kate Ericson	138 Hubbard St	The BOE needs to focus on opening our schools safely. This is not the time or place to change our mascot. The people in this community have a right to speak in an open forum. The students have a right to have input as well. I'm disgusted with the BOE for trying to push the mascot change through during a highly stressful time and place in the world.
8/17/2020 9:31:30	Kelly Hogan Mulryan	45 Lindsay lane	The BOE and it's elected officials represent the community in which voted them in and that they serve. All decisions need community input and involvement and to follow proper procedures and protocols anything less is not serving in the best interest of the community. It will set a bad precedence resulting in distrust within the community that voted in these elected officials.
8/17/2020 9:31:44	Danielle haaf	39 Strickland street	For those attending In school classes being taught by a teacher from home via zoom media, Dr. Bookman has stated the classroom will be monitored, will it be by a certified person (trained in handling any school emergency situation that might occur in the building.)
8/17/2020 9:31:57	Marchea Carmichael	258 Kinne Road	Please take the time to do some research and involve the students, faculty, tribal representatives & community. During this pandemic, the BOE and administration should be focused on a safe return to school. The decision to change the mascot should be reviewed over this next year. Why hasn't the financial implications of this decision been made public? Please set out a longer timetable to make this decision.
8/17/2020 9:35:27	Colleen Boland	168 Pond Circle	The BOE represent the community and should spend the time to hear what the community have to say. We have stated how we feel about this and voting it out goes against the majority. As someone who grew up in this town and now is raising children here it's sad to see what is going on. A tomahawk is a tool, not an offensive symbol. If you cared so much about the topic maybe a history course on the name Tomahawk and how it came about to be Glastonbury's mascot would be better than diminishing it completely. I have my bachelors in history and one of the best classes I took was about the mascots in the SEC conference. (Tennessee Vols, South Carolina Gamecocks, West Virginia Mountaineers) Please reconsider your vote and educate yourself and our children on this towns history.

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
8/17/2020 9:41:00	Kelley Anne Carey	18 Coach Road	I don't agree with changing the name of our mascot. More importantly I don't think now is the time to vote on this. Please table this issue to allow our students and citizens to comment in person at a meeting. Please focus on getting our kids back to school and safely transported to their schools.
8/17/2020 9:42:56	Rebecca Pisarski	11 Allen St, Mystic, CT	Thank you so much to the ad-hoc committee who looked into Native American opinions about the Tomahawk mascot. After reading the stances of the Native American people you talked to, I think it's clear that the mascot must be changed. I know it will be hard for a lot of Glastonbury alumni to accept the change, but change is always hard, and sometimes it's necessary. I'm the one who started the petition, and the mascot gives me a certain nostalgia towards my time at GHS as well. But my feelings of nostalgia towards my high school are not worth offending and hurting Native American people who have said they do NOT feel honored and they do not want the stigma of being war-like savages. Thank you so much for your hard work and your careful consideration of this topic!
8/17/2020 9:44:01	Linda Erickson	125 Bellridge Road, Glast	Please do not change the nome or the logo.
8/17/2020 10:02:01	John Laplante	188 Country Lane	The initiative to change the team mascot (Tomahawks), and the rationale behind it, is absurd. Coincidentally, this initiative isn't being initiated by any tribe or representatives thereof (which in itself is offensive). The historical significance of the tool predates indigenous people in North America, and the image depicts Steel tools, not stone, which indigenous people appropriated from colonists (not the other way around). These tools have been used in every armed conflict to-date, and continue to be used by our military today. If any inference is to be made by these tools, it would be that of a warrior spirit, which is something to admire, not relegate to the trash-heap of cancel culture.
8/17/2020 10:10:01	Kevin Tabellione	5 Breeds Hill Rd	The issue of the GHS mascot, the Tomahawk, should be dismissed completely and is ridiculous for the B of E to be wasting time and resources debating at this time. That being said, at the very least it should be tabled until a later date when pubic opinion, students, parents, residents can have a civil debate and come to an agreement on the issue. The board's efforts should be focused on getting ALL of our kids back into the classroom safely and learning in the proper environment. Using the cover of Covid to pass secret or semi secret resolutions have no place in this or any other town from either side of the political spectrum. Please do what we elected you to do, keep the Glasronbury education system one of the best in the state and the country for that matter and stop playing petty politics and abusing the power of your elected post. Thank you for all of your efforts to be transparent and listening to your constituents. Sincerely, Kevin Tabellione.
8/17/2020 10:21:18	Theresa Tine	1493 New London Tpke	I have lived in this town 44 years. I would like my voice and opinion to be heard! How can you be holding meetings and making decisions without a fair and due process? If meetings can't be held in person with comments and opinions heard from the residents of Glastonbury then there shouldn't be any decisions made! The board of education should be ashamed! The descisions you make affect us solely and we the people have a right to be heard!!!!
8/17/2020 10:27:48	Dick Johnson	Main street	please re elect me. I won't change the tomahawk mascot.
8/17/2020 10:34:00	Kennedy Williams	Plank lane	Change the mascot, it is offensive and not our right to have
8/17/2020 10:34:39	Courtney Miller	100 Mountain road	As a prior student and a mother of a future student, I felt the BOE had issues then and is demonstrating complete lack of care again. The BOE represents the community and should spend the time to hear what the community have to say. It's continuous attempt of trying to undermine the system and pass through items against procedural code just goes to show the lack of ethics they continue to "uphold".
8/17/2020 10:35:31	Elton Williams	Plank lane	Very disappointed that it has taken this long to get here but we must change the mascot before we becoming the next killingly
8/17/2020 10:36:38	Trina Williams	Plank lane	As a mother it embarrasses me that my children have been forced to wear and support a racist symbol

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
8/17/2020 10:38:13	Courtney Miller	100 Mountain road	As a prior student and a mother of a future student, I felt the BOE had issues then and is demonstrating complete lack of care again. The BOE represents the community and should spend the time to hear what the community have to say. It's continuous attempt of trying to undermine the system and pass through items against procedural code just goes to show the lack of ethics they continue to "uphold".
8/17/2020 10:38:13	Samantha Williams	Plank lane	CHANGE THE MASCOT!!!! I feel embarrassed and offended when I go to college and talk to diverse people and I have to say where I'm from
8/17/2020 10:40:33	Jill williams	32 plank lane	Yesterday when I was counter protesting the Tomahawk sign to girls claimed that it was their culture but it's not their culture it's the culture of the indigenous people we can't claim culture that is not ours This Has to stop now. Because in the future I don't want our town to have a bad reputation of being the racist town because of our racist mascot.
8/17/2020 10:41:38	Shania Fields	Risley road	It's extremely offensive and it's not ours to claim
8/17/2020 10:43:18	Cathy Williams	Plank lane	Change the mascot already it's offensive and embarrassing
8/17/2020 11:19:14	Christine O'Hare	125 Farmstead Lane	For the BOE members who will be voting for changing the mascot name tonight... Consider the power behind taking the time to provide a process that educates the students and community on why you think it is the right thing to do... and then allow them to respond and discuss. Maybe... just maybe you could get the majority behind the change and unite the community during a time that desperately needs community unity. And even of not... at least you are communicating to the students and community that you care about their voices and opinions. So that when the next school/community topic comes up you have a unified community that trusts the admins and elected officials. You gain all of that by simply slowing down this decision and providing an open process.
8/17/2020 11:29:55	Erin Goodhue	129 Stonepost road	The mascot change is more about transparency and conducting a thorough investigation to include live public comment, Native American organizations, Native American citizens etc...This is an abuse of power and taking advantage of a unique time in history, a pandemic. Denying live public discourse and a full and thorough investigation on both sides of the issue is a sad day in Glastonbury history. Glastonbury is rich in Native American history, let's celebrate and let this be teaching tool rather than a "dirty" word. It is a "tool" after all. As a teacher and parent of 4 students in the school system I'm extremely disappointed the board isn't concentrating on more important Educational issues and deadlines considering these unprecedented times. Shame on you, you should be spending your energy supporting the school administrators and students that will be entering unprecedented territory in a matter of weeks. Don't let the voice of the people who voted you in go unheard. Please exercise due process to the fullest. Table this vote in order to conduct a transparent and thorough investigation and give our citizens and Native Americans the full investigation and voice they deserve.
8/17/2020 11:34:31	Neha Jain	51 Liberty drive	I strongly urge the board to consider a hybrid- 2 days on 3 days off, split class- plan for elementary grades as well. Thank you.
8/17/2020 11:38:10	Nancy Berlet	202 Carriage Drive	Please allow the people of Glastonbury to express their thoughts on the changing of the mascot name Tomahawk. The issue is not so much the name, but the fact that our elected representatives to the BOE are not willing to put this to a public referendum so the townspeople can express their feelings. What is upsetting is that the issue seems to be decided by a few. The Tomahawk is a tool, used by colonists and Native Americans alike. It is a symbol of strength. Many were used to help the humans settle this historic town. IMO, it is a symbol of the strength of the humans who brought this town into being. Thank you.
8/17/2020 11:44:43	Jennifer Norman	57 Charlton Dr	The BOE represent the community and should spend the time to hear what the students and community have to say regarding the potential change of the GHS mascot.

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting
8/17/2020 11:57:09	Kiomara Lozada	Long Hill Drive	I believe SMS students should be given 5 day a week option.
8/17/2020 11:59:10	Audrey Beatty	2025 New London Tpke	Please vote to eliminate the Tomahawks mascot/logo. GPS has committed to revisiting the way it approaches race in our schools. This is a meaningful, visible way to show that commitment. If the intention of the logo is to "honor" native people (as I've heard some folks in support of it say), it would be much more meaningful to revisit our school curriculum around teaching Columbus Day and Thanksgiving, making it more inclusive and historically accurate. The Tomahawks logo is a caricature at best and does not, in any way, educate our students about Native Americans. Again, please vote to eliminate the Tomahawks logo.

From: Bob Brady <bob@theguf.com>

Date: August 15, 2020 at 8:54:18 PM EDT

To: candilorol@glastonburyus.org

Subject: Your dislike of the High School team name - a simpler solution

Reply-To: bob@theguf.com

Dear Ms. Candiloro,

As an alumnus of GHS, it's come to my attention that you are emphatic on changing the name of the team, probably because you think you're appropriating another culture's symbol.

If that's your belief, you're wrong.

The word 'tomahawk' is English. It has no equivalent in the local Pequod dialect, and the Pequod did not use the tomahawk. The tomahawk was the property of the Iroquois and the Algonquin, and the English word derives from the Algonquin 'tom - haw,' which is to strike down.

The use of the tomahawk by native Americans was actually brief - they were quick to adopt our weapons, which were more efficient. On the other hand, the US Army uses the tomahawk to this day. It is a part of a basic kit for members of the Army and of the Seal Teams.

So if you feel the need to restrict the use of such things, then keep the English team name, and change the logo to the Seal team tomahawk, which is more fierce, more patriotic and is going to make everyone happy.

Sincerely,

Bob Brady

(865)438-8632

Copy of E-mail received from Dr. Ian Record of National Congress of American Indians on August 18, 2020 at 8:50 a.m.

Hello Doug and Julie,

Thank you so much for this update, and on behalf of NCAI and Indian Country, thank you so much for your leadership on this issue! We greatly appreciate it, and will feature Glastonbury in our next "Ending Indian Mascots" email broadcast, which will go out later this week. Sincerely,
Ian

Ian Record, Ph.D.

Vice President, Tribal Governance and Special Projects

National Congress of American Indians

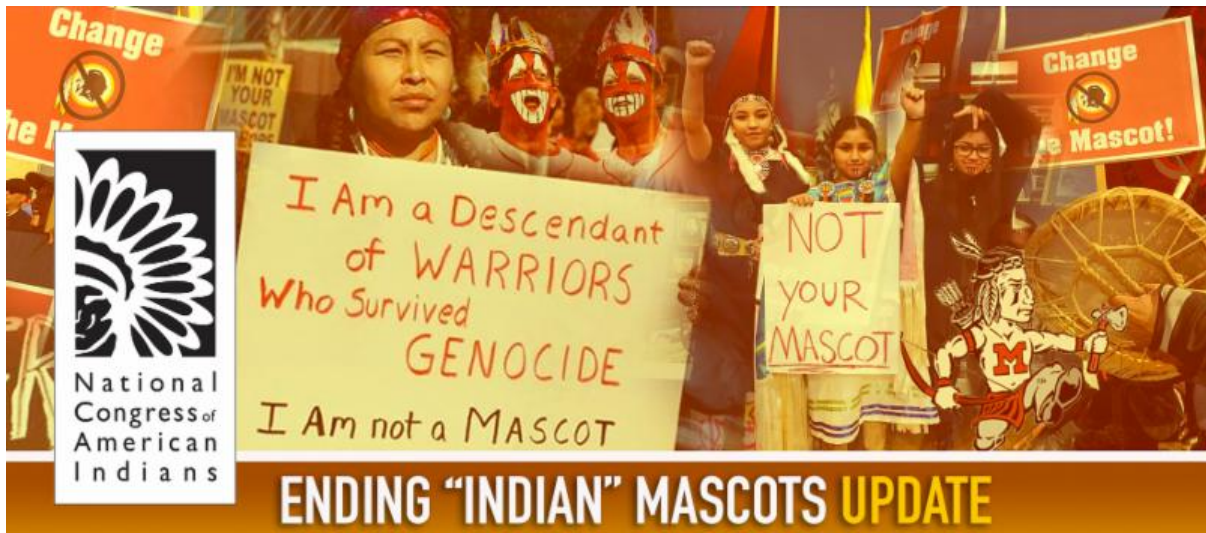
1516 P St. NW

Washington, DC 20005

M: 202-907-3107

O: 202-466-7767 x207 (I WILL BE TELEWORKING THROUGH 8/31 AND ONLY PERIODICALLY CHECKING OFFICE LINE MESSAGES)

www.ncai.org/ptg



More Schools Retire Native "Themed" Mascots as Momentum Builds

"It doesn't change the past to change this mascot. It changes the future for the people of Nyack and the indigenous people of this country."

-- Allen Jimerson, Nyack High School (NY) graduate

Thunderbird High School (AZ) "Chiefs"

On August 6, the Glendale Union High School District board [voted unanimously to retire the "Chiefs" mascot at Thunderbird HS](#). The vote comes after a community petition, signed by thousands, demanded the change. The district plans to start over by picking a mascot that is more "considerate of other cultures."

Braintree High School (MA) "Wamps"

In what is being described as a "half-step" in the right direction, the Braintree School Committee [voted 6-1 to approve a motion by Mayor Kokoros that put an end to the school's use of Native American imagery](#) associated with the mascot. While the "Wamps" name will remain in place for now, local advocates plan to continue pushing for change.

Nyack High School (NY) "Indians"

Last Tuesday, the Nyack Public Schools' Board of Education [voted unanimously to retire its "Indians" mascot](#). This decision was 17 years in the making, according to BOE member Beth Davidson. "[The students] are asking us to finish a process begun in 2003 because they feel their school's team name doesn't reflect the community and future they see for themselves," she said as she praised the efforts of current Nyack students.

Taconic High School (MA) "Braves"

The Pittsfield School Committee [voted 5-1 to retire the "Braves" mascot at Taconic HS](#) last Wednesday night. "We didn't really honor them, and I don't think naming a mascot after any tribe is honoring them," said school committee member Dennis Powell. The committee will consider new mascots for the school, but no timetable has been given.

Medfield High School (MA) "Warriors"

Last Thursday, the Medfield School Committee [voted to discontinue its "Warriors" mascot](#). The vote follows a July forum hosted by the committee where students and community members discussed the mascot. The committee recommended to establish a task force to explore not only the mascot, but "how Medfield should be represented," according to one committee member. "I confess I was ignorant of the damage I was doing," said committee member Meghan Glenn.

Saugatuck High School (MI) "Indians"

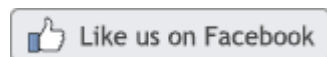
On Monday, the Saugatuck Public Schools Board of Education [voted unanimously to retire its "Indians" mascot](#). The district began reexamining its use of the "Indians" mascot in early July. The board plans to retire the name by Dec. 31, 2020.

Glastonbury High School (CT) "Tomahawks"

The Glastonbury Board of Education [voted 7-1 to retire its "Tomahawks" mascot](#) on Monday night. The school began phasing out its name and imagery in recent years and has already replaced uniforms, flooring, and equipment. A decision on the new mascot will be student driven with leadership groups at the school working alongside Principal Nancy Bean to come up with a replacement.

***Ending "Indian" Mascots** is an informational service provided by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), which is the oldest, largest, and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization serving the broad interests of tribal governments and communities. It has been leading Indian Country's movement to eradicate offensive "Indian" mascots from sports and popular culture for the past 50 years by educating schools, sports leagues, and the general public about the [many harms they cause Native people](#). To learn more, please click [here](#).*

Founded in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country. NCAI advocates on behalf of tribal governments, promoting strong tribal-federal government-to-government policies, and promoting a better understanding among the general public regarding American Indian and Alaska Native governments, people and rights.



Public Comments for 12-14-21 BOE Public Hearing (Responses)

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the Public Meeting agenda. NOTE: This field accepts up to 2500 characters. Please submit a second response to this form if you require additional text.
12/9/2021 19:53:59	Ally Sexton	45 Hardin Lane, Glastonbury	I have two words for the petitioners seeking to resurrect the Tomahawk mascot: move on! You tried to make the mascot an issue in our recent local elections, and you lost. Move on! Accepting change can be hard, but it shouldn't be hard to let go of your high school mascot from 1, 5, 15 or 30 years ago. (I suspect the majority of people most interested in returning to the Tomahawk fall in the 15-30 year category). Move on!
12/10/2021 11:41:54	Chris Balfanz	199 Stockade Rd.	I strongly oppose the use of Tomahawks as a mascot for Glastonbury Public Schools. It is offensive to Native Americans to use Native American imagery as a sporting mascot. I am sorry the town has to revisit this divisive topic and risk public meetings during a pandemic to discuss something so clearly inappropriate.
12/10/2021 11:48:42	Linda V. Ball	146 Stockade Rd.	It is most unfortunate that the BOE has to spend this amount of time on the GHS mascot. We should stick with the decision to change it to Guardians for many reasons,
12/10/2021 11:55:04	Linda V. Ball	146 Stockade Rd.	Sorry - I accidentally hit submit. It's a waste of time for the BOE to have to reconsider the GHS mascot. First, the National Congress of American Indians opposes the Tomahawk image. The state legislature has passed a law that would have Glastonbury lose its share of gaming revenues because of these images. I was part of the Glastonbury school system for 37 years and found nothing sacred about the tomahawk symbol. Let's get on with it!

Public Comments for 12-14-21 BOE Public Hearing (Responses)

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12/10/2021 16:52:18	Jennifer Siskind	101 Fairview Terrace, South Glastonbury, CT	<p>To Members of the Board of Education,</p> <p>Thank you for changing the Tomahawk mascot for Glastonbury. This decision represents the character, integrity and efficiency that I want reflected by our BOE and schools. Besides professional sports teams, I'm glad our town joined the ranks of Little League International, US Lacrosse, the National College Prospects Hockey League (NCPHL), and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) in opposing Native American themes in sports.</p> <p>My children attended GHS from 2009-2015. We have a lifetime pass to home football games. We've been in the stands when the band played a "tom tom" drum beat, and students responded with a "Tomahawk Chop." Students were finally instructed to stop this, and it's past time the associated mascot changed.</p> <p>Our previous logo included a tomahawk also adorned with feathers, powerful Native American spiritual symbols, representing the connection between the Creator, those who display the feathers, and the bird that delivered them from the sky. The United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church, Unitarian Universalist Association, and the National Conference of Rabbis have passed resolutions opposing Native American imagery in sports. People who counter "It's just a tool" seem unwilling to learn or recognize the obvious.</p> <p>I'm glad the Board's decision was made within a several month timeframe. Some have suggested that it would have been more "thoughtful" to take longer, citing a more than yearlong, still ongoing process in another state. Personally, I find this a ridiculous waste of time. We hire administrators and elect governing bodies on a town and on a student level. It makes sense to use this system for decision making, rather than drawing it out over many months.</p> <p>I appreciated that you inquired with several Native American entities prior to making your decision. I've read resources provided by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the New England Anti-Mascot Coalition, and individual nations that have been working for decades to remove derogatory names and Indian "themed" mascots and logos across the US. It's been a fascinating history from the 70's to present day, and I'm glad to have increased my understanding.</p> <p>I hope people who oppose the change will move toward better understanding, and appreciate the nation-wide call to respect Native Americans. I am proud that Glastonbury now takes the mantle of Guardian instead of perpetuating ethnic stereotyping.</p>

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12/11/2021 14:02:51	William Marut	264 Carriage Drive	<p>BOTTOM LINE: I am in favor of the continued RETIREMENT of the Glastonbury Tomahawks mascot name. SUPPORTING DETAILS: (1) We are all aware of the various arguments for and against this position, so I will not repeat them here. To my way of thinking, the one argument that trumps all others is the fact that the Mashantucket Pequots, Mohegan nations, and the National Congress of American Indians do not approve of Native American images or logos being used. See https://www.ncai.org/proudtobe. So, weighing things in the balance, on the one side we have Native Americans who are offended when they and/or their culture are treated as objects, and on the other side we have folks wishing to objectify a part of Native American culture. But why? For self-indulgence? To my way of thinking, it is easy to determine which side of the scale carries more weight. (2) I wouldn't even be bothering to weigh in on this matter because I consider it to be such a "no brainer" decision that up until now, I have remained silent. However, now that the recent petition has forced my hand to make my voice heard, I say "KEEP THE TOMAHAWKS NAME RETIRED." (3) According to an article in the Glastonbury Citizen, several petitions were done. For example, one petition garnered 1,300 signatures to do away with the name Tomahawks. Another petition garnered 3,000 signatures to bring it back. What is not known is the number of folks in town who are part of the silent majority, and who, like myself in the past, do not make their voices heard, thus allowing the loudest to be heard. Thus, I encourage the Board of Education to keep in mind that petitions are not votes, and that 1,300 people and/or 3,000 people is nowhere near the mostly-silent population of the town. This leaves it up to the Board to search their consciences and do the right thing, as so many other places in the United States have done, and are continuing to do.</p>
12/11/2021 17:17:37	Rochelle Y. Ripley	306 Cavan Lane, Glastonbury, CT 06033	<p>One of the most important values we can teach our children is respect - of self, the environment and one another. Respect means to strive to support others, honor their traditions and ethnicities and treat each other as the equals we are. It means we are obligated to learn about others and not assume our opinion is above theirs. What it is not, is ignoring the ways your words or actions are hurtful to another person. What matters is whether the words, images or names you use hurt someone else. It is never okay to justify your behavior by saying "I was only joking" or "I was honoring you" or "you are being too sensitive" or similar phrases that add to the insult.</p> <p>In college, one of my friends asked if we were going Dutch Treat to dinner. Another asked if we knew what that meant. He was Dutch and explained that it meant that the Dutch were so cheap you would have to pay your own way on a date. I had heard and likely used this term, but never knew its meaning. The lesson I learned was that I had no right to justify my ignorance by claiming I didn't mean anything. I have an obligation to learn what my words or actions mean to someone affected by their use.</p> <p>My Lakota Grandmother asked me when I grew up to "go home and help the People." Jewish on my mother's side and Lakota/Irish/German on my father's, I come from two cultures who tried to annihilate my other two cultures. My Grandmother explained that I was born into two different worlds – Native and Non-Native - to bring these worlds together. I am committed to work with all people to build trust, understanding and peace. 22 years ago, I established hawkwing in Glastonbury to keep my promise to her. We deliver services and goods to the Cheyenne River Lakota Reservation in South Dakota – one of the poorest places in America - with Glastonbury as our base and great supporter. Continued</p>

