

CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT 12
RESOLUTION
REGARDING THE USE "INDIANS" AS A TEAM NAME AND MASCOT
AT CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL

March 15, 2020

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received extensive written correspondence and public testimony from both opponents of and advocates for the use of "Indians" as a team name and mascot at Cheyenne Mountain High School;

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians, the oldest, largest, and most representative national organization serving American Indian and Alaska Native tribal nations and their citizens, has called for an end to "Indian" sports mascots due to the harm they cause;

WHEREAS, many Native Americans living in our community have asked District 12 to retire the "Indians" team name;

WHEREAS, mental health associations such as the American Sociological Association, American Counseling Association and American Psychological Association have recommended ending all American Indian mascots due to the damaging effects on both the Native and non-Native population;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has called for an end to the use of Native American images and team names by non-native schools because their use "mocks and trivializes Native American culture" and have the potential to create racially hostile environments;

WHEREAS, it is clear there is no consensus among District 12 students, alumni, parents and community members regarding the appropriateness of Native American team names and mascots;

WHEREAS the presence of the "Indians" team name and mascot at Cheyenne Mountain High School has been, