

**Board of Education
LANCASTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Lancaster, New York**

MINUTES

March 16, 2015

Special Session

William Street School, 5201 William Street, Lancaster

Kenneth Graber Esq., President
Patrick Uhteg, V. President
Wendy Buchert, Trustee
William Gallagher, Trustee

Marie MacKay, Trustee
Kimberly Nowak, Trustee
Michael Sage, Trustee

Michael Valley, PhD, Superintendent of Schools
Marie Perini, EdD, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction &
Pupil Services
Jamie Phillips, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Support Services
Karen Marchioli, Director of Elementary Education
Andrew Kufel, PhD, Director of Secondary Education
Michele Ziegler, Director of Instructional Technology & Accountability

District residents, staff members, students, and media representatives

The budget work session was called to order at 6:30pm by President Graber. The pledge to the flag was recited and Mr. Graber asked for a moment of silent reflection.

At 6:32pm MOVED by Nowak SECONDED by MacKay to move to executive session to discuss pending litigation regarding an incident that occurred on July 1, 2013, index numbers 800599/2014, 80177/2014, 807752/2014, 809065/2014 and an alleged incident which occurred on October 27, 2014, index number 802448/2015, and to consult with the attorney for the district.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 7 Ayes 0 Nays
MOTION APPROVED.

At 7:08pm MOVED by Buchert SECONDED by MacKay to reconvene the regular session.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 7 Ayes 0 Nays
MOTION APPROVED.

The following resolution was MOVED by Sage SECONDED by Gallagher:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Lancaster Central School District (“Board”) is committed to providing an educational environment that embraces cultural diversity, tolerance, and respect among the students, staff, and the greater school community; and

WHEREAS, the Board understands and recognizes the District’s current “Redskins” sports mascot/team name enjoys a long history and tradition in the District that generations of Lancaster students and alumni cherish; and

MEETING DATE

KIND

PLACE

MEMBERS PRESENT

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS

OTHERS PRESENT

- 1.0 **CALL TO ORDER**
- 2.0 **PLEDGE TO FLAG**
- 3.0 **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

REGULAR SESSION

4.0 **REDSKIN MASCOT**

WHEREAS, the Board understands that the “Redskins” mascot/team name, if even unintentionally, is perceived as hurtful and disrespectful of others; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the potential negative impact the use of Native American mascots, symbols and images may have, and that the continued use of Native American mascots, symbols, and images undermines the educational experiences of members of all communities; and

WHEREAS, we value the well-being of our students as they travel throughout the region for competitions and educational experiences and we are concerned about possible repercussions resulting from maintaining the “Redskins” mascot in the face of growing opposition; and

WHEREAS, the “Redskins” mascot is now recognized as a symbol of ethnic stereotyping and, as a school District, we 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; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) prohibits discrimination, harassment and bullying on school property or at a school function based on actual or perceived race, color, national origin and ethnic group; and

WHEREAS, DASA and the District seek to afford all students in public school an environment free of discrimination and harassment, to foster civility and prevent and prohibit conduct inconsistent with this District’s educational mission; and

WHEREAS, the Board, in recognition of the values the District supports and promotes with students and the entire school community, including mutual respect, acceptance and equality, seeks to avoid practices which may be offensive or hurtful to others; and

NOT THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE LANCASTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION HEREBY SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING:

1. Effective immediately, the District will retire and discontinue the use of the “Redskins” team name as a representation of the District; and
2. The Board hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools to initiate and lead a collaborative, student-centered process through which a new sports team name and mascot, representative of the pride, spirit, and tradition of our schools, will be developed; and
3. The Board shall endeavor to have a recommendation brought forth from the student body, to the Superintendent of Schools, so that the “Redskins” mascot can be honorably and respectfully retired, and the new mascot formally unveiled.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 7 Ayes 0 Nays
MOTION APPROVED.

At 7:46pm MOVED by Sage SECONDED by MacKay to adjourn the regular session.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 7 Ayes 0 Nays
MOTION APPROVED.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

Sandra A. Janik, District Clerk