Public Comments for 12-14-21 BOE Public Hearing (Responses)

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12/11/2021 17:18:58	Rochelle Y. Ripley	306 Cavan Lane, Glastonbury, CT 06033	<p>Page #2 (continuation)</p> <p>You did the right thing when you changed the mascot. Indigenous People are not cartoons, images, or characters. We are not long hair, braids, teepees and horses. We are humans who survived one of the greatest massacres of all time. Our Indigenous children are hurt by this imagery. Glastonbury did the right thing. Now is not the time to reverse this. The National Congress of Native Americans and its 574 Federally Recognized Tribes has unanimously condemned Native mascots. Connecticut has passed a law to stop Native mascots in public schools as of January 1, 2022. Please see the Indigenous view – we are not “honored” by your words, we are not “jokes” or “too sensitive.” We are humans who deserve respect. Glastonbury is blessed by great fortune – people are able to meet their needs and much more. I wish that was true in Indian Country. To insult the Original Peoples of these lands from a community blessed with so much, only adds sad irony to the issue. I am deeply opposed to the return of the former mascot. Thank you for your consideration. You can learn more at hawkwing.org if you wish. Rochelle Ripley</p>
12/11/2021 21:55:31	Robert Shluger	2389 Main St	<p>Change Guardians to “The Hawks”.</p> <p>This would be close to Tomahawks without the risk to actually or potentially offend anyone.</p>
12/12/2021 20:13:53	Ketti Marks	82 Hanover Fields Road Glastonbury, CT. 06033	<p>I oppose restoring Glastonbury High School's Tomahawks mascot. Sports mascots are symbols of disrespect that perpetuate racist stereotypes and undermine efforts to achieve a kinder and more socially just America, With that said, I stand with the National Congress of American Indians which speaks so forcefully and eloquently for its people.</p>
12/13/2021 9:50:52	Wendy and Steve Smith	73 Dogwood Lane	<p>We haven't shared our opinion on the mascot issue publicly, but feel it is time. We are completely opposed to the former mascot, the tomahawk. When we moved here over fifteen years ago, we were shocked that the town still had a mascot linked to Native American heritage. Less than half a percent of our town reports Native American ancestry to the census. Having a tomahawk mascot made no sense to us. We both went to Dartmouth College, which removed their Native American mascot back in the early 1970's.</p> <p>Having a weapon for a mascot in itself seems like a terrible idea. Why don't we call ourselves the AK-47s? The AR-15's? Maybe we could get some funding from the NRA if we went that route. (Obviously I'm being sarcastic.) My high school mascot was “the bears.” A student dressed up as a bear costume and rallied the fans at sporting events. Steve's was “the eagles.” We really like “the guardians,” because it is both not a weapon, and not potentially offensive to a group of people almost entirely unrepresented in our community. Please do not vote the tomahawks back.</p>
12/13/2021 10:25:15	Donn Cabral	89 Belle Woods Drive, Glastonbury, CT 06033	<p>The oldest, largest, and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization asked our town to remove the mascot because the stereotypes prevent them from being treated with equality and respect. I'm so proud of our town for being open-minded enough to question ourselves and adapt to a changing world. Let's always choose the thoughtful choice and avoid the impulsive one. Keep it up, Glastonbury!</p>

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12/13/2021 11:35:48	Scott Matson	61 Colton Road	<p>I grew up geographically wedged in between the Mohegan's and the Pequot Tribes. In my early years there was an outreach from the tribes to our schools and we were invited to visit the reservations. We were received by tribe members and taught about Native American cultur3. Teepees, tomahawks, cooking, dancing, and their rituals. What I got from that, was the tribespeople were proud of their history and wanted to share their culture with those around them.</p> <p>I find it ironic that in an effort to somehow pay homage to Native American culture, and not "offend", some people think that we should not use their words, or remember their ways. I think we should not assume to know their mind on any issue that involves them without getting the tribe leaders to weigh in. In the name of "political correctness" we seem to want to pave over not only their history, but our shared history. The movement to rename our mascot seems to paint the history itself with some sort of negativity, for which there should be none.</p> <p>Just this year Marysville Pilchuck High School, north of Seattle in WA state, began the process of retiring the Tomahawk name. Surprisingly, when they reached out to their local tribe, the Tulalips, the Tulalip Board of Directors voted to keep the mascot. In the words of Tulalip elder Les Parks: "As each passing generation moves on and a new generation emerges we are losing more and more of our Indian identity. So it's important to me, and to our Indian culture, that we maintain as much of that as possible. The Marysville Tomahawk meaning fits right into that category of just reminding us who we are every day, and what we stand for and where we came from and what we live like and where we're going in the future," Parks added.</p> <p>It is my recommendation to involve our local tribe leaders and Board of Directors and involve them in the dialog. Invite them into the discussion, rather than speak for them. Show them respect by asking them about our choice to use the Tomahawk as our mascot. I for one, want to respect the past, theirs and ours, rather than pave over our history, and relegate the Tomahawk name into the dustbin.</p> <p>As to our proposed new mascot, I find the guardian to be a masked nobody with no identity. It has no suggestion of who we are, where we have been, or where we are going. If I want to guard anything, it is our local shared history, not some vague mask that does not represent anything about us.</p>
12/13/2021 11:47:54	Robert and Julia Dakers	15 Trifiro Circle	<p>Dear Members of the Board of Education:</p> <p>Like so many of our fellow residents in town, we took advantage of the opportunity to provide our comments on the mascot issue prior to the vote in 2020 to eliminate the Tomahawk nickname and images. We strongly believed then, as we do now, that discontinuing a mascot that most Native Americans find to be demeaning to their present and past was the right and appropriate thing to do. We see no need to reconsider or change a vote that was subject to much consideration and debate and that has the support of most people in Glastonbury, as evidenced, in part, by the recent local election.</p> <p>Thank you for your service to our community.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Rob and Julia Dakers</p>

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12/13/2021 17:55:11	Matt Sheehan	GHS Alumnus	<p>I am writing to encourage the Board of Education to not reinstate the Tomahawks. While I no longer live in town, I am a GHS alumnus who closely follows Glastonbury issues.</p> <p>I will admit that I initially thought Tomahawks didn't cross the line of the Redskins or Redmen. My first thought to a name change was "as long as it's not the Apple Pickers!" There were rumors of changing over to that when I was at GHS. Furthermore, I personally don't care for the Guardians - but that wasn't my decision to make! I say all this so that people know where I'm coming from.</p> <p>It's too bad the notion of a compromise as the Glastonbury "Hawks" wasn't (to my knowledge) brought up last year, as I would have advocated for that. I wouldn't rule out putting that on the table, if we could let go of the Tomahawks once and for all.</p> <p>All this being said, what's most important in the end is being "Glastonbury."</p> <p>Three points, for the Board of Education to please consider tonight:</p> <p>1) My alma mater was once the Saltine Warrior and that was changed before I was even born. Critics of the timing of the mascot change - are they oblivious to the social change dynamics of 2020. I live in the city where Daniel Prude was murdered by police and covered up by the mayor. People need to understand this. And to read the materials and testimony provided by the Board of Education - that information certainly educated me.</p> <p>2) The actions last year by the Board of Education were most certainly not secret. Suspending in-person meetings does not automatically mean things are covered up. Honestly, having new ways for the public to be engaged has helped transparency. It was reasonable at the time to go virtual, and the Tomahawks defenders had every opportunity to be heard at that point.</p> <p>3) I don't understand how defenders of the Tomahawks can both argue that tomahawks are completely unrelated tools, and that they're "honoring" Native Americans. You can't do both at the same time. For the former defense: that's a very unhealthy attachment to a tool. For the latter defense: why not replicate the teaching of Veterans Day on the Indigenous People's Day holiday, instead.</p>
12/13/2021 18:05:49	Joan Sheehan	114 Farmstead Lane	<p>I disagree with reinstating the Tomahawks name. I believe it condones a racist attitude and subsequent arm motions that do not represent a progressive Glastonbury community. Most CT towns have changed to neutral names and the Guardians is a fine choice. If a compromise is attempted, the Hawks is a much better choice.</p>

Public Comments for 12-14-21 BOE Public Hearing (Responses)

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12/13/2021 19:04:47	Kerry Green	197 Griswold St. Glastonbury, CT 06033	<p>Broad of Education,</p> <p>I understand in these changing times everyone wants to be politically correct and to not offend any group, race or religion.</p> <p>I am a registered card-carrying Native American Indian and I have seen racism and bias at its worst! Not only was I teased and taunted for being an Indian, my mother married a black man in the early 70's. Racism has no bounds it goes both ways. We were shot at and spit at and called names that are so offensive we can no longer use them. I'm sure I don't have to go into details about the atrocities that happened to my ancestors.</p> <p>And now 150 years after the last treaty was signed and ordered the Indians to specific areas, the Native American Indians have a voice, and it needs to be heard. When signaling support for someone else, not everything that comes out of an individual's mouth has validity.</p> <p>"Tomahawk" a tool used to build teepees, to hunt with, to provide a Life for themselves. Yes, it was used to kill with, but only to defend food supplies. Then when Indians where attacked by new settlers and the military to it was used to defend themselves against assimilation.</p> <p>If you want to stand with and signal support for the Native American Indians then choose your battle with the name "Redskins".</p> <p>Do I find it offensive that the school wants to use a Tomahawk as their school symbol? No, I look at it as way to honor the fight that the Native American Indians have gone through to be recognized as a part of this country. A tool that sustained life even in our darkest time against all odds, my ancestors survived and I'm here today because of it.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kerry Green</p>
12/13/2021 21:26:47	Lisa Rouleau	12 Conestoga Way	<p>First of all, thank you Board members for the time and hard work you put into our community. I am in favor of maintaining the mascot name of the Guardians. I believe that the Board did due diligence in investigating and discussing this with various groups. It is not up to us to second guess whether Native Americans are offended by the Tomahawk name. The Board learned that they are. I'd like to share a quote from the Mohegan Chief, Lynn Malerba. In a Hartford Courant article she stated, "While the stated intent may be to "honor" American Indians, there is a great potential for less than respectful behaviors to occur in conjunction with these mascots. Additionally, people should not be considered mascots. It is demeaning to be relegated to a stereotyping of a people. This should not be allowed to continue." Tomahawks is an offensive name. Period. If we go back to the Tomahawk name, we will lose funds in 2023 that the tribes provide to our district. I for one am happy to collect that money for our students. Finally, we elect and hire people to make decisions for our town. Citizens do not vote on everything. Just because you don't like the outcome, doesn't mean the process was not valid. We learned that in the last presidential election. Our town has bigger issues to deal with. Let's move on. Thank you.</p>

