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# Press Release



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***Board of Education Retires "Redskins" Team Name***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LANCASTER, NY**

The Board of Education of the Lancaster Central School District passed a resolution during a special meeting Monday evening that immediately retires the "Redskins" team name. In the resolution, the board states its commitment to provide an educational environment that embraces cultural diversity, tolerance, and respect among the students, staff, and the greater school community. The resolution also states the "Redskins" mascot is recognized as a symbol of ethnic stereotyping, and as a school district, Lancaster cannot continue practices which are offensive and hurtful to others "when we endeavor to teach our children to be kind and to accept differences among people with grace and respect."

Superintendent of Schools, Michael J. Valley, Ph.D., will initiate and lead a collaborative, student-centered process through which a new sports team name and mascot, representative of the Lancaster schools, will be developed and proposed for board approval. In the future, the "Redskins" mascot will be honorably and respectfully retired and a new mascot formally unveiled.

"With an upcoming capital project, we look forward to the opportunity to upgrade our athletic facilities, and to be able to incorporate our new team name, mascot, and logo in those plans," Dr. Valley said. "The district has given this resolution careful consideration as we recognize traditions are often hard to leave behind. However, we need to rethink traditions when they become hurtful and perceived as disrespectful toward others, even unintentionally.

"This is a unique opportunity for our school community to begin new traditions for future generations. When it comes to pride, spirit, and tradition, our student body is second to none, and we expect them to become fully engaged in this process of generating creative ideas that the entire community can embrace."