



School District of Menomonee Falls *Board of Education Update*

Dear SDMF Families, Staff and Community Members,

The School Board sincerely appreciates the feedback we have received related to the community conversation around the high school mascot. This fall we've heard from parents, students, and community members, in addition to Native American tribes, organizations, and members.

Two school boards have presented a resolution for consideration by the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) supporting a ban on the use of Native American mascots. The WASB is expected to vote on this resolution in January. Presently, 31 of the 421 Wisconsin School Districts have a Native American mascot. Our board discussed this resolution in August and decided that it was in the best interest of our students and community to make this a local decision based on community input. Ahead of potential legislation, we opened a conversation with the community asking for feedback.

No decision has been made on the high school mascot. Our community deserves a discussion that reinforces why the Village of Menomonee Falls has such a strong reputation for community pride.

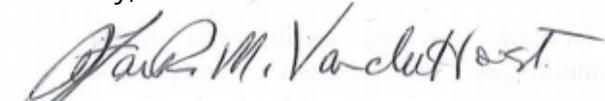
We would like to specifically address the following:

1. There would be no tax impact to change the Indian mascot name if the current "feathered F" and colors are maintained. Working with our Director of Finance we have been reviewing the financial cost of any mascot name change and estimate the cost to be less than \$20,000, which will come from the existing facilities maintenance budget.
2. Most school decisions that come before the board are prepared and presented to the board by the administrator in charge, in this case, the superintendent. The superintendent is not a voting member of the board. In this situation, Mr. Golla will prepare and present a summary on November 11 and 25, 2019 for board discussion. We intend to vote on the presented summary on December 9, 2019. You are invited, as always, to our board meetings, which take place on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. The next board meetings are on October 28, November 11 and 25 at 6 p.m.
3. At this time, we have chosen not to take this topic to a referendum so we can include student feedback and avoid unnecessary taxpayer expense. We believe referendums should be reserved for significant legal and financial implications. The listening sessions, board meetings, feedback form online, and emails are giving us a deeper insight into how the community feels about the mascot.

4. Based on feedback and in response to frequent requests from the community for the Board of Education to connect with Wisconsin Native Americans, an educational presentation will be given at the October 28, 2019 Board meeting which will be held at North Middle School at 6 p.m. in the auditorium.

Please note the location change from our regular board meetings. We appreciate the high level of engagement from the Village of Menomonee Falls residents. We hope that you will continue to participate in the process and the success of our students.

Sincerely,



Faith VanderHorst, Board President

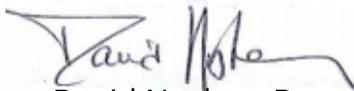


Ronald Bertieri, Board Vice President

Michele Divelbiss, Clerk



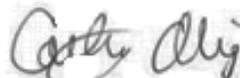
Mark Nadolski, Treasurer



David Noshay, Board Member



Keri Duce, Board Member



Cathy Olig, Board Member