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12/13/2021 21:27:41	Katherine Hamer	29 Underwood St NW	<p>As a member of the Glastonbury High School Class of 2000, I ask the Board to stick to its prior decision to move away from the Tomahawk mascot. While the National Congress of American Indians holds the position that sports mascots such as the Tomahawks are disrespectful and degrading to Native people, the petition calling for this hearing states, "we see the Tomahawk as a wonderful symbol to respectfully educate students and residents and respectfully celebrate Native American heritage." A call to ignore the wishes of a group that has been abused by our country for centuries in service of celebrating that very same group cannot possibly be in good faith. If the petition's argument prevails it would be an embarrassing comment on the quality of the Glastonbury Public School System. It may not have been everyone's experience, but during my time in Glastonbury I took away the lesson that we should listen to the needs of those that have been marginalized and work to right past wrongs. While I am no longer a Glastonbury resident, I hope that the Board will make the right decision and I can continue to visit my parents and hometown, and think of my time at GHS with pride, rather than shame.</p>
12/13/2021 22:26:25	Rev. Donald L. Hamer	18 Marilyn Drive, Glastonbury, CT 06033	<p>My name is Don Hamer. I am a 1968 graduate of GHS. My mother is a 1939 graduate of GHS. My daughter is a 2000 GHS grad and my son is a 2004 GHS grad. I served this town in which I was born and raised as a member of the Board of Education from 1987-1990 and as the town's second Judge of Probate from 1990-2004.</p> <p>I and my family strongly oppose the movement to overturn the Board's decision to abandon the Tomahawk name and symbolism. I have always been proud of what Glastonbury High School stood for and the fine education I received there. Back in the 1960s, in a different time, I didn't think much about the Tomahawk logo. Having now lived in other parts of the country and being more aware of the values of cultures different from my own, I am aware that the Tomahawk logo is deeply offensive to Native Americans, who have seen white Anglo Saxon culture take everything from them but their pride and then rationalize that our appropriation of their cultural symbols somehow is to honor them.</p> <p>If we simply remember the Golden Rule, "do unto others as you would have them do unto you," we as White Americans are in no position to decide whether our use of Native American symbols is an honor to them. Only Native Americans can do that, and every Native American organization has come out strongly in opposition to such usage. The Board did the right thing in changing the Tomahawk symbolism, and I strongly urge the Board to reaffirm that decision. Respectfully submitted, Donald L. Hamer</p>
12/14/2021 11:13:57	Lou DeLoreto	Out of town resident	<p>I am 1987 graduate of GHS and am writing to encourage you to stay the course and not revert back to the Tomahawk logo. Please act swiftly and refuse to acknowledge that a Native American weapon is a worthy logo in the present day. As I look at old high school artifacts with that logo, I see it as a moment in time much like the "class redneck" and "class milk lover" superlatives. Please put it to bed. It's embarrassing.</p> <p>Thank you, Lou DeLoreto, class of 1987</p>

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12/14/2021 11:35:36	National Congress of American Indians	1516 P Street NW, Washington, DC 20005	<p>The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is the oldest, largest, and most representative national organization serving the broad interests of Tribal Nations and peoples. It has been leading Indian Country's consensus-driven movement to eradicate offensive Native "themed" mascots from sports and popular culture for more than fifty years. Retiring these stereotypical and dehumanizing mascots represents an important and necessary first step towards creating an inclusive and equitable learning environment for all students. NCAI supports the original retirement of the "Tomahawks" mascot at Glastonbury High School from August 2020 and commends school and district leadership for taking this important first step. Now is not the time to move backward and reinstall a mascot that promotes stereotypes and causes well-documented harms to both Native and non-Native people, and particularly Native youth.</p> <p>Throughout last summer's deliberation process, NCAI shared with school and district leadership pertinent resources detailing Indian Country's broad and longstanding opposition to Native "themed" mascots and documenting the harms that these dehumanizing monikers and symbols cause all people, but especially Native youth. We thank Glastonbury leadership for taking the time to review said resources and to consult with leaders from nearby Tribal Nations as they considered their mascot change. We hope more members of the Glastonbury community will examine the resources and privilege Native voices, especially those of Tribal leaders, as they consider the importance of retiring Native "themed" sports mascots. NCAI is committed to working with Glastonbury High School to aid in its mascot transition and improve the extent and accuracy of the school's curriculum about Tribal Nations and their citizens.</p>
12/14/2021 11:45:19	Jill Barry	199 Cavan Lane, Glastonbury	<p>To the Esteemed Members of the Board of Education,</p> <p>I am unable to attend tonight's public hearing regarding the Tomahawk mascot but I am available to discuss my comments anytime. I will not weigh in on the decision that was previously made, because as a fellow elected official, I respect your decision. However, I will speak to the aftermath of the decision.</p> <p>As Vice Chair of the State Education Committee, during the 2020 session, we conducted a public hearing for SB 314, "AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES IN THE SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM". We listened to hours of testimony supporting the importance of learning about the plight of the Indigenous People. In public hearing testimony, Latoya Cluff, Vice Chairwoman of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation stated "it's time to change the narrative about Indigenous People for the better, and education is the key solution". She references the mascot controversy as a defense for offering this education in schools.</p> <p>Glastonbury Public Schools has always been an innovative leader in education, so I was disappointed that our high school students were not given any explanation or background on the changing of the name. As a parent of now three GHS students, I can attest that students do not understand the reasoning. I feel that this was a missed learning opportunity, for not only the students but for the community as a whole, to learn about the history of the Indigenous People here in Glastonbury and Connecticut.</p> <p>Learning the history pays a greater homage to the Indigenous People than arbitrarily changing a logo. And if/when a mascot is changed, it must be coupled with education. We have failed in this respect.</p> <p>For the record, Glastonbury will receive an estimated \$-0- for FY 2022/2023 from the Tribal Nations so state funding is a moot factor in this discussion.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration. Jill Barry State Representative Proudly Serving Glastonbury</p>

Public Comments for 12-14-21 BOE Public Hearing (Responses)

