It Is Time For The Radnor School District to Retire Use of the Raider Name and Native Imagery

Offered By:
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“Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted; the indifference of those who should have known better; the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most; that has made it possible for evil to triumph.”

— Haile Selassie
The Radnor School Board has a duty to make decisions that are in the best interests of its students. Perpetuating offensive and discriminatory language, imagery and behaviors in the name of sports, is harmful to Radnor students, as well as to the Native American people being denigrated. As leaders in education and our community, the School Board is duty bound to make the decision that is morally and educationally best for its students and community, and that means abandoning the denigrating, divisive, offensive and hurtful “Raider” name and imagery.

“Public institutions have an important and often overlooked role in shaping norms surrounding prejudice in society—both in terms of their formal practices and in terms of their communicated institutional norms (Kteily & Bruneau, 2017a; Tankard & Paluck, 2016). In this regard, how an institution chooses to address or ignore expressions of racism communicated by its members has far reaching implications for its membership going forward (López, 2015)”

We do not believe that when selecting the “Raider” name and imagery, or in its ongoing use over the decades, that members of our community and student body did it with an intent, or even an overt realization, that this term was hurtful, offensive and racist and would inflict harm. But today we do know these things and it is time to act upon that knowledge by changing our team name and imagery.

By contrast, if there is a decision to keep the name and/or imagery it will be a conscious choice to advance bigotry, and to support hurtful, offensive and harmful language impacting Native American communities, our own children and our community.

Radnor should not be the community that hung onto an offensive and racist sports team name and imagery because of faux arguments about tradition, history or respect.
Referring to Native American people as “raiders” is insulting, derogatory, and misrepresents First Nation people as hostile, aggressive, attackers; and intentionally evokes images of Native American people raiding white communities to inflict death and harm.

This mischaracterization and misrepresentation of Native Americans has no place in our community.

Given the history of the term “Raiders” and the history of its use in Radnor, retiring the name and switching to an inspirational and positive option is the best path for moving forward.

(More discussion on this point below)
In Native American culture and spirituality, feathers are to be earned through service, sacrifice, accomplishment and life rites of passage. In Native American culture feathers symbolize trust, honor, wisdom, strength and power, amongst other things. Radnor’s misappropriation of the Native American feather imagery is highly offensive and a show of tremendous disregard and disrespect. Ending the use of such symbolism sends an important message to Native American communities and the Radnor student body that we respect the Native American people, their sacred beliefs and culture. In contrast, continuing to use this imagery sends an overt message of disregard and disrespect and teaches our communities and students that offensive misappropriation and disrespect is acceptable in our schools and community.

“Both Indians and non-Indians have cultural and religious symbols that are important to them. Whites, for example, generally exhibit great respect for their national flags, witness the role of the flag in parades and in battle, and the furor that results when protestors try to burn the flag. Indians exhibit and demand similar respect for their special symbols, such as the eagle feather. In Indian culture, the headdress of eagle feathers was and continues to be reserved for our most revered and respected chiefs and spiritual leaders. Each feather is earned through a lifetime of service and sacrifice....”

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are laws to prohibit possession, use, and sale of eagle feathers and parts. While in place to ensure the viability of the species, the US Fish and Wildlife Service also recognize the cultural and religious significance of eagles to Native Americans and works to support those needs. The Service operates the National Eagle Repository to provide the Native Americans with eagle feathers for religious use.


“When a feather falls to the earth, it is believed to carry all of the bird's energy, and it is perceived as a gift from the sky, the sea, and the trees. Feathers may arrive unexpectedly but not without a purpose. ... In Native culture, the eagle is considered the strongest and bravest of all birds. For this reason, its feathers symbolize what is highest, bravest, strongest, and holiest. It has strong medicine. ... In fact, if an eagle feather is dropped during a dance, a special ceremony is performed before picking it up again, and the owner is careful to never drop it again. ... The eagle feather is also used to adorn the sacred pipe because it is a symbol of the Great Spirit who is above all and from whom all strength and power flows. When a feather is held over a person’s head, it is a blessing, wishing bravery and happiness. ... To wave it over everyone present means everyone is wished peace prosperity, and happiness.”

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights “has long held that the use of Native American nicknames and imagery for sports teams and in schools is offensive, as it mocks and trivializes Native American culture. In the context of schools, we noted these portrayals detract from schools’ educational mission, have the potential to create racially hostile environments intimidating to Native students, and “prevent non-Native Americans from understanding the true historical and cultural experiences of American Indians.” It normalizes the legacy of oppression perpetrated against tribes culminating in dislocation, relocation, and death of many Native Americans. “

“The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights calls for an end to the use of Native American images and team names by non-Native schools. The Commission deeply respects the rights of all Americans to freedom of expression under the First Amendment and in no way would attempt to prescribe how people can express themselves. However, the Commission believes that the use of Native American images and nicknames in school is insensitive and should be avoided. In addition, some Native American and civil rights advocates maintain that these mascots may violate anti-discrimination laws. These references, whether mascots and their performances, logos, or names, are disrespectful and offensive to American Indians and others who are offended by such stereotyping. They are particularly inappropriate and insensitive in light of the long history of forced assimilation that American Indian people have endured in this country. “

“It is particularly disturbing that Native American references are still to be found in educational institutions, whether elementary, secondary or post-secondary. Schools are places where diverse groups of people come together to learn not only the "Three Rs," but also how to interact respectfully with people from different cultures. “

STATEMENT OF U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS ON THE USE OF NATIVE AMERICAN IMAGES AND NICKNAMES AS SPORTS SYMBOLS
The Radnor school board has a duty to act affirmatively in the best interests of students. In this case that means retiring the Raider name and use of Native American imagery and replacing them with a positive, inspirational and respectful name and mascot.
“Raider” Name & Imagery (alone & together) Harms Native Americans; Harms Our Children; Harms Our Community
Research documents deeply harmful ramifications resulting from offensive names and imagery designed to misappropriate, disrespect, demean, mischaracterize Native American people and their culture. Radnor should not be part of perpetuating this harm by maintaining the Raider name and/or Native imagery.
Some have suggested that we should not be concerned about this issue because Radnor is not home to many, if any, Native American people. The presence or absence of Native American people in Radnor township or our school district is irrelevant.

The fact is that ongoing use of the Raider name and imagery:
- supports a message of disregard and abuse that is harmful to Native American people wherever they live in our nation;
- is harmful to our community and our students;
- impacts the way our students develop as part of a wonderfully, and increasingly, diverse nation of people; and
- as research shows, has a harmful impact on all students regardless of the color of their skin.
WHEREAS the American Psychological Association has recognized that racism and racial discrimination are attitudes and behavior that are learned and that threaten human development (American Psychological Association, June 2001);

WHEREAS the continued use of American Indian mascots, symbols, images, and personalities undermines the educational experiences of members of all communities—especially those who have had little or no contact with Indigenous peoples (Connolly, 2000; U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 2001; Society of Indian Psychologists, 1999; Webester, Loubear, Corn, & Vigue, 1971);

WHEREAS the continued use of American Indian mascots, symbols, images, and personalities by school systems appears to have a negative impact on the self-esteem of American Indian children (Chamberlin, 1999; Eagle and Condor Indigenous People’s Alliance, 2003; Fryberg, 2004b; Fryberg & Markus, 2003; Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, 2001; Society of Indian Psychologists, 1999; The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, 2001; Vanderford, 1996);

WHEREAS the continued use of American Indian mascots, symbols, images, and personalities undermines the ability of American Indian Nations to portray accurate and respectful images of their culture, spirituality, and traditions (Clark & Witko, in press; Davis, 1993; Gone, 2002; Rodriguez, 1998; Witko, 2005);

WHEREAS the continued use of American Indian mascots, symbols, images, and personalities is a form of discrimination against Indigenous Nations that can lead to negative relations between groups (Cook-Lynn, 2001; Coombe, 1999; U. S. Commission on Civil Rights, 2001; Witko, 2005);

WHEREAS the continued use of American Indian symbols, mascots, images, and personalities is a detrimental manner of illustrating the cultural identity of American Indian people through negative displays and/or interpretations of spiritual and traditional practices (Adams, 1995; Banks, 1993; Nuessel, 1994; Staurowsky, 1999; Witko, 2005);

WHEREAS the continued use of American Indian mascots, symbols, images, and personalities is disrespectful of the spiritual beliefs and values of American Indian nations (Churchill, 1994; Gone, 2002; Sheppard, 2004; Staurowsky, 1998);

WHEREAS the continued use of American Indian mascots, symbols, images, and personalities is an offensive and intolerable practice to American Indian Nations that must be eradicated (U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 2001; Society of Indian Psychologists, 1999);

WHEREAS the continued use of American Indian mascots, symbols, images, and personalities has a negative impact on other communities by allowing for the perpetuation of stereotypes and stigmatization of another cultural group (Fryberg, 2004b; Gone, 2002; Staurowsky, 1999; U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 2001);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Psychological Association supports and recommends the immediate retirement of American Indian mascots, symbols, images, and personalities by schools, colleges, universities, athletic teams, and organizations.
Scientific research demonstrates and confirms that imagery, names, and mascots like those being used by Radnor are in fact harmful to Native American communities -- it is not an honor; it is inflicting harm.

As reported by Yale researchers in 2019:

“stereotypic mascots have the capacity to reinforce harmful stereotypes of indigenous populations in ways that constrain the representation of these peoples in contemporary society, and relegate them as artifacts of the past”


That individual Native Americans may express a different opinion does not change the fact that the majority of Native American communities and leaders reject that the use of Native American imagery or references in team mascots and/or names as being insulting, denigrating and harmful; not an honor.
Research demonstrates that Native American people, children and communities are harmed by the misuse of Native American references and imagery in school and professional sports team names, mascots and imagery.

“When exposed to these images, the self-esteem of Native youth is harmfully impacted, their self-confidence erodes, and their sense of identity is severely damaged. Specifically, these stereotypes affect how Native youth view the world and their place in society, while also affecting how society views Native peoples. This creates an inaccurate portrayal of Native peoples and their contributions to society.”

Based on research, Dr. Stephanie Fryberg, a member of the Tulalip Tribes and a cultural and social psychology scholar engaged in meaningful research regarding the use of Native American names, mascots and logos in sports, “has concluded that these mascots have negative effects on race relations in the United States.”

“The intolerance and harm promoted by “Indian” mascots have very real consequences. The alarmingly high rates of hate crimes against Native people indicates a need to take immediate action in a number of areas, including the removal of harmful images and education of the general public to diffuse additional hateful activity against Native peoples. According to Department of Justice analysis, “American Indians are more likely than people of other races to experience violence at the hands of someone of a different race.”

ENDING THE LEGACY OF RACISM IN SPORTS & THE ERA OF HARMFUL “INDIAN” SPORTS MASCOTS

National Congress of American Indians | October 2013
“While it is difficult to draw a direct link between suicide and the symbols, the American Indian Mental Health Association of Minnesota has concluded that American Indians "are particularly vulnerable and have difficulty reconciling their culture with the modern world" and that the use of mascots and logos is "damaging to the self-identity, self-concept, and self-esteem of our people."

“Positive stereotypes and negative stereotypes created by Native mascots are equally as harmful. Believing a Native mascot represents romanticized interpretations (i.e. proud, brave, etc.) or violent/negative interpretations (i.e. war-like, fierce) of Native cultures and acting on those beliefs have the same negative impact on the self-esteem of Native youth.”

“The objection by countless Native individuals, organizations and tribal governments to Native mascots is focused on the stereotype-led behavior of sports fandom. Regardless of how culturally accurate a mascot is, the presence of a Native mascot in a sports atmosphere creates an environment where behaviors many Native people deem as offensive/racist are socially acceptable to non-Native fans. The negative stereotypical behaviors/imagery/language are the focus of any opposition and these behaviors come from both the team with the Native mascot and fans of opposing teams. Cultural accuracy does not eliminate stereotypical behavior by sports fans.”

