

Chippewa Hills

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## **Chippewa Hills Q & A regarding the logo resolution adopted by the Chippewa Hills School District Board of Education on October 11, 2021**

**What does the resolution actually say?**

The full resolution is linked, but essentially it states that the district will cease the use of any and all Native American/Indigenous People imagery from school use and find an alternate image by December 31, 2021. Grants will be pursued to transition facilities, and related items but nothing new will be ordered with the current imagery used (i.e. Indian head or arrowhead). Here is the full resolution:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X3\\_gg\\_fA6hUYfOYa3Rx36UWRr4s6bBx6/viiew?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X3_gg_fA6hUYfOYa3Rx36UWRr4s6bBx6/viiew?usp=sharing)

**Why did the board make this decision?**

Simply stated by multiple board members, “it was the right thing to do.” Our society has become much more aware of derogatory imagery over the past decade or more. The board initiated the conversations with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe to better understand the perceptions and see if we needed to do anything to improve or address our current imagery. Based on those meetings it was determined that changing was essentially the only way to separate our schools from the negative perceptions.

**Why was community input not sought prior to the board adopting a resolution making this change?**

In addition to believing this decision is “the right thing to do,” it is also the belief of the board that this change was inevitable. We have seen other

communities get torn apart by debating this decision which has ultimately ended up with a change occurring. It seemed appropriate based on societal trends and tribal consultation to make the ultimate decision to change and then seek input regarding the new imagery from our constituents.

**The deadline to select a new image is rather quick (12/31/21), why?**

In discussions it was determined that voids will be filled if left empty. To properly rebrand, the district hopes to have new imagery in place as soon as possible to avoid this scenario. The board reserves the right to extend the timeframe by altering their resolution, but hopes this task can be completed minimizing the delay in making a change.

**What about the terms “Chippewa” and “Warriors?”**

Chippewa was deemed geographic as it relates to our area (i.e. Chippewa River) and does not refer to any group of people, including in our usage. The term Warriors can be used as long as there is no relationship to Native American/Indigenous People as the word has multiple connections throughout history. However, rebranding quickly is vital to the success of this separation.

**An arrowhead is not limited to Native American culture, why can't it stay?**

While many other cultures have used arrowheads, it cannot be denied that it is commonly associated with the Native American culture in our area. In addition, that is exactly how Chippewa Hills has used it so creating a separation from that connectivity would be essential.

**Was the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe the reason we have to change?**

No. The meetings were initiated by the district and this is a board of education decision to address a potential problem that was validated through conversations with the tribe.

**Is there any financial connection between the Chippewa Hills School District and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe (SCIT)?**

No. There has not been any financial discussions regarding this change between the 2 groups. In addition, there is zero connection between our district's ability to apply for 2% grants and the awarding of such by SCIT.

### What will be the financial impact on the district?

The board made a conscious decision to pursue this change based on the availability of funds to make the necessary changes. Grants, such as the Native American Heritage Fund which has been awarded to other districts in our area, will be pursued to cover the costs associated with the facility and other impacted items. If grants are awarded then changes will occur sooner and to a greater level. If grants are not received, the district will slowly transition as items are replaced, repaired or altered.

### Who is deciding what the new imagery will be?

The board ultimately makes this decision but wants input. The board convened it's ad hoc committee, who is made up of students, parents, educators, administrators and board members, to address this matter seeking guidance and recommendations. This committee has already began meetings and will continue until a recommendation can be made. If you have ideas you would like to share with the ad hoc committee you may submit them through any member, bring them to the superintendent's office or submit them via email to [logos@chsd.us](mailto:logos@chsd.us).

### Can we just use the letters "CH?"

Yes, but many, including students, have expressed that they would prefer something more to work with instead of just letters. In addition, the board would like to avoid the void by substituting alternate imagery so that "old" images are not used. The committee will make recommendations based on multiple inputs from the schools and communities with the board ultimately deciding.

### Are there any parameters for the new image?

Per the ad hoc committee recommendation there are 3 things that need to be considered when submitting, reviewing and selecting a new image: It must be gender neutral (so it can be used by any group or organization

associated with CHSD), contain no weapons and have "CH" incorporated into it somehow.