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The comments below are related to the Public Hearing topic but were originally entered into the BOE <i>Regular Meeting Comment Form</i>			
12/7/2021 9:12:55	Pamela Lockard	10 Southgate Drive	<p>Comment is for the hearing on Dec14. I listened to the meeting on Dec2 where a hearing was voted on because of a petition. I read this petition. It is a false claim that the majority of Glastonbury residents want the old name back. I'm disappointed that some won't let this go. I've been hearing many Native American speakers at the New Britain Museum of American Art where I am a docent, including published Yale Professors. "Tomahawks" as a mascot name offensive. I see this kind of thing stated over and over. Removing this mascot name shows Glastonbury to be a welcoming and tolerant community. I can't understand the need to hang onto something out of some strange sense of nostalgia, when it's removal makes an entire group of people feel that they matter. "Tomahawks" as a school mascot needs to stay gone. I also don't understand the big push for live meetings when zoom meetings actuality give more people the opportunity to attend and stay safer by avoiding indoor gatherings.</p>
12/9/2021 10:10:55	Audrey Beatty	139 Williams St W	<p>I am writing to voice my strong opposition to returning the Tomahawk as the GHS mascot and sincere disappointment that this is even an issue anymore. I am incensed that the board is wasting time revisiting a decision that was already put to bed this summer after thoughtful evaluation, multiple opportunities for public opinion, and a nearly unanimous vote on the part of the board to end the use of the logo. There are far more important issues to be spending time on. Our students' overwhelming mental health needs during an ongoing global pandemic to name just one. That is an issue currently weighing heavily on the students themselves. Lets please center them again in discussions moving forward rather than continuing to play politics.</p>
12/9/2021 14:12:11	David O'Connor	1140 Main Street	<p>It's disheartening that the Tomahawk issue persists after so much effort was made to make the logo/mascot change. The BOE was specifically contacted about the Tomahawk logo by the National Congress of American Indians which represents over 500 tribes across the United States and they specifically asked that the Tomahawk logo be removed because of its negative effects on Native American students. That should be enough to make the change. Despite such sensitivity, a small number of individuals in Glastonbury persist in keeping the logo which is inconsistent with our values of diversity and inclusiveness. I'm sure we have more important things to do than revisit this issue which has already been settled. 2</p>

Public Comments for 12-14-21 BOE Public Hearing (Responses)

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the Public Meeting agenda. NOTE: This field accepts up to 2500 characters. Please submit a second response to this form if you require additional text.
12/11/2021 13:23:01	Michael D. Bartone, PhD.	570 Main St. South Glastonbury	<p>I apologize that I am unable to attend tonight's hearing. I am writing in support of keeping the mascot and name change to the Glastonbury Guardians. The Tomahawk was introduced in the early 1950s, decades after Glastonbury High School was built; my grandfather graduated from GHS in the 1920s as did many of my cousins, long before the Tomahawk was adopted. GHS existed before the Tomahawk, continues to exist and will for generations.</p> <p>I attended Glastonbury schools, graduating in 1996. I can assure you that to be a part of the GHS community is the wealth of knowledge teachers bring and cultivate with students; friendships students make at GHS; and the many opportunities to grow as a student and human. Also, thousands of kids who don't belong to sports teams don't identify with a mascot and still have fulfilling experiences.</p> <p>It's interesting people wish to go back to a mascot that represents something negative for many Native peoples. This group of people are showing almost, if not total, complete disregard for Native peoples' wishes to remove the mascot; one can look at the statements gathered when the issue was brought forth by the Board. Also, Gov. Lamont signed a budget bill denying money from the The Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Fund. This issue is not some small town thing-our state government recognizes what is wrong, and denying funding is making the kind of statement that we should be proud of and emulate.</p> <p>I teach a university course about American schooling and students look at the topic of Native mascots. They find schools and national sports teams around the nation are changing their mascots, often with little pushback, or with the conviction to move ahead knowing a vocal minority is causing the waves of resistance. Very few towns in Connecticut still have Native mascots and imagery, and it's a shame, and frankly, an embarrassment, to think Glastonbury would go backward and readopt the Tomahawk; several towns have students determine the new mascot, with little student resistance.</p> <p>As students go through GHS, the Tomahawk isn't what they'll most remember, but the friendships they made, connections with teachers, and their time at a school in a system that chose to be on the right side of history. We must continue to move forward and leave the Tomahawk in the past and accept change with the Guardian. I am a graduate of Glastonbury Public Schools, and my education is what began my path to all levels of schooling. It was not a mascot.</p>

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12/14/2021 8:06:58	Miles Ingram	61 Boulder Circle	<p>With all the challenges confronting the district and our children—increasing misbehavior and academic struggles following a year and a half of e-learning, increasingly harmful effects of social media, illness and death of loved ones from COVID—a small group of dedicated individuals in town decided that the critical issue we as a community must confront is the mascot. Why? Because for some members of this community, the culture war is the only thing they care about. These are people whose platform is to “stand for Old Glory”, but who don’t know where they stand on academic enrichment, investment in facilities, or teacher training. Just culture war, all the way.</p> <p>Personally, the mascot name doesn’t matter to me—I’m not offended by the Tomahawks, or the Guardians. But my feelings on the use of the Tomahawks do not matter, and neither do the feelings of any non-Native American member of this community. When you use a cultural symbol, the only views that matter are the views of the culture whose symbol you intend to use. And to those who claim the loss of the Tomahawks mascot is some great injustice to you: just take this hearing as exhibit A of how privileged your life is, that THIS is the battle you get to fight.</p> <p>This hearing is making news across the state. Is this how we want Glastonbury to be known? Members of the Native American community asked the town to change the mascot—and we did—because is it really that hard? Do we want to be the town who hears the request, and says—no. Too bad. We don’t care whether the mascot is offensive to members of the Native American community.</p> <p>We are better than that.</p> <p>Miles Ingram</p>