Akomawt Educational Initiative
https://www.akomawt.org/nativemascotresources.html
According to Stephanie Fryberg, PhD, University of Arizona, ... "American Indian mascots are harmful not only because they are often negative, but because they remind American Indians of the limited ways in which others see them. This in turn restricts the number of ways American Indians can see themselves."

- **Undermines the ability of American Indian Nations to portray accurate and respectful images of their culture, spirituality and traditions.** Many American Indians report that they find today's typical portrayal of American Indian culture disrespectful and offensive to their spiritual beliefs.

- **Presents stereotypical images of American Indians.** Such mascots are a contemporary example of prejudice by the dominant culture against racial and ethnic minority groups.

- **Is a form of discrimination against American Indian Nations that can lead to negative relations between groups.**

Excerpted from: Summary of the APA Resolution Recommending Retirement of American Indian Mascots
https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/indian-mascots
The ongoing use of the Raider name and imagery is also harmful to Radnor students; teaching them to negatively stereotype Native Americans, affecting their growth as open and accepting people respective of First Nation people interested in hearing and advancing just treatment of, and relationships with Native American people and all communities of color.

• “…research with predominantly white participants has shown that American Indian mascots activate negative – but not positive – stereotypes.”

• “Studies show that regardless of their intention, these mascots do not honor American Indians, but instead bring to mind negative thoughts associated with them as a group of people,” says Quinton. “Furthermore, other studies with mostly white samples have found that people exposed to American Indian mascots are more likely to negatively stereotype other ethnic groups as well.”

• “A University at Buffalo social psychologist who specializes in the study of prejudice and stigma says that American Indian nicknames and mascots are not neutral symbols, and that their continued use by schools, professional sports teams and other organizations has negative consequences for everyone, not just Native Americans.”

http://www.buffalo.edu/news/releases/2015/03/021.html
Research supports the concern that allowing the continued use of the offensive team name and imagery targeting Native Americans (a community of color) can have harmful impacts on other communities of color in the school district.

A conversation with Radnor students and teachers demonstrates that Radnor already experiences and supports a culture of internal segregation. Research supports the concern that ongoing use of the Raider name and imagery, which is demonstrably denigrating to one community of color, sends a denigrating message to other communities of color that may encourage ongoing student segregation along racial lines and have other unintended, but very harmful, consequences.

• “Another prediction derived directly from this work is that campus spaces with stereotypic mascots or other racist imagery might become increasingly segregated along racial lines over time (e.g., Alexander, 2012; Desmond, 2016; Massey & Denton, 1993; Shedd, 2015).”

• “A direct hypothesis derived from this work is relevant to the mental health and well-being of students of color living within the institution. Specifically, we predict that continued exposure to these harmful stereotypes elicits greater weathering, allostatic load, and other negative health outcomes relative to campuses without these stereotypes (Geronimus, Hicken, Keene, & Bound, 2006).”

Research demonstrates that having a Native American mascot harms native and non-native students by increasing their negative perceptions of Native American people and encouraging discrimination.

In addition, research indicates that Native American mascot exposure can also encourage stereotyping of other people of color; and encourage non-native people of color to have negative feelings about themselves.

Study indicates that:

- “Native American mascots yield negative psychological effects (e.g., depressed self-esteem, community worth, and future achievement-related goals, and increased negative feelings of stress, distress, depression, dysphoria, and hostility) for Native American students. “

- “The seven experimental studies discussed here focused on the effects of exposure to Native mascots on non-Native people. The first five studies collectively demonstrated that, for some non-Native persons, exposure to and support for Native mascots was associated with and increased negative stereotyping of, prejudiced attitudes toward, and tendency to discriminate against Native Americans. The last two studies suggested that these mascots can generate negative effects on some non-Native persons (e.g., increased stereotyping of Asian Americans, lower feelings of belonging among less prejudiced non-Native persons). “

The psychosocial effects of Native American mascots: a comprehensive review of empirical research findings
Laurel R. Davis-Delano, Joseph P. Gone & Stephanie A. Fryberg
A failure for the school board to take a strong and moral stance on this issue will help perpetuate the continuing stereotypes that it advances; inflicting harm on Native Americans but also undermining the growth of growth of students as being open and accepting to people of other races, ethnic backgrounds, and life experiences:

“Across four studies we found that a lack of institutional signaling that a stereotypic Native American mascot is inappropriate on campus has allowed the normative expression of that stereotype to continue on campus and online,”

“The social science research and literature on this is pretty overwhelming that the use of these caricatures is bad for everyone. Particularly, it’s bad for children,” said Bryan Brayboy, President’s Professor of Indigenous Education and Justice in the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University. For native kids, it damages their self-esteem, he explained. “For non-native kids, it largely inures them toward racism toward native people. It ends up giving them the sense that native folks and peoples are a thing of the past or are to be caricatured, so they are less likely to have empathy with native peoples, and they come to see us as these relics of the past and stereotypes rather than vibrant, viable, productive human beings.”

https://globalsportmatters.com/culture/2018/04/24/native-american-mascots-honoring-culture-symbol-disrespect/?fbclid=IwAR3snsV0hhJLfDNGBunFUr6aDqKuaLABck71oEkF5poCiYNiQZHq5aJLpQU
“In 2005, the APA called for the immediate retirement of all American Indian mascots, symbols, images and personalities by schools, colleges, universities, athletic teams and organizations. APA's position is based on a growing body of social science literature that shows the harmful effects of racial stereotyping and inaccurate racial portrayals, including the particularly harmful effects of American Indian sports mascots on the social identity development and self-esteem of American Indian young people.

Research has shown that the continued use of American Indian mascots, symbols, images and personalities has a negative effect on not only American Indian students but all students by:

• **Undermining the educational experiences of members of all communities-especially those who have had little or no contact with indigenous peoples.** The symbols, images and mascots teach non-Indian children that it's acceptable to participate in culturally abusive behavior and perpetuate inaccurate misconceptions about American Indian culture.

• **Establishes an unwelcome and often times hostile learning environment for American Indian students that affirms negative images/stereotypes that are promoted in mainstream society.**”

Excerpted from: Summary of the APA Resolution Recommending Retirement of American Indian Mascots
https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/indian-mascots
Children who attend Radnor are harmed by the ongoing use of the Raider name and Native imagery: they are being taught the lesson that racist and abusive behavior can be justified.

While many reasons have been advanced for keeping the Raider name and imagery, we cannot be teaching our children that there is any reason or way to justify racist and abusive behavior and language. Native American communities have spoken loud and clear about the harmful impacts of such language and imagery for Native people; and the scientific research has spoken clearly about the harmful impacts for Native people, other people of color, as well as all children (including white children).

A decision by the school board to continue the use of the Raider name and Native imagery in the face of this overwhelming evidence would demonstrates an intentional disregard of Native American communities and other communities of color; and for the healthy emotional, psychological and intellectual development of all Radnor children.
Nationwide, Native Americans Have Made Clear Their Opposition to Names Like “Raider” and the Misuse of Native Imagery; Pointing to a Few Contrary Perspectives Doesn’t Justify the Ongoing Bad Behavior
It is intellectually dishonest to say that Native American people and communities are not opposed to the use of Native references and imagery by sports teams, including by school districts.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is the nation’s oldest, largest, and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native advocacy organization. NCAI “has a long-standing, firm position against the use of “Indian” stereotypes as mascots, logos, and symbols in various sports, commercial, and cultural institutions.”

“Along with the hundreds of tribal governments who make up NCAI, opposition to these sports stereotypes has been declared by national and regional tribal organizations, individual tribal governments, state governments, agencies, organizations, and companies—all of whom have taken official positions or actions in support of ending harmful mascots.”

ENDING THE LEGACY OF RACISM IN SPORTS & THE ERA OF HARMFUL “INDIAN” SPORTS MASCOTS

National Congress of American Indians | October 2013
Native American Organizations & Communities On the Record in Opposition
Include But Are Not Limited To:

- Advocates for American Indian Children (California)
- The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
- American Indian Mental Health Association (Minnesota)
- American Indian Movement
- American Indian Student Services at the Ohio State University (added 1/24/01)
- Association on American Indian Affairs
- Buncombe County Native American Intertribal Association (North Carolina)
- Cincinnati Zapatista Coalition
- Concerned American Indian Parents (Minnesota)
- Council for Indigenous North Americans (University of Southern Maine)
- Eagle and Condor Indigenous Peoples’ Alliance (added 2/27/03)
- Fontana Native American Indian Center, Inc.
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (Michigan-added 09/04/05)
- Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission (added 2/08/03)
- Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council
- Gun Lake Band of Potawatomi Indians (Michigan-added 09/04/05)
- Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes
- (Composed of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muskogee (Creek), Cherokee, and Seminole Nations)
- Juaneño Band of Mission Indians
- Kansas Association for Native American Education
- Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (Michigan-added 09/04/05)
- Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs
- Medicine Wheel Intertribal Association (Louisiana)
- Menominee Tribe of Indians (Wisconsin)
- Minnesota Indian Education Association (added 12/20/01)
- National Congress of American Indians
- National Indian Education Association
- Native American Caucus of the California Democratic Party
- Native American Indian Center of Central Ohio (added 1/24/01)
- Native American Journalists Association
- Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs
- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi (Michigan-added 09/04/05)
- North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs
- North Dakota Indian Education Association (added 12/20/01)
- Office of Native American Ministry, Diocese of Grand Rapids (Michigan-added 9/04/05)
- Ohio Center for Native American Affairs (added 1/24/01)
- Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
- San Bernardino/Riverside Counties Native American Community Council
- Society of Indian Psychologists of the Americas
- Southern California Indian Center
- St. Cloud State University - American Indian Center (added 12/20/01)
- Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (Michigan-added 09/04/05)
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (North Dakota-added 11/16/07)
- Tennessee Chapter of the National Coalition for the Preservation of Indigenous Cultures
- Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs (Resolution was in 2005. Added here 4/14/07)
- Tennessee Native Veterans Society (added 4/26/02)
- Unified Coalition for American Indian Concerns, Virginia
- The United Indian Nations of Oklahoma
- Virginia American Indian Cultural Resource Center
- Wisconsin Indian Education Association
- Woodland Indian Community Center-Lansing (Michigan-added 9/04/05)
- Youth "Indian" Mascot and Logo Taskforce (Wisconsin)

https://aistm.org/advocates_list.htm
Dahkota Franklin Kicking Bear Brown:

“At the same time all of these fans don’t know how offensive they are or that they even in the presence of a Native. Most of the time they don’t even know that Natives still exist”

“By having the racial slur of a name (Calaveras – High School) has granted all schools they go against the right to mock and make fun of Native Americans”

“I’ve heard my own friends yelling around me ‘Kill the Redskins’ or ‘Send them on the Trail of Tears’ along with countless other phrases. With comments like these it is hard to believe when they say ‘Oh no I really do like Indians’ or ‘I am part Indian myself’. It is hard to believe the students that go to Calaveras when they repeat over and over ‘We are honoring your people. Haven’t you seen that mural in our gym or the paintings around the school.’ “

“An overwhelming amount of Native Americans have voiced their opinions against native mascots and I think it is time for a change to made”

“It is time to change the name and change the mascot. Not only in Calaveras but across the nation”

“With our sacred Native people as mascots, the younger generation – my generation, has lost our sense of identity and pride”

“When people hear that we are Native all they think of is a football helmet or a big nosed head on a baseball jersey”

“Individuals have quit seeing Native people for who we really are. All they see are mascots and stereotypes”

“Native mascots don’t only affect native youth but they also give non-native students a false sense of representation among native people. Native mascots have installed the idea that native people are savage and look the same as the cartoons representing schools and professional teams in the minds of non-native students.”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxnW9B14pvA&t=49
It is important that all Native Americans are heard on this issue; but the ability to point to a few Native supporters for the current name and imagery must be viewed in the context and should not be used to discount or undermine the overwhelming Native opposition.

As official public statements delivered by tribal representatives and Native American coalitions make clear, as a community, Native Americans oppose the misuse of Native American imagery and team-name references. It is also clear that this opposition is deeply rooted in the harmful affect such misuse of imagery and associated complimentary references has on Native American children, people, communities and culture; including past harm, present harm and future harm.
Oneida Tribe, of which Emerson Metoxen was a member, opposes the misuse of Native American references, mascots and imagery by public schools.

The repeated reference to Emerson Metoxen’s lack of opposition to the Raider name and Indian head imagery must be viewed in context. His opinion is valid and should be heard and respected. But it is one voice among many. Further, Mr. Metoxen was a member of the Oneida tribe. The Oneida tribe are helping to lead the battle against names and imagery offensive to Native American people.

Oneida Nation Chairman Tehassi Hill, in his State of the Tribes Address before the Wisconsin State legislature:

Hill called on the 31 Wisconsin public schools (among them the Elmwood Raiders) that used Indian mascots, logos, and nicknames to end the “inflammatory practices”. (Note: of Wisconsin's public schools who have already made the change, 3 used the name “Raiders” ; 5 had used the name “Red Raiders”)

“The use of Indian images stereotypes and dehumanizes our cultures and Native American people for the sake of entertainment,” Hill said. “It encourages racist and vulgar behavior in the name of school spirit which is both socially and academically detrimental to all children. Teach respect, not racism. Indians are people, not mascots.”

https://oneida-nsn.gov/blog/2019/04/18/chairman-hill-delivers-state-of-the-tribes-address/
Assertions that Native Americans are not offended by the Raider name and imagery is demonstrably untrue. The Radnor School Board should have no part in validating such willful ignorance and must set aside the “Raider” name and the Native American imagery.

Native American communities across the region and the nation have been clear that the misuse of Native American imagery and offensive characterizations of Native Americans or misuse of Native American references for school sports teams is an affront and offense to Native American tribes and people across the nation. For anyone to assert otherwise reflects an unwillingness to listen, hear, read and learn what Native American people and communities, en masse, are saying about this issue.

“Raider” and the associated imagery are among the offensive references specifically opposed.
Advocates for continued use of the “Raider” name and/or continued use of Native American imagery claim they respect the perspective of Native Americans and that their support for Raider and the Native imagery comes from a place of respect, or because they believe there is no genuine Native opposition. Comments on the record demonstrate these claims to be false and that in fact there is a hateful, demeaning, disregard at play for many.

The hateful rhetoric and language demonstrates that allowing continued use of the offensive “Raider” name and imagery actually emboldens and encourages such perspectives – an outcome the research noted above supports.

Supporting continued use of the “Raider” name and/or associated imagery is an acceptance of the perspectives described in the social media posts that follow.
Assertions That No Evidence of Native American Opposition Has Been Presented Is Just Another Example of People Not Wanting to Listen to Native People – a Chronic Problem & the Ultimate Disrespect
I (Maya) have attended many public meetings and hearings involving decisions that will impact Native American people and in every instance there is a deep expression of frustration, anger and concern that when they speak decisionmakers and others in the community do not listen or hear what they are saying. The quotes in the slides to come confirm that experience.

Native American communities local and across the nation have been very clear that names like “Raider” and misuse of native imagery like sacred feathers and Indian heads inflict deep and lasting harm, are offensive, and should not be used by sports teams, schools and others.

Many of the social media posts seen here in Radnor claim that they have seen no evidence of Native Americans being offended and opposed to the offensive names and imagery – but that is just another example of people not listening.

The School Board needs to show its students that listening matters and respect matters by voting to end the use of the Raider name and the Native American imagery. Any other decision will be just another example of white government ignoring Native people.
David Glass has spent three decades fighting the Washington Redskins issue as a member of the Band of Ojibwe in Northwest Minnesota. But any optimism Glass felt collided with a familiar, painful question: Would the voices of the indigenous community be heard?

As a national movement to eliminate racially insensitive symbols continues, Native American advocacy groups are fighting to be heard.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/2020/07/07/redskins-conduct-name-review-native-american-groups-say-they-havent-heard-team/

In focus groups with Native Americans, four out of five said they are offended by Native-themed mascots.

The lack of visibility, relevance and humanization of Native peoples in modern life erodes support for Native issues and allows media-fueled stereotypes to persist. It also contributes to an underestimation of the discrimination Native Americans face relative to other ethnic and racial groups (GQRR).

They're conditioned to just ignore us or erase us or shove us under the carpet like we don’t exist.” -Melissa Oakes, a Mohawk


"This country was built to say that yes, white people are more valuable," he said. "So, how am I supposed to feel? I'm angry, disappointed, scared and unsure of the future for myself, my children and their children.” Artist Ben Pease who does Native American art identifying racial disparity.


A new study published in July found two-thirds of Americans don’t believe Native people experience significant racial discrimination. Yet rather than living in a country where discrimination has lessened and or access to resources and rights has been improved, Native Americans live in a country that consistently pretends like they do not exist.

https://www.teenvogue.com/story/racism-against-native-americans
Ignorance Of Native Opposition & People’s Support For Ongoing Use of the Raider Name &/or Imagery Are Not Grounded In Respect or Misunderstanding -- For Too Many It is About Disrespect & Intentional Disregard.

Radnor’s Ongoing Use of the Name and/or Imagery Will Validate These Perspectives.
“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

— Dr Martin Luther King Jr
Michele McClave

John Walsh can you actually LISTEN to the Native American voices? They do not appreciate these mascots.

45m   Like   Reply

John Walsh

Michele McClave I dont give two shits what an indian thinks.

45m   Like   Reply
Ellen Miades: WAAAAHHHH

Maya K. van Rossum: Ellen Miades thank you.

Ellen Miades: John Walsh sorry I made you cry, not my intention. Just trying to imagine how it feels for a Native American to have their imagery used like that. Doesn't feel right.

John Walsh: Ellen Miades I don't care how a native american feels
Quoted in the article and Facebook post is Chief Barnes stating “We are not mascots. We are living cultures and languages with histories going back thousands of years. Our stories are a thousand-fold, filled with wondrous stories of our ancestors and our relationship to the land. It is in this way we want people to know us, not as an emblem on a hat.”

Here are some of the hateful reactions/responses.
Jason William Farley
Can anyone show me native Americans who are offended? What part of your life is so impacted by keeping a mascot that’s been around over 100 years? I think people need to worry about more important issues, like if the kids are even going back to school ...

John Walsh
Jason William Farley the Indian must of touched them in their special place
Jason William Farley
Bobbie Lynn Williamson
Tree hugging liberal. Don’t waste your time.

Ellen Newton
Maya K. van Rossum you are being dishonest here. Very few Native Americans are offended by mascots. This is a repetitive political farce. Get the statistics.
Frank J. Mele

“Has exacerbated tensions within the community and damaged Radnor’s brand to the detriment of its most important constituency- its students” ???

According to who?
Facts?
Studies proving allegations?
BULLSHIT
I still live in Radnor and I don’t see any “tensions within the community”.
Nor do I see how it’s damaged “Radnors brand”....
And I don’t recall Lancaster Pike being closed due to Native Americans marching in protest

So there’s that
Chris Binnig
It’s not offensive to most. And the fact that it may be offensive to a select group of over sensitive do-gooders is irrelevant.
Dismissing the Native American Experience in online posts and news articles by suggesting other communities had it worse is just another way of invalidating Native American lived experiences.

Note: to suggest that experiencing a nature caused famine is worse than human inflicted slavery is equally offensive.

Sheryl Stickley Maxwell McBride
My father’s side is Irish. Potato famine. Treated worse than slaves.
There Is No Honor in Denigrating & Offending Native Americans

“…it is impossible to honor someone who does not feel honored.”
“It has ever been the way of the white men in relation to the Indian, first, to sentimentalize him as a monster until he has been killed off, and second to sentimentalize him in retrospect as the noble savage.”

--James Gray, “The Illinois”, 1940
Neither the Raider Name nor the Native American imagery are an honor for Native Americans. The assertion of some that they fail to see any harm in the use of the name or imagery cannot override how Native American communities across the nation and scientific research tell us they are harmed by the use of these names and imagery.

Native American communities have been clear that they are not honored by the misuse of Native American imagery and offensive names.

If Radnor wants to truly honor Native American communities we should listen to them retire the Raider name and imagery and embrace a new, different, positive name and mascot.
As well articulated by those from the Lenape tribe:

“How does your tribe feel about American Indian team mascots? Even though some are said to be in an effort to "honor our people," most are insulting and racist and all reinforce insensitivity and stereotypes. Often our children must visit or attend schools where their race is being caricatured on walls, shirts, jackets and flags. Our proud tribal names, villages, heroes and even rituals are turned into marketing tools and demeaned. Sadly, it has been our experience that when we try to educate such offenders, we are verbally... and sometimes even physically... attacked. Having such mascots is NO HONOR... It is an INSULT! ““

https://lenapeprograms.info/teacher-parent-resources/why-no-mascots/
“Schools that continue to use Indian imagery and references claim that their use stimulates interest in Native American culture and honors Native Americans. These institutions have simply failed to listen to the Native groups, religious leaders, and civil rights organizations that oppose these symbols.”

STATEMENT OF U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS ON THE USE OF NATIVE AMERICAN IMAGES AND NICKNAMES AS SPORTS SYMBOLS
“The use of racist and derogatory “Indian” sports mascots, logos, or symbols, is harmful and perpetuates negative stereotypes of America’s first peoples. Specifically, rather than honoring Native peoples, these caricatures and stereotypes contribute to a disregard for the personhood of Native peoples. Efforts to end harmful “Indian” mascots are rooted in an attempt to achieve social justice and racial equity across all parts of American society.”

ENDING THE LEGACY OF RACISM IN SPORTS & THE ERA OF HARMFUL “INDIAN” SPORTS MASCOTS
National Congress of American Indians | October 2013
“Barbara Munson, a member of the Oneida tribe, points out that Indian people do not pay tribute to one another by the use of logos, portraits, or statues. American Indian people do not feel honored by this symbolism: "We experience it as no less than a mockery of our cultures.’ Michael Yellow Bird, an associate professor of social work at Arizona State University, suggests that it is impossible to honor someone who does not feel honored.

This is no honor. . . . We lost our land, we lost our languages, we lost our children. Proportionately speaking, indigenous peoples [in the United States] are incarcerated more than any other group, we have more racial violence perpetrated upon us, and we are forgotten. If people think this is how to honor us, then colonization has really taken hold.

The ultimate effect is loss of self-esteem. Critics contend that the use of logos and mascots leads to a de facto exclusion of American Indians from many sports events "simply because they may wish to avoid exposure to a misuse of their culture."

The National Congress of American Indians are clear, it is time for Radnor and all institutions to end the overtly offensive misuse of harmful characterizations to Native Americans (such as “Raider”) and the misuse of imagery. A true show of honor would be to respect this request and retire the Raider and the imagery.

“As African Americans achieved racial equity over the last two centuries, the systems of communicating racial violence through culture, such as sports logos quickly became a practice of the past. Today’s harmful “Indian” mascots are very much an extension of the commercialization of race such as black face and African-American stereotypes like "Black Sambo" and Hispanic stereotypes like "Frito Bandito". However for American Indians, the gap in racial equity is represented by the stubborn grip professional sports teams hold on their “Indian” marketing symbols.

The advancement of society through racial equality has always come about because of the political and social courage of citizens, legislators, businesses, and consumers to change legal frameworks, cultural norms, and social practices that encourage racism to permeate society. This fact remains the same today in relation to harmful “Indian” mascots. As society continues to perpetuate harm through cultural practices, racial and social equity for Native people will remain elusive.

American businesses, political leaders, institutions, and individuals must act to advance a more equal and just society for all people, and the time to advance equality for America’s first people is long overdue. To truly honor Native peoples and our unique historical and contemporary place in American society, leaders, citizens, and even sports fans must step forward and act to end harmful “Indian” mascots once and for all.”
While advocates for Raiders & continued use of Native American imagery assert it is because they respect and honor Native Americans, their posts make clear that it’s quite the opposite.
John Walsh

Maya K. van Rossum indians got their asses kicked. If they won they could of named Radnor anything they wanted. But they lost. Read a history book

Like Jesus 2019
John Walsh
If the Indians fought harder for their land well then they could of name the school anything they wanted, but they lost. To the Victor's go the spoils

Ellen Newton
John Walsh they were kinda fluid about boundaries and property rights....

John Walsh
Ellen Newton they should of fought harder
John Walsh
David Wood they should of fought harder

David Wood
John Walsh do realize the depth of what you are saying. "Victims of a genocide should have fought harder?" Is that what you meant to say? I will give you the benefit of retraction or deleting your post

John Walsh
David Wood to the Victor's go the spoils
Chief Barnes: “We are not mascots. We are living cultures and languages with histories going back thousands of years. Our stories are a thousand-fold, filled with wondrous stories of our ancestors and our relationship to the land. It is in this way we want people to know us, not as an emblem on a hat.”

Kimberly Barone
Whoever Chief Barnes is, is clearly a very confused individual. So sad.

4h Like Reply Message

Kimberly Barone
This is the funniest post I’ve seen in a while! Thank u.

4h Like Reply Message

Kimberly Barone
This might be one of the most ridiculous things I’ve heard yet... and I’ve seen a ton

4h Like Reply Message
Continued Use of Raider Name & Imagery Validates & Embraces the Nasty, Hateful Bullying Expressed by Those Seeking to Maintain Both the Name & Imagery
“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.”

— Archbishop Desmond Tutu
When the issue of changing the name and Native American imagery is raised in public forums the response/reaction by the majority of those that disagree with a name and imagery change are hateful, abusive, bullying and even at times threatening.

By contrast, those supportive of change have sought to use respectful language, ideas or humor to engage in conversation; such efforts are routinely met with divisive and hateful responses.

Keeping the Raider name and/or the Native American imagery accepts and validates the aggressive, bullying and threatening behavior and will only serve to embrace, empower and embolden such perspectives.

Perpetuating hate or bullying of any kind has no place in Radnor schools; that needs to be made clear by a decision to retire both the Raider name and Native imagery. Preserving either the Raider name and/or imagery sends a clear message to the student body, the community and the nation that Radnor approves of offensive, bullying and racist behavior.

As members of this community who pay taxes and have a child (brother) in Radnor schools this is wholly unacceptable. We do not want our tax dollars misused to knowingly perpetuate offensive and harmful behaviors like the Raider name and related imagery; and it is unacceptable that you would seek to force all children to carry forth this message if they want to play sports because the name and imagery will be on their jerseys and associated team paraphernalia.
Advocates for continued use of the Native American imagery and/or the name “Raider” ground their opposition to a change in hateful and bullying attacks.

Support for the continuing use of the name and/or imagery is support of this kind of bullying and hateful perspective.

Social media posts are a vivid demonstration of the nasty, hateful, bullying and threatening perspectives that keeping the name and/or imagery supports and will perpetuate.
Bruce Schambach
My response to the people that want the name changed.
Michael Gonoude
How about a petition to REMOVE YOUR family from the Township? Maya K. von Rossum, David Wood ???

48m Like Reply
Even a Public School Guidance Counselor is stalking and seeking to shame & cyber-bully Anneke because of her 14 year old participation in Radnor’s use of the Raider name and imagery.

What better example of another way ongoing use of the Raider name and imagery can and will harm Radnor students.
Jason William Farley
Maya K. van Rossum You don’t represent Radnor so we’re taking your irrelevant ass out of the Hall of Fame!
Elisa Kathryn
Megan Fitzgerald Romano
its one house of people
creating a ruckus- absurd

47m  Like  Reply

Megan Fitzgerald Romano
Elisa Kathryn Let's you and
I head over for a discussion
about what our fathers have
done for the Radnor
RAIDERS in their lifetimes
and see what this family has
done???

45m  Like  Reply

Elisa Kathryn
Megan Fitzgerald Romano
that's a great idea! Clearly
they have the time

40m  Like  Reply
Billy Walsh
Anneke Walsh you are a disgrace to my last name. Please change yours immediately. Us true Walsh’s are offended by your name stealing. I have some suggestions for your last name change:
1 Anneke Karen
2 Anneke Pelosi
3 Anneke Maddow
4 Anneke Clinton
5 Anneke Milano
Please feel free to change it immediately, because you are offending Me!!!!!!!!

Jeannie AL-Fares
Anneke Walsh you need a LIFE!!

Jeannie AL-Fares
Billy Walsh yes I agree her name offends me too

Thomas Cooley
Anneke Walsh you obviously don’t recognize sarcasm when you see it...lol

Jeannie AL-Fares
She shouldn’t have the same last name as you Billy
Jeannie AL-Fares
We must start a petition to Change her last name!!

Billy Walsh
Where do I sign?

Jeannie AL-Fares
Billy Walsh I’ll start it and make signs all over Radnor

Jeannie AL-Fares
Billy Walsh I also have family with the same name!
Peter Sullivan

go fuck yourself i an't signing nothing!

Like · Reply · 46m
Are you fucking kidding me? Please tell me u guys are a fake little funny site.

Cause if not than this is one of the most ridiculous things I’ve ever heard
Lisa Ronayne
Pfft. 2020. The year we all got told what we're supposed to be offended by. UnF#c/<ingBelievable. Here we go again, kowtowing to the Bandwagon Bitches of the Main Line.

Janet Aigeldinger
Lisa I'm going to rephrase it. Wanna be mainline bitches

Lisa Ronayne
Janet Aigeldinger most of which are transplants probably.

Sheryl Stickley Maxwell
McBride
Janet Aigeldinger Yup. You're talking to the real women of the Main Line. We
Even stooping to attacking students.
Maya K. van Rossum
Attacking young Radnor students in this way is offensive and has no place in these conversations. Everyone who liked and supported this post is out of line.

Ellen Newton
David Wood the students did not ask a single Lenape Indian if he wanted to be labeled as a victim. I pray Radnor still teaches its students to think before repeating falsehoods. Native Americans who have been asked are in FACT proud of the mascots and are only concerned when their cultural history is demonized. Again, bring anyone who has suffered because of the Radnor Raider to the meeting August 3, and prove the hundreds of alumni who are proud wrong. Then you have something worth bitching about. This is bandwagon politics based on a false premise.

Ellen Newton
Maya K. van Rossum attacking an honored high school mascot is clearly far more offensive to far more people than the current batch of illeducated whiners promoting a false premise.
Roger Wilkins
I am opposed to the change. Radnor Raiders has been around for decades. It is not offensive to any one. Who are these people that want to change. I went to Radnor and graduated in 1964. A lot of us who went to school are very upset that some newbies want a name change. Get out of Radnor if you don't like the mascot. It belonged to thousands of people before you people came along. Leave it alone. Who the hell do you think you are. I know of no one who is offended by Radnor Raiders. Your wrong to do this. Radnor raiders forever.
Joe Maiorana
She needs too start smoking the “peace pipe”. You don’t like the name just move!!! I’ve heard you have been a pain in the ass since 1980!!
Ty Robinson
keep Radnor Raiders !!
Like · Reply · 1h

Mark Michel
I won't sign.
Like · Reply · 1h

Jill Temperton
Ridiculous!!!! I will NEVER sign
Like · Reply · 1h

Peter Sullivan
go fuck yourself i an't signing nothing!
Like · Reply · 1h
Maya K. van Rossum
Yesterday at 8:57 AM · 0
James Miccolis
Maya K. van Rossum done
1d  Like  Reply
Write a reply...
Shea IL
Signed!  01
1d  Love  Reply
Jim Reese
Get a real life
Anyone who signs onto this is moron.
This name is in no offensive anyone
Trying to change a name just makes you feel like you are important.
Get out of your house a stand we with real Americans and drop this crazy business.
2h  Like  Reply
Michael Gonoude
1 family without a life of their own. As you can see along the feed
Roger Wilkins
leave it alone. You don't like it then get out of town.
John Walsh

Janet Aigeldinger us older people dont get butthurt from dumb shit. The younger pansies are the problem
Ken Whitehead
This is getting so ridiculous - nothing but the admin bowing down to a few vocal do gooders.

Like · Reply · 2w

Lisa Ronayne
Ken Whitehead i can think of a few more accurate words than "do-gooders" !!!

Like · Reply · 2w

Richard Alleva
So can I!

Like · Reply · 2w

John Walsh
Lisa Ronayne yes assholes

Like · Reply · 2w
Janet Aigeldinger
Andrew Lee exactly so WHY should this be even a topic. You sound like a bunch of haters!

Like · Reply · 38m

Andrew Lee
Janet Aigeldinger - fear of sounding like a bunch of haters has kept far too many people quiet about this stuff for far too long.

Like · Reply · 37m

10 Replies

Tony Filipone
This is out of control bullcrap!

Like · Reply · 31m

1 Reply

Martin Tansy
And by not mentioning them in any way, we remove them from history too. Get a life and a new cause.

Like · Reply · 25m

Ken Whitehead
Get a life!!

Like · Reply · 1m
Jason William Farley
Cancel Culture Bullshit!
Like · Reply · 44m

Linda Anderson Bassett
People who come up with this stuff are the actual problem.
Like · Reply · 43m
Janet Aigeldinger
Anneke I think we out number you crazies
Jason William Farley
Can anyone show me native Americans who are offended? What part of your life is so impacted by keeping a mascot that’s been around over 100 years? I think people need to worry about more important issues, like if the kids are even going back to school ...

See More

John Walsh
Jason William Farley the Indian must of touched them in their special place

Like · Reply · 59m

Like · Reply · 38m
Janet Aigeldinger
If Radnor Raiders mascot was so offensive, don't you think Chief Matoxen would have had it removed back when my parents were in school. It's all BS. Just gives the pot stirers something to start trouble about.

John Walsh
Janet Aigeldinger us older people dont get butthurt from dumb shit. The younger pansies are the problem
Thomas Cooley
Doesn’t it feel good to virtue signal?? Bunch of losers worried about what everyone thinks about them. Maybe we could change the name to the Radnor rainbows, or maybe the unicorns is better. Get a life!

1h  Like  Reply

John Walsh
Thomas Cooley spot on Tommy

1h  Like  Reply

Thomas Cooley
John Walsh becoming all too common. Every damn day it’s something else. Why don’t these people just worry about going to work, earning a living, and being kind to their neighbors instead of trying to make a
Hi John John A McQuaid - Could you please also put up a definition for a RAIDER please as it seems (someone) doesn't know and won't take the time? Nor will that person look into where the name came from and is in Honor of. Nor will that person ask the direct descendant of Chief Metoxen. Thanks. It seems the person behind this selfish act doesn't do any homework. The person also often loves to delete comments ----
Ellen Miades
Signed, it's the mascot image I object to mostly.

John Walsh
Ellen Miades
WAAAAHHHHH

Harry Estell
Will the names of the people who want the change be made public? What sad country we have become. Will Never Sign 😡 (74)
Jason William Farley
David Wood Bullshit. There you go with your liberal bullshit and tactics. Using social media to basically DOX people who have a different opinion than you. Let’s just leave at as ...You’re a douche bag and so is your liberal lawyer wife. Sorry. I wish you both well. Bye!
Sheryl Stickley Maxwell McBride
Maya K. van Rossum Are you crying out on their behalf? Is this figurative or literal? Do you know for a fact that the remaining American Indians, who have been treated terribly, have our school mascot on their radar? Or are you just joining a narrative to justify boredom, lack of knowledge regarding Radnor’s history... Get a life and move on. Literally move on and out.

40m  Like  Reply

Jason William Farley
Bobbie Lynn Williamson
Tree hugging liberal. Don’t waste your time.

28m  Like  Reply
Jim Reese
Get a real life
Anyone who signs onto this is moron.
This name is in no offensive anyone
Trying to change a name just makes you feel like you are important.
Get out of your house a stand we with real Americans and drop this crazy business.
John Walsh
How about sit down and shut up. You offend Americans every time you open your trap
Like · Reply · 18h

John Walsh
Ellen Newton save your breath
Like · Reply · 18h

Ellen Newton
John Walsh I was first to respond to this post. I saved my breath back then for as long as I could.
Like · Reply · 18h

Janet Aigeldinger
Andrew Lee, you are one troublemaker that is a potstirrer. You sound full of hate!
Like · Reply · 18h

Andrew Lee
I am reading now about the Radnor/lenape connections. I'm open to hearing more about this connection and how it ties into our logos and name.
Agreements with the tribe and educating the students goes a long way in stuff like this.
Like · Reply · 18h

Ellen Newton
Andrew Lee that's big of you
Retire the "Raider"

There are so many exciting alternative names and mascots for Radnor. We have come up with a few we will be sharing over the coming days, and that you can see i... See More

Sandy Roan
NO!!
Like · Reply · 3h

Michelle McGee replied · 2 Replies 3h

Janet Aigeldinger
You have to be kidding.  
This is a disgrace.  
Absolutely not  
You just keep our mascot the same, you people are freaking nutballs
Jim Reese
Get a real life
Anyone who signs onto this is a moron.
This name is in no offensive anyone
Trying to change a name just makes you feel like you are important.
Get out of your house a stand we with real Americans and drop this crazy business.
Margaret Pancoast Finley
Martin
Maya K. van Rossum you are nuts. It is not offensive. You wouldn’t say that if you ever met Chief Matoxen!!!!!
Joseph Whiteman
Start your own school... You can be the Radnor Red Karen's.

Like · Reply · 4d

Nancy Tague Healy
Joseph Whiteman 😂😂
Jason William Farley
Oooh!!! The Radnor Raptors!!! GTFOH!!! 😂
Like · Reply · 12m

Lexie Katherine
I think the T-Rex would find it offensive
Like · Reply · 11m

Jason William Farley
Lexie Katherine Short Arms.
Like · Reply · 9m

Maya K. van Rossum 🌟
Jason William Farley can you explain? I don't understand the reference?
Like · Reply · 6m

Betsey Appel Fulton
Jason William Farley 'nuff said
Like · Reply · 3m

Betsey Appel Fulton
Jason William Farley she's an imbecile
Like · Reply · 2m

Jason William Farley
Maya K. van Rossum you're a lawyer. I think you can figure it out. Pathetic!
Like · Reply · 1m
Siobhan Anne Marie
How about telling the requestors of this mascot change to grow a set of balls and call it a day!!!!

Like · Reply · 9m
Janet Aigeldinger
Anneke I think we out number you crazies
Just now  Like  Reply
Margaret Pancoast Finley Martin
Just STOP

1d  Like  Reply

Frank Moscia
What a waste of time. Are they that much of dumb asses

1d  Like  Reply
Billy Walsh
No matter what these evil people say, WE WILL ALWAYS BE THE RADNOR RED RAIDERS!!!!!!!!!!

Lisa Ronayne
Billy Walsh FUCKIN-A DUDE !!!

Betsey Appel Fulton
Billy Walsh raider proud!

Billy Walsh
GO BACK TO YOUR SAFE SPACE AND CRY!!!!!!!!!
Billy Walsh
GO BACK TO YOUR SAFE SPACE AND CRY!!!!!!!!!!!
Like · Reply · 2h

Billy Walsh

Like · Reply · 2h

Billy Walsh

Like · Reply · 2h

Billy Walsh
Billy Walsh
LONG LIVE THE RADNOR RED RAIDERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!

RAIDER POWER

Peter Sullivan
fuck these assholes that want to change the name!

Like · Reply · 5d
Jason William Farley

David Wood Bullshit. There you go with your liberal bullshit and tactics. Using social media to basically DOX people who have a different opinion than you. Let’s just leave at as ... You’re a douche bag and so is your liberal lawyer wife. Sorry. I wish you both well. Bye!
Billy Walsh

No matter what these evil people say, WE WILL ALWAYS BE THE RADNOR RED RAIDERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Stacey Johnson
No.
5m Like Reply

Anneke Walsh
Stacey Johnson thank you for being open and considering signing
3m Like Reply

Stacey Johnson
Anneke Walsh how do you know what I’m thinking and if I considered it or not? I resent the snarky comment.
2m Like Reply

Anneke Walsh
Stacey Johnson oh my snarky, I thought I was being kind. Just thought you were considering and letting me know your thought process and conclusion
Just now Like Reply
Thomas Cooley
Doesn’t it feel good to virtue signal?? Bunch of losers worried about what everyone thinks about them. Maybe we could change the name to the Radnor rainbows, or maybe the unicorns is better. Get a life!

1h Like Reply

John Walsh
Thomas Cooley spot on Tommy

1h Like Reply

Thomas Cooley
John Walsh becoming all too common. Every damn day it’s something else. Why don’t these people just worry about going to work, earning a living, and being kind to their neighbors instead of trying to make a
Joseph Whiteman
Start your own school... You can be the Radnor Red Karen's.

Like · Reply · 4d

Nancy Tague Healy
Joseph Whiteman 😂😂

Like · Reply · 1
Michelle McGee
Why don’t you focus your time and energy on maintaining your overgrown property & making sure your husband is where he needs to be. Keep smiling 😊

2h  Like  Reply

Kristen Ann
Michelle McGee  you put her hubby on blast

1h  Like  Reply
Siobhan Anne Marie
How about telling the requestors of this mascot change to grow a set of balls and call it a day!!!!
Peter Dustin
Snowflake

Like · Reply · 8m

Jeannie AL-Fares
Peter Dustin I’m offended by snow flakes! lol 😁

Like · Reply · 6m

Jeannie AL-Fares
Now we can’t have snow

Like · Reply · 6m

Jon Nelson
Maya & David or 2 of the original snowflakes

Like · Reply · 6m
Thomas Cooley

These people are OUT OF CONTROL. These social justice warriors/virtue signalers need to get a life. Leave people in peace and stop trying to ruin peoples lives. You and your kind have at this point ruined NFL football and MLB. Butt out! Bet they all have those trendy fucking signs in their front yards too. Assholes. Sorry, but this is making my blood boil, on a national level, but now on the local.
Robert Ross
Maya K. van Rossum Love it!

Thomas Cooley
How about we don’t bow down to anyone, and not bend an inch? How freaking pathetic and weak. Once they beat you here, it’s on to something else. Get a life, people!
Stooping to misrepresenting comments in order to manufacture and fuel an attack
All People Have a Right & Duty to Speak Up & Speak Out
“Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out, because this is your country. This is your democracy. Make it. Protect it. Pass it on.”

— Thurgood Marshall
Offensive, racist and denigrating language and behavior is harmful to all in the Radnor community. White, black and brown people all have a right and duty to speak against racist behavior. While we absolutely have an obligation to raise up the voices of Native Americans who are being targeted it is the duty of all people to stand with them for what is just and right; which in this case is to stand against the ongoing use of the Raider name and Native American imagery.

The Civil Rights movement gained strength, power and success because it was not just Black Americans who spoke up and protested on the front lines; they were joined by people of all races recognizing that discrimination against any part of our community inflicts harm and risk for all. That is also what is happening today as we seek to advance systemic change to honor and protect all communities of color.

There is no place for silence in the face of injustice.
While some seek to suggest that it is anti-American to notice racism and seek to address it the truth is that there is nothing more American than recognizing abuses heaped on a community by government decisionmakers and communities and rising up to defend against them. Our nation has been built by leaders identifying inequity and unjust behavior and rising up to address it – from the revolution to the civil war to women rising up for the right to vote to the civil rights movement to today’s Black Lives Matter movement.

The desire to ignore the racism reflected in Native American team names and mascots, including the Raider name and Native American imagery, fails to understand the founding principles of our nation and to recognize the true history of abuse and systemic racism throughout the history of our country that has been inflicted on First Nation Native American people.

Our nation was founded on principles of respect and justice for all. Sadly, during this nation’s founding, incredible violence has been, and continues to be, inflicted on Native American people who are the first Americans.

To compound the many harms inflicted on Native American communities - harms that continue to this day through systemic racism and violence - by ignoring the request from Native American communities that we no longer use the Raider name and the imagery, either or both, we are right now, today, here in Radnor, compounding and perpetuating the harms of history inflicted on Native Americans.

It is our right and duty to speak out and urge the Raider name and imagery be retired and replaced.
Radnor’s ongoing use of the Raider name and Native imagery:

- Is being carried forth by government entities who represent our community;
- reflects on every member of our Radnor community;
- is being carried forth using our tax dollars and community resources;
- teaches our children that racism, insults and bullying has a place in Radnor;
- forces students participating in sports to carry this offensive message on their jerseys and team paraphernalia.

Regardless of what the Facebook posters say, we are entitled, and obligated, to speak up, speak out, and in our case to stand against the misuse of community resources and the harmful ramifications of the school district’s decision on this important community issue.
Retiring the use of a team name and imagery that is offensive and harmful to Native American First Nation peoples is not un-American as has been suggested in social media posts, to the contrary, it is the duty of every American to oppose such discriminatory behavior.

To suggest that we should sit silently by, not exercise our first amendment rights to speak up, to peaceably assemble, and to petition our government for change when we witness injustice and see the need for change .... That is un-American.
David Wood  The practice of noticing racism in a school mascot is distinctly anti-American. Only snotty bratty white mainliners have ever looked at this as racist. The native American warrior was a Proud man, and this controversy shoves him onto the reservation where he never belonged.
Jim Reese
Get a real life
Anyone who signs onto this is moron.
This name is in no offensive anyone
Trying to change a name just makes you feel like you are important.
Get out of your house a stand we with real Americans and drop this crazy business.
John Walsh
How about sit down and shut up. You offend Americans every time you open your trap
Like · Reply · 18h

John Walsh
Ellen Newton save your breath
Like · Reply · 18h

Ellen Newton
John Walsh I was first to respond to this post. I saved my breath back then for as long as I could.
Like · Reply · 18h

Janet Aigeldinger
Andrew Lee, you are one troublemaker that is a potstirrer. You sound full of hate!
Like · Reply · 18h

Andrew Lee
I am reading now about the Radnor/Lenape connections. I'm open to hearing more about this connection and how it ties into our logos and name.

Agreements with the tribe and educating the students goes a long way in stuff like this.
Like · Reply · 18h

Ellen Newton
Andrew Lee that's big of you
Chris Binnig
It’s not offensive to most. And the fact that it may be offensive to a select group of over sensitive do-gooders is irrelevant.
Maya K. van Rossum Are you crying out on their behalf? Is this figurative or literal? Do you know for a fact that the remaining American Indians, who have been treated terribly, have our school mascot on their radar? Or are you just joining a narrative to justify boredom, lack of knowledge regarding Radnor's history... Get a life and move on. Literally move on and out.

Bobbie Lynn Williamson Tree hugging liberal. Don't waste your time.
Jeannie AL-Fares
I have native blood !! I’m not offended
5m  Like  Reply

Jeannie AL-Fares
I’m not harmed !!
5m  Like  Reply

Jeannie AL-Fares
Why are you harmed ?
5m  Like  Reply

Jeannie AL-Fares
Go back to your native country !We’re all mixed !! Omg stop ! Go to California please !! Get out of Radnor ! You don’t belong here , I’m offended by YOU!
3m  Like  Reply

Jeannie AL-Fares
As a part American Indian you offend me ! This is my mascot and name !! RED RED RAIDERS!!
Just now  Like  Reply
Bill Ferguson
don't care to see any more "change" suggestions from white people. if u can find a native, ANYWHERE, who objects, i'll listen, but until then get a real life
Elisa Kathryn

David Wood this is being made an issue by people that are not Native Americans which is absurd. There are soooo many more important issues that deserve attention and as I said, I’m offended that we are wasting people’s time with this nonsense. Did you know suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among adolescents? Pick and choose your battles.
Respect for Native Americans Should Be A High Priority For Our Community and Nation
“To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men.”

— Ella Wheeler Wilcox
Retiring the Raider name and Native American imagery is an important issue worthy of attention as the continued use inflicts harm on Native American people as well as on Radnor students and community members.

Addressing the offensive, racist and denigrating misuse of Native American imagery and references (i.e. the Raider name) is an important social issue deserving of attention, respect and a remedy.

The fact that there are many important issues in need of time, attention, advocacy and work does not diminish or displace the importance of restoring racial respect and justice in our own Radnor community.
Advocates for continued use of the Raider name & Native American imagery falsely assert that this issue is not important; failing to recognize that bullying, racist, offensive, and otherwise disregarding other people, races and communities degrades and demeans the targets of the attack, the attackers, and those willing to sit silently by and let it happen.
Caroline S Agnew
Such a waste of time !!! I said it before but we have real problems in the world and this is not one of them.
Michael McDonagh
Radnor raiders
31m | Like | Reply

Bob Rhodes
Why are you wasting time on this? The raider name is not offensive to anyone.
29m | Like | Reply

Steve Long
How bout radnor raiders.
27m | Like | Reply

Chris Niedland
RAIDERS!
18m | Like | Reply
Catherine Lynn Mozino
You asked me what Radnor taught me about Native American history. If you are wondering about pro teams ... Red Skins to start. Look across the nation at how many other states have the Raider name, to start.
I think you are putting TOO much time into trying to change a piece of history on behalf of the Native American culture. Throw yourself into something that when changed will actually make a difference.
Elisa Kathryn
Maya K. van Rossum you’re creating this because you think it’s offensive and now you’re trying to find Native Americans to support your cause. Seriously, is this what people should be focusing their time and energy on? How about you call the radnor rai... See More
Susan Geller

The main concern right now should be how to get students and teachers back to school safely.
Janet Aigeldinger
No Maya you are the racist, if that mascot bothers you so much. It's you. Don't turn this around on anyone else except you crazy liberals, don't you think there is enough in this world to worry about than a damn mascot.
Thomas Cooley
Doesn’t it feel good to virtue signal?? Bunch of losers worried about what everyone thinks about them. Maybe we could change the name to the Radnor rainbows, or maybe the unicorns is better. Get a life!

1h Like Reply

John Walsh
Thomas Cooley spot on Tommy

1h Like Reply

Thomas Cooley
John Walsh becoming all to common. Every damn day it’s something else. Why don’t these people just worry about going to work, earning a living, and being kind to their neighbors instead of trying to make a
Jim Reese

Happy that you not trying to speak for me. The problem is that is some people have a need to be offended so they have a cause. The fact is - school team names are ment to honor these proud Americans, not intended as any type of racial slur. Stand with me an help people understand what they really should be offended by. Or maybe change the name to the Randor Rainbows. I know that name will strike fear in the other teams.
Susan Geller
The main concern right now should be how to get students and teachers back to school safely.
13m Like Reply

Tom Boulden
Is the Professor making bank on his efforts??
7m Like Reply

Robin Dugan
Will NOT sign. RHS 1975
4m Like Reply

Marsiglia Moscia
Ah, now I understand the 3% School Tax increase, so they can all sit around and pick out a nice, new safe school mascot to go with the 30 million dollar football field they're planning...
Why Can’t We Keep “Raider” and Just Change the Imagery?

Keeping the Raider Name Minus the Imagery Does Not Solve the Problem and Will In Fact Perpetuate It.
“The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people.”

— Dr Martin Luther King Jr
“Raider” is in and of itself a term that is interpreted by many as an aggressive characterization of Native American people. That fact, coupled with Radnor’s history of coupling the name with the Native American imagery means the goal of ending the offensive characterization and reference is unlikely to be accomplished with just a change of imagery.

The aggressive advocates for maintaining the name and imagery have vowed that they will continue to trot out the clothing, signs and other items they have that use the Native American imagery as a response to any effort to make any change. This means that there will continue to be an aggressive debate over the true and correct imagery that represents our school and community; not only creating confusion but also fueling an ongoing debate and hostilities by a limited few. Many have already announced that they are online buying Radnor raider apparel specifically for this purpose.

Keeping in place the name will leave open the perpetual opportunity for backsliding – something that has already happened here in Radnor with the decision to retire the Indian mascot rolling backwards as evidenced by the re-installation of the Indian head on school buildings. A clean change of name and imagery will allow the community to come together in a positive way around a positive message of respect and change without the risk of backsliding.

A change of both name and imagery will send a strong message to our student body that the school board and district are committed to a message of racial equity and respect.

The online aggressive, bullying, and even threatening comments towards those of us who have dared to suggest that change is important will be validated if the school board embraces only half measures towards change – online social media posts have made this very clear.
The failure by community members to accept change has been demonstrated in other communities and according to social media posts is inevitable here in Radnor.

For example: “In the case of one public university in the Midwestern USA, the stereotypic mascot that we and others refer to as “the Chief”—a formulation created by a White undergraduate student in 1926 (King, 2004)—was officially removed from the university in 2007 in response to pressure from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). And yet, despite this official removal the university continues to unofficially support the mascot's presence on campus, and has never replaced the mascot, sanctioned students or local businesses for continuing to use its likeness, or countered the powerful norms that associated the mascot with the university. Accordingly, visual representations of the Chief are still quite common on campus according to anecdotal accounts”

In 2013 Radnor was on a path towards change, rejecting the ongoing use of the mascot and thereafter removed the Indian head from the school building and gym floor as well as some of the team jerseys (e.g. the ice hockey jerseys), only to have the Indian head on the building suddenly (and rather quietly) reappear as did the imagery on school apparel which was also in decline after the 2013 decision.

And some Radnor alumni have announced their intention that even if the imagery changes, as long as the Raider name persists they will never let go of the Native American imagery.

Radnor’s best path for ensuring the offensive characterization and imagery are left behind for good is to embrace total change.
“Raider” is offensive; where people place it in their personal hierarchy of level of offense does not change that fact.

The assertion that “Raider” is not, in the minds of some, as offensive as other derogatory Native American focused team names and imagery does not change the offensive and derogatory nature of the Raider name standing on its own, with or without the associated Native American imagery.
Planning for a new name and imagery could be a fun, exciting and engaging activity that can bring Radnor students and community members together in a fun exercise of identifying and selecting a new name and imagery. It provides an opportunity for healing and positive engagement. Keeping the Raider name will prevent this healing and is simply an effort to split the baby which will be harmful to both halves of the debate.

The opposition to change has made clear that every effort to bring the community together in a fun and engaging way to select a new mascot would be pulled back into a conversation about the old one being just fine as is. Maintaining the name “Raider” will fuel and strengthen those opposed to change.

In fact many are already calling for the return of “Red Raider” in order to lock in the offensive Native American reference. Keeping the Raider name will further encourage the use of any mascot selection process as a mechanism to return to “Red Raider” rather than to advance in a positive direction.

A clean slate provides the best opportunity for a positive and engaging process to advance and secure change. Maintaining the name will prevent this healthy process from advancing or succeeding.
Joe Maiorana

I say out the “RED” back into RADNOR RED RAIDERS “. You got your fuckin way years ago to get that removed!! RIDLEY GREEN RAIDERS don’t have this issue because like billy Walsh said. No wack a doodles in that township.
Billy Walsh

No matter what these evil people say, WE WILL ALWAYS BE THE RADNOR RED RAIDERS!!!!!!!!!!!
Ellen Newton
As for content, Jayme, we used to be the Radnor Red Raiders and the Board made the embarrassing decision to remove the "Red" to appease the misguided students.
Joe Maiorana
Bunch of fucktards!!! RADNOR RED RAIDERS forever
!!!!!
Megan Fitzgerald Romano
Just got my Radnor RAIDERS gear here

https://www.anchors-aweigh.com/cart...

5. Radnor High School | Anchors Aweigh Online...
anchors-aweigh.com

35m  Like  Reply
Roger Wilkins
Leave the Name Alone. Radnor Raiders. Go Raiders. Board, you were not there when they were named so leave it alone. You change it we will continue with Radnor Raiders.
Dan McDermott
This one works for me!

Kate McKenna Werner
This is getting ridiculous! End this crap! We have always been the Radnor Raiders. Leave it at THAT! We were all so BLESSED to have grown up in an amazing area.
Mimi Falcone Hamilton
Thank you George for telling it like it is...it’s a bunch of BS and Radnor Raiders needs to remain and let’s move on! Once a Raider always a Raider!
Richard Holmes
Bruce Schambach  Is it racist to say grow a pair
45m  Like  Reply

Greg Mcginley
Keep raiders- every ethnic group have been raiders at some point in history.
1h  Like  Reply

Ed Swift
It’s Radnor Raiders. End of story.
1h  Like  Reply
Dena Farley Neff
Raiders.

2h  Like  Reply

Jack Gibson
I think the answer is obvious.

2h  Like  Reply

Margaret Pancoast Finley Martin
Raiders

2h  Like  Reply

Ty Robinson
Radnor Raiders!! Feathers n all!!!
Billy Walsh
GO BACK TO YOUR SAFE SPACE AND CRY!!!!!!!!!!!
Billy Walsh doesn't recommend Retire the "Raiders".
Because We the People don't want it changed!!!!!!! Keep on Smiling😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊
Maya K. van Rossum: I attended Radnor township schools in PA. I remember when...

Billy Walsh:

3h  Like  Reply

Write a comment...
Maya K. van Rossum: I attended Radnor township schools in PA. I remember when...

Billy Walsh: RADNOR RAIDERS

Cindy Jani: Here is my idea - Leave it alone

Jason William Farley: RADNOR RAIDERS

Mark DiBulando: Write a comment...
Mark DiUbaldo

RADNOR RAIDERS

3h Like Reply

Mark DiUbaldo

3h Like Reply

Vanessa Petropoulos

Wait... we have a hall of fame somewhere?

2h Like Reply
Richard Holmes
Bruce Schambach  Is it racist to say grow a pair
45m  Like  Reply

Greg Mcginley
Keep raiders- every ethnic group have been raiders at some point in history.
1h  Like  Reply

Ed Swift
It’s Radnor Raiders. End of story.
1h  Like  Reply

Julia Douglass Heller
NO!!!! 😡😡
1h  Like  Reply  😂  😂
Roger Wilkins
I am opposed to the change. Radnor Raiders has been around for decades. It is not offensive to any one. Who are these people that want to change. I went to Radnor and graduated in 1964. A lot of us who went to school are very upset that some newbies want a name change. Get out of Radnor if you don't like the mascot. It belonged to thousands of people before you people came along. Leave it alone. Who the hell do you think you are. I know of no one who is offended by Radnor Raiders. Your wrong to do this. Radnor raiders forever.
Wayne Povey
How does changing a name accomplish anything other than antagonizing people who love their school? I'm a Radnor Raider and will be until I die. Why not push instead for a course that focuses on Native Americans as part of the curriculum?
Lexie Katherine
Absolutely ridiculous, we will always be Raiders
Like · Reply · 1w
Dawn Marie
Keep it Radnor raiders! No need to change it
Cindy DiCandilo Cowan
Really ??? Enough is enough. Stop... Keep the name . Radnor Raiders forever and always !!!
Mimi Falcone Hamilton
Radnor Raiders forever!
Enough already!!

1h   Like   Reply

Ty Robinson
1990 Raider forever!!

1h   Like   Reply
Dave Walters
Are you kidding me!
I am 1966 Grad and we will always be the Radnor Raiders!
Suck it up! Dems
Cindy DiCandilo Cowan
Really ??? Enough is enough. Stop... Keep the name. Radnor Raiders forever and always !!!

42m  Like  Reply
Lexie Katherine
Absolutely ridiculous, we will always be Raiders
Wayne Povey
How does changing a name accomplish anything other than antagonizing people who love their school? I'm a Radnor Raider and will be until I die. Why not push instead for a course that focuses on Native Americans as part of the curriculum?
Paula Talese 🫶
Not signing. Our statues are being toppled over, street names changing, Park names changing, and even towns such as Plantation, Fl. may need to change. Megan (Mert) my mascot and proud to be a Raider Lifer class of 77!

