

Red Raiders

First I would like to thank the board for providing me with the information they based their opinions on for dropping the name Red from Red Raiders. Although it was informative referring to the mascot it didn't provide much information about the word Red and why it should be dropped from the name.

I have spent 5 days trying to find any reference that says Red Raider is a Native American term or in itself is degrading to the American Indian. What I have found are definitions that suggest an extreme fighter more commonly a red in the face charging pirate or buccaneer. Scary but not an American Indian.

I'm finding the public to be in agreement with keeping the Red in Red Raider but of course changing the logo. I have 2 notes that I have kept anonymous because of their position in the system that basically sums up what the public is saying and feeling.

“The process was a dereliction of education of the democratic process. It was one-sided where dissention was not allowed. It did not go to the public initially because they knew it would be too much of a battle because their case is weak. Their "research" was NOT balanced in any shape or form. It was research dictated by a result that was already predetermined. Is this the students fault? Not necessarily, look to the adults guidance on this. Why weren't they allowing the students the freedom of inquiry needed to have honest discussions? Because the result was already predetermined.

This seems to be the process in many things today. The skewed approach to research is just becoming the norm and socially acceptable today due to a lack of character. It has permeated all realms of research from economics to government to science. The skew is not a liberal or a conservative creation, but merely a human one borne from greed. Greed to win.

My disappointment lies with the adults providing guidance and the school board for letting this process fail so miserably. This is supposed to be education?”

“No WRPS staff personnel can openly go against or voice against School Board policy. It is in writing and one can lose their job. This now includes signing a petition to reverse the name change since it has already occurred. teachers hands and quite frankly their opinions and voices are locked sealed shut”

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Mr.Mancuso--- Although

the symbol of the Native American warrior was removed in 1994, the name Red Raiders remained because the Native American population did not find that offensive. Lincoln High School has been focusing on the WR of the District logo and references itself as the Red Raiders.”

I for one find Red Raiders not offensive at all to the Native American People but did find the mascot offensive and agree with change of the mascot. If the U.S. Federal court has upheld the name Washington Redskins which I think anyone would consider offensive

then show us where Red Raiders wouldn't be permitted under any court of law. We have successfully created a racist situation in our schools merely by dropping the name Red out of Red Raiders. Students that are upset about the change will be blaming the American Indian because they can no longer chant 'Go Red Raiders' and their school pride is being diminished. They are given false information yet are not allowed to protest it in fear of being called a racist.

As a community of taxpayers and voters we look to our board to make decisions based on fact from all of an issue. We also realize that our board is new for we voted most of the others out and feel that they need time to gain experience in dealing with issues of this nature. Haste sometimes makes waste and therefore are asking that you reconsider your decision and reopen the issue for discussion. We also ask that NO purchases of new uniforms be allowed or uniforms changed until this issue is settled by community discussion or voter referendum. The community and businesses would rather work with the board then have to work against it. The voters of Wisconsin Rapids School District want our schools to be the best in the state and can only achieve this by a unified effort.

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