



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

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Peter J. Light
Superintendent of Schools

To: Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee
From: Peter Light, Superintendent of Schools
Date: September 23, 2021
RE: Proposed Mascot Naming Committee

In October, 2020, the School Committee engaged in a process that resulted in a vote to retire the District's former mascot, the "Colonial." This was a highly emotional process within the community, and we decided to "pause" for a period of time before initiating a process to identify and adopt a new mascot for our High School and Junior High School.

One year later, I propose that the school committee establish a mascot screening committee consistent with policy and procedure [FF](#) and [FF-R](#) and charge me and Athletic Director Steve Martin with leading the committee through a screening process. The committee should be composed of members who represent the diversity of our community.

As such, we propose the following membership for this subcommittee of the school committee:

- 2 school committee members
- Superintendent of Schools
- Athletic Director
- Director of Performing Arts
- 1 Staff member from the Junior High School or High School
- 1 Coach from either Junior High School or High School Athletics
- 2 Booster Club Representatives
- 1 community member at large, with preference for alumni or other individuals closely connected to the school community
- 3-4 student representatives from the high school.

The role of the school committee subcommittee will be to:

- Receive a recommendation from the high school and junior high school student bodies through the student representatives to the subcommittee.
- Ensure that students, staff and community members had an appropriate opportunity to engage in the process
- Ensure that the recommendation from the student body is aligned with the Mission, Vision and Values of the District
- Return to the school committee in Spring 2022 with a proposed mascot.

To develop engaged, well-balanced learners through collaborative, caring relationships.

In order to ensure the process is driven by students, and provide students, staff and the community an opportunity to engage in the process of determining a new mascot, the staff and student representatives to this subcommittee will develop a working group that consists of students and staff at the high school and junior high school. This working group will be comprised of students that represent the diversity of the student body who are involved in a variety of student leadership positions, athletics, activities, and the performing arts. They will be responsible for:

- Designing a process that allows students and staff at the high school and junior high, as well as the broader community to have appropriate levels of engagement to solicit, communicate, and narrow options for a new mascot.
- Ensuring that the recommendation from the student body is aligned with the Mission, Vision and Values of the District
- Making a final recommendation to the School Committee Subcommittee.

The working group will provide regular updates to the school committee subcommittee. The subcommittee, in turn, will be responsible for sharing regular updates about progress back to the full school committee and community throughout the fall and winter. Additionally, the administration will develop a proposed replacement plan for uniforms, names on school facilities and other assets, including a proposed budget for this plan as part of the District's FY23 Budget Proposal.

I look forward to your discussion and consideration of this proposal.

Proposed motion: *“to establish a mascot screening subcommittee to receive, review and recommend a mascot as proposed by the student bodies of the high school and junior high school.”*