Amanda Riggs
What a sad sad country we have become. Will Never Sign !!! 😞😞😞
Michael McDonagh
Radnor raiders
31m Like Reply

Bob Rhodes
Why are you wasting time on this? The raider name is not offensive to anyone.
29m Like Reply

Steve Long
How bout radnor raiders.
27m Like Reply

Chris Niedland
RAIDERS!
18m Like Reply
Jayme Keally
I’m gonna put out the answer we all want... RADNOR RAIDERS. You’re welcome

Like · Reply · Message · 14h

John Maiorana
Radnor road kill?
Cause those names are terrible

Like · Reply · Message · 15h

Write a comment...
Jason William Farley

Just now  Like  Reply

Katherine Parshley
Raiders to the end!!!!

Just now  Like  Reply
Just One Example of How the Paraphernalia of the Past Will Be Used to Keep the Debate and Aggression Alive

Posted as part of the Facebook discussion to make that point.
“Raider” is an overwhelmingly negative term even when used in other contexts.

- **Raider**: “one that starts armed conflict against another especially without reasonable cause.”
- “Used in a sentence: villagers lived in constant fear of the *raiders*, who captured their women and children and sold them into slavery.”

Why do we want our team to be known as:

- Aggressors
- Invaders
- Ambushers
- Pillagers
- Attackers
- Plunderers
- Warmongers
- War Hawks
- Belligerent
- Assailants
- Combatants

These are all synonyms for Raider. If you are to maintain the Raider name you might as well pick any of these hostile negative images as the team name. Would you consider calling the team the Radnor Attackers? Radnor Pillagers? Radnor Warmongers? Probably not. But picking Raiders is doing just that.

How about a truly inspirational name? There are so many great options.
Just Because the Radnor Name and Native Imagery Are Viewed as a Part of Radnor Tradition, Does Not Mean They Should Be Perpetuated In The Face of The Known Harm and Offensive Message They Portray and Perpetuate.

Let’s Teach Our Students What It Means To Truly Learn From Our History & Our Mistakes.
First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

Pastor Martin Niemöller
On display at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum
While there is value in honoring community traditions, the desire to honor school tradition should never be embraced at the expense of other communities, human decency and respect, and the principles of a moral and just society. There are many traditions in our school and our nation that we have rightly cast aside because of changed moral values or increased awareness regarding the harms they inflict.

Maintaining traditions that are knowingly hurtful and offensive; that perpetuate and inflict harm on others; and that teach our children that traditions of the past are more important than the people of the present is a decision to accept and embrace those offenses and harms.

Make no mistake, a failure to advance change of both the Raider name and Native American imagery is a decision by the school board, and the community, that offensive, hurtful, demeaning and demoralizing attitudes towards Native American people is not only acceptable, but is representative of the kind of community Radnor represents.

Failure to reject harmful tradition also demonstrates a lack of leadership and an unwillingness to learn, grow, evolve and improve as a community.

If Radnor maintains the mascot, name and imagery it will be telling the world that it embraces offensive racist behaviors towards Native Americans.
Dawn Marie
Wasn't a problem then

3m  Like  Reply

Dawn Marie
shouldn't be a problem now
Other Schools have made the change in spite of their long-use and “tradition”; Radnor can too.

Here are just three powerful examples:
Example One:

“The first university to decide to change its nickname was Dartmouth University, an Ivy League school located in New Hampshire. The school was founded in 1769 with the primary goal of educating the “American Indian youth in the region.” In the 1920s, a number of sports writers in the area began calling the Dartmouth University athletic teams the “Indians.” For the next fifty years this nickname was used by Dartmouth, although never formally accepted by the University. However, the Indian symbol appeared on uniforms of athletic teams during this period. Between 1972 and 1974 the University decided that it would no longer use the “Indian” as its unofficial mascot, and decided to use “The Big Green” as its official nickname. The University stated that it recognized “the adverse effects of use of the Indian symbol upon the College's Native American Program and its students ... and the College's Board of Trustees [decided] that [the] use of the (Indian) symbol in any form [was] inconsistent with present institutional and academic objectives of the College in advancing Native American education.” Dartmouth decided, without any major social challenges, that the use of any Native American symbols did not promote the school's goals, and that the University would be better served with a more generic nickname.”

Example Two:

Stanford University was the next prominent university to change its nickname, as the school went from the Indians to the Cardinal. “Stanford officially adopted the Indian nickname on Nov. 25, 1930 after a unanimous vote by the Executive Committee for the Associated Students.” When the resolution passed to adopt the Indian as its nickname, the resolution read, “whereas the Indian has long been unofficially recognized as the symbol of Stanford and its spirit, and whereas there has never been any official designation of a Stanford symbol, be it hereby resolved that the Executive Committee adopt the Indian as the symbol of Stanford.” However, in 1972 the Indian symbol was dropped after meetings between Stanford Native American students and President Richard Lyman. “The 55 [Native American] students, supported by the other 358 American Indians enrolled in California colleges, felt the mascot was an insult to their culture and heritage. As a result of these talks and the ensuing publicity, the Stanford Student Senate voted 18-4 to drop the Indian symbol, and Lyman agreed.” After the Stanford Student Senate voted to drop the Indian as Stanford's symbol, there were two student-wide votes, one in 1972 and another in 1975, to reinstate the Indian. However, both student-wide votes failed, which has left the Cardinal as the school's official nickname.

Example Three:

Another school to change its nickname was Marquette University. The students of Marquette adopted the nickname of “Warriors” in May 1954. In February 1961, the University’s mascot “Willie Wampum” made his first appearance at a Marquette basketball game. The use of Willie Wampum only lasted until 1971 when Willie was retired. However, the University retained and used the nickname “Warriors” until 1993, when Marquette announced its decision to discontinue the use of the “Warriors” name and logo. Students and alumni were immediately upset by the decision to drop the nickname. From the time that the Warrior nickname was taken away until early 2005 Marquette University students called for a reinstatement of the “Warrior” nickname. The students claimed that Marquette's new nickname the “Golden Eagles” was boring, weak and common. In 2004, Wayne Sanders, vice chair of the university’s Board of Trustees, announced that “he and an anonymous trustee were each prepared to pledge $1 million to the university if the institution would consider a return to the Warriors nickname by the time Marquette enters the BIG EAST Conference in 2005-06.” Marquette’s president, Robert Wild, quickly rejected the donation and stated: “While I recognize that some people will be disappointed that we are not reinstating the Warriors nickname, we cannot teach one principle about respect for human dignity in our classrooms and then fail to act by that same principle when making decisions. The nickname ‘Warriors’ will always be part of our proud athletics tradition, and we will honor that tradition. But we live in a different era than when the nickname ‘Warriors’ was selected in 1954. The perspective of time has shown us that our actions, intended or not, can offend others. We must not knowingly act in a way that others will believe, based on their experience, to be an attack on their dignity as fellow human beings.” For the Marquette president, the decision to change the school's nickname was based on conversations the Board had with Native American communities in the area which led them to be “convinced that the Warriors nickname could not be separated from past imagery.” Although the school lost out on the one-million-dollar donations, for the school it “became clear ... that as stewards of the university's mission, we had to be guided by conscience, not emotion.”

Been There, Done That – i.e. Already Reflected On The Need For Change In Past Years – Is Not A Good Reason To Ignore The Need For Change Today.
The position that because in the past there have been discussions and reflections on the Raider name and use of Native American imagery does not negate the importance and value of reflecting on this decision today, a time when there is overwhelming clarity of the harms this kind of offensive language and misuse of imagery inflicts on Native American communities as well as he children in our community.

Change, growth, evolution and understanding are an important part of societal growth and advancement. There are many issues that have been debated in Radnor and our nation that are rightly revisited when more information becomes available or there is social demand to do so. We are in a critical moment in our nation’s history, one where communities across our nation are demanding and advancing systemic change in order to provide equal access to resources and end harmful rhetoric that has no place in civil society - the misuse of Native American culture and offensive sports names (such as Raider) and mascots are among the changes being demanded and advancing across our nation.

If Radnor wants to truly fulfill the role of leader in areas of education, ending bullying, and equity for all students, it is important to lead on this issue today. To suggest that the conversation has already been explored in the past is non-responsive to the need for additional reflection today.
This Is Not About Politics or Trump; It’s About What Is Right & Respect
This effort to secure needed reforms in Radnor is about respect, true honor, civil society, and helping to advance the community and systemic reforms necessary to support and advance racial justice, respect and equity. All people, regardless of political party, are benefitted by reforms that advance our community and nation towards being more just, inclusive, equitable and respectful to and for communities of color and all people regardless of race, ethnicity, income, immigrant status or where they live.

Weeks ago people in Radnor turned out in peaceful protest to support ending abusive racism against Black people in our nation; that call for change and standing with communities of color to secure needed systemic reforms is important. This effort is about ending abusive racism against Native Americans and is equally valid and important.

Racism takes many forms. When we allow racist behavior to advance it doesn’t end with offensive names and imagery, but it supports racism of all forms including inequitable access to quality education, health care and economic vitality; targeting communities of color as environmental sacrifice zones; and racist policing practices.

Radnor needs to be part of the solution, not part of the problem – that is true leadership.
Many have suggested that the call for a change of name and imagery is being advanced by people who hate Donald Trump, are liberal, leftist, or part of some cancel culture movement.

This issue is not about politics -- one does not have to be a democrat, republican, tea party or green party member to be offended by disparaging, offensive and racist positions that are harmful to Native Americans and others.

The issue is one of respect, racial equity, equality and justice.
David Wood Bullshit. There you go with your liberal bullshit and tactics. Using social media to basically DOX people who have a different opinion than you. Let’s just leave at as ...You’re a douche bag and so is your liberal lawyer wife. Sorry. I wish you both well. Bye!
Richard Alleva

If they decide to change the name (which I oppose) I would vote for the New name to be the “Stupid Guilty Liberals”.

9h   Like   Reply
Jason William Farley
Bobbie Lynn Williamson
Tree hugging liberal. Don’t waste your time.
Janet Aigeldinger
Maya I am not wasting anymore time on this you people are absolutely crazy liberals absolutely crazy nut liberals

Like · Reply · 1m
Jason William Farley
How about the Radnor Leftist Losers? That’s what this is about any way.

Like · Reply · 9m
Janet Aigeldinger
No Maya you are the racist, if that mascot bothers you so much. It's you.
Don't turn this around on anyone else except you crazy liberals, don't you think there is enough in this world to worry about than a damn mascot.
Jason William Farley
Bunch of triggered liberals with nothing better to do but play identity politics. Grow up!

Like · Reply · 9m

Ty Robinson
Just take away my Radnor education!! This shit is ridiculous!!

Like · Reply · 2m

Patt Corcoran
👏👏👏David Basile!

Like · Reply · 9m
Jeff Pappas
Still waiting for some chip on the shoulder, Cancel Culture type to explain how or why the word "Raider" is (supposedly) racist. Enough already.
Dave Walters
Are you kidding me!
I am 1966 Grad and we will always be the Radnor Raiders!
Suck it up! Dems
Robert M. Klein

We were the Raider's and our mascot was an Indian? I was so freakin' stoned from 74' to 78', I hadn't realized...lol... The pussification of America...lol. "I love America, but I just can't seem to find her anymore"

John Prine.
Not that it is relevant but: Maya grew up in Radnor, went to Ithan, the Middle school & the High School and is currently in the Radnor Hall of Fame. In addition Maya’s children attend(ed) Radnor schools from elementary through high school.
I attended Radnor township schools in PA. I remember what our school name was. I remember what it meant. That name is not racist, it is not divisive, it is not offensive to anyone. It is what we are. It is who we are. It is our identity. Leave it alone and cut the nonsense. Changing the name of our team is offensive to a lot of us.
Richard Alleva
If they decide to change the name (which I oppose) I would vote for the New name to be the "Stupid Guilty Liberals".
John Walsh
The liberals are running out of shit to whine about. Don't worry in a couple more months they can whine about Trump winning again.

Like · Reply · 1m

Tim Dilworth
NO THANK YOU. Once again, the PC Police crowd rear their ugly heads. We dealt with a couple of years ago and soundly set the record straight. But I suppose the PC Police crowd feel empowered from what they have seen nationally.... See More

Like · Reply · 1m
Jason William Farley

Bunch of triggered liberals with nothing better to do but play identity politics. Grow up!
Paula Talese 👋
Not signing. Our statues are being toppled over, street names changing, Park names changing, and even towns such as Plantation, Fl. may need to change. Megan (Mert) my mascot and proud to be a Raider Lifer class of 77!

Like · Reply · 1h

Amanda Riggs
What a sad sad country we have become. Will Never Sign !!! 😞😞😞

Like · Reply · 1h
Arthur Shields

This entire issue ties directly into the modern Progressive movement that has hijacked the Democratic Party. Its primary goal isn't just changing the names of mascots deemed "racist" by predominantly white liberal millennials, but to, in the words of then candidate Obama, "Fundamentally transform the United States." While much is built on good intentions, the overall strategy is to divide us all by class, race, and gender...and convince our future voters that the United States is an unjust country, with an unforgivable... See More

57m Like Reply
John Walsh
Maya K. van Rossum you same pansie liberals that cry about hating sure hate Donald Trump
Like · Reply · 35m

Domenic Mercuri
Pansy liberal democrat woosie scumbag.
Like · Reply · 30m
Mike Dee
This is not fun it sucks. Stop ruining everything we grew up with. Ban liberal brainwashing in our schools. Nothing better than kids who have benefitted in every way from capitalism coming home and hating their parents because they have no clue how they have those iPad's, cell phones, BMW's and live in million dollar homes its called capitalism...stop paying your school taxes..until they teach real history, real math and stop pushing political agendas..
Carrying On The Name & Mascot Inculcates Students & Our Community In The Abuse & Causes Potential Harm For Young People, Including In Their Future Professional Careers.
“A man dies when he refuses to stand up for that which is right. A man dies when he refuses to stand up for justice. A man dies when he refuses to take a stand for that which is true.”

— Dr Martin Luther King Jr
The Radnor team name and mascot represents the perspectives of our entire community.

Every student that plays Radnor sports is expected to wear a jersey that carries the team name, mascot and imagery. Every Radnor student is encouraged and expected to participate in displays of Radnor spirit during school events, at sporting events, and out in the world.

As a result, Radnor students become part of the offensive messaging; most not yet realizing the hurtful implications for Native Americans, and even for their present and future selves.
The same Public School Guidance Counsellor from above not only continues her cyber-bullying, but encourages others to call out young teens for their participation in Radnor’s use of Native imagery and the Raider name.

This is a clear demonstration of how ongoing use of the Raider name and imagery can come back and subject Radnor students to future abuse for engaging in so-called Radnor “spirit” activities.

There are many we went to school with who dressed in offensive ways for senior dress-up day, those photos could destroy their lives today if shared. This Guidance Counsellor’s online stalking for childhood photos of a young adult, and sharing them in this way, shows how ongoing use of the Raider name and imagery could, in a very real way, have future implications for Radnor graduates.
It is one thing to spend community resources and tax dollars on a name and imagery that people don’t like, versus one that is knowingly offensive and abusive to an entire race of people.

It is one thing to expect a student to wear a jersey with a name and imagery they might not particularly like, but quite another to force them to wear a name and imagery that is overtly offensive, abusive and considered racist to an entire group of people.

It is wrong to use community resources, and to use school students to advance a message of offense and harm; particularly when there is so much scientific evidence demonstrating that such action inflicts genuine and serious harm on Native American people and our Radnor students forced to embrace and carry this disrespectful message of harm.
By maintaining the Raider name and/or imagery you will be forcing the school’s children (among them our son) to pick a path:

Participate in sports or don’t

Individually and intentionally take steps to show his opposition:
• Take a knee
• Remove references from his jersey
• Find some other way to speak in defense of Native Americans and against Radnor supported racism
Ongoing Use of Name & Imagery Will Not Result in a Rewrite of History; But It Will Affect How Radnor Is Viewed in History
“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope.”

— Robert F Kennedy
It is silly for supporters of the Raider name to suggest that if we don’t keep the name and imagery then Native Americans will be lost to history.

Native Americans are alive and well in states across our nation. There is no need for Radnor’s offensive use of Native American imagery and the offensive Raider mischaracterization to ensure Native American people are not forgotten.

But there is a converse - the offensive use of the name and imagery contributes to a disregard, hateful and bullying attitude that helps support and perpetuate the ongoing abuses of Native American people who already are denied equal access to health care, quality education, and whose communities are all too often turned into environmental sacrifice zones subjecting these communities to higher rates of illness, cancer, COVID and premature death.
Advocates for Raiders & continued use of Native American imagery falsely assert that if we change the name then Native Americans will be forever lost from history and our memories – amongst other things, this is a disrespectful failure to recognize that Native Americans are living, breathing people deserving of recognition, respect and being heard.
Radnor will not change the history of the past if it changes the Raider name and imagery, but it is influencing the history of the present and future:

“Stereotypic Native American mascots, those popularized by professional sports teams like the Cleveland Indians and the Chicago Blackhawks, have a significant and outsized influence on perceptions of American Indigenous peoples. Due to the history of erasure and genocide of these peoples, Americans writ large have few opportunities to experience Native American cultures and their communities in everyday life (Pewewardy, 1996, Pewewardy, 1999). As such, stereotypic mascots have the capacity to reinforce harmful stereotypes of indigenous populations in ways that constrain the representation of these peoples in contemporary society, and relegate them as artifacts of the past (Black, 2002; Farnell, 2004; Fryberg, Markus, Oyserman, & Stone, 2008). Thanks in large part to the persistent activism of Native Americans since at least the 1960s (Baca, 2004; Black, 2002), organizations, including the American Psychological Association, have gradually acknowledged that these mascots are expressions of prejudice against Native American peoples (https://www.apa.org/about/policy/mascots.pdf).”
Steve Long
remove it and we will will soon forget there were ever native Americans. Funny how history is forgotten. Heck, Desean Jackson does not know who Hitler was.
Steve Long
Signed, I look at it as pride in native Americans. Get rid if it and we forget about them.
Marta Menendez Roth
I never saw it as a negative to our native Americans. I see it as a compliment to them. We are proud of our mascot for what it stands for—strong, courageous, and noble. That we chose a native american as that symbol is a testament to them— not an insult. There are people out there who only see the bad in everything. Maybe they need to start by looking inward. Their actions seek to erase any native American representation that people look up to. They would prefer that they are never mentioned at all and disappear from history or be eternally represented as victims. They were cruelly treated but they were so much more than that— and that is what we are trying to keep alive.
Dan McDermott
As a student at Radnor in the 70’s, seeing that logo over the bleachers inspired me to learn more about the Lenni Lenape Indians. I believe having the mascot can be used as a teaching tool. Eliminating the mascot means less visibility for the history of the indigenous people of the area. We should embrace the mascot, and treat it with honor and respect.
If Finances Is Your Goal – Ongoing Use of the Name & Imagery Could be Harmful Economically
To the extent fundraising in support of school activities is an important element of the school board’s decision-making on the issue of the Raider name and mascot, there is reason to believe that ongoing use of the name and imagery will be harmful:

“Dwelling for a moment on the finding that university advertisements including Native American stereotypes reduced overall donations by 5.5%, ....”

That being said, considerations of cost should not overwhelm advancing needed racial justice reforms and teaching our children that advancing just behavior and moral principles, and simply doing what is right, should be more important than money.
A New Name, Imagery & Mascot
Is an Opportunity to Bring Our Community Together in Respect, Care and Justice For All
There are many options for a new name and imagery that can bring the community together; the Raider name cannot.

It has been suggested that for every new name or mascot proposal there will be an objection and therefore the current Raider name and imagery should be maintained. While it is true there will surely be some who don’t like one option or another for any variety of reasons -- an objection to color, whether a name or mascot is inspirational enough, the quality of the artwork and more -- these kinds of objections are dramatically different than opposition based on whether a name and/or image is offensive, hurtful, racist, bigoted, and/or disparaging of other people, races and communities.

If there is opposition to a name and/or mascot/imagery based on offensiveness, disparagement of others or the racist nature of a name or mascot then it should be set aside given that there are a wonderful wealth of options that do no harm including references to animals, powerful elements of nature, inspirational characteristics and more.

There truly is no need for Radnor to have a name that scars and harms others.
Here are just a few ideas to inspire, engage, bring forth engaging new ideas:
To make a connection to the film Grease written about Radnor.

Imagine the potential marketing options if we decide to go this way.
Radnor

POISON DART
FROGS
Radnor Rocks
Radnor Coral Snakes
Because a Red Ant can lift up to 5,000 its own weight and they work together.

Now that is a powerful mascot!
Here is just a sampling of the positive engagement this process at the Facebook page @RetireTheRaider is inspiring.
Maya K. van Rossum ★
John A McQuaid & Robert Ross here is a Gryphon option -- as with others it as the Retire the Raider page.

Robert Ross
Maya K. van Rossum Love it!
Better Options: Radnor Raptors, Radnor Red Cardinals, Radnor Red Foxes, Radnor Velvet Ants, Radnor Red Efts, Radnor Ladybugs, Radnor Red Spiders, Radnor Poison Dart Frogs, Radnor Red Crabs, Radnor Red Snakes, Radnor Coral Snakes, Radnor Red Squirrels, Radnor Heat, Radnor Fire, Radnor Lightening or Radnor Hawks
Comment as Retire the "Raider"

Lorraine Farley Dyson
Electric Fund Transfers? Nah....do not like this one
Like · Reply · Message · 5d

Author
Retire the "Raider"
That is funny! 😊👏
Like · Reply · Commented on by Maya K. van Rossum · 5d

Lorraine Farley Dyson
Thanks - I do not think most people know what an EFT is
Shea IL
I personally favor “Radnor Griffins”, because it’s on the town seal.

Retire the "Raider"
Shea IL we are going to work up a Gryphon option - stay tuned. smiling.

Pat Meehan Ryan
What is an efts?

Retire the "Raider"
Hi Pat Meehan Ryan, here you are, i forgot where your question was. here is a picture of an actual red eft - they are awesome.
Another day, another new Radnor mascot idea. Hope we are inspiring everyone and please let us know if you have any new ideas that we can try and work up a design for!

![Radnor Poison Dart Frogs](image)

103 People Reached
15 Engagements

Boost Post

Comments:

- **Dottie Vura-Weis**
  I like the Radnor Lightning! Lots of positive energy! — Dottie Vura-Weis ’66

- **Lorraine Farley Dyson**
  Pdf's...lol

4 Comments

Most Relevant
Robert Ross
Spell it “Gryphons” if things go that way...

2d  Like  Reply

Anneke Walsh 🙌
Robert Ross thanks for that suggestion! Good to have

1d  Like  Reply
Retire the "Raiders"
Hi Matt Meltzer. Thanks for the great question. There are many reasons why we believe both name and imagery must be deleted. First, having done my research and talked with a number of people the term "raider" standing on its own carries painful connotation. See More

Ted Merriman
only issue with this is that true raptors were not at all like how they were depicted in the movies, and this image reflects that.
Science teachers would have a fit.

Maya K. van Rossum
Ted Merriman thanks for pointing that out. If this idea rolls we can fix it. Smiling

Ted Merriman
Maya K. van Rossum the "raptors" in Jurassic Park actually looked more like the Deinonychus. Hard to pronounce and doesn't sound scary enough for a Hollywood monster.
True velociraptors were slightly larger than a Canada Goose
Lots of thumbs up, smiles, hearts & some genuine thumbs down, grumpy faces

As well as great comments & suggestions for new ideas or modifications

Lightening, Greased Lightening, Gryphon, Ruckus & Manticore are just a few of the great ideas shared with us on Facebook that we are turning into fun options for folks to react to.
Respectfully Submitted:

Maya K. van Rossum
David Wood
Anneke Walsh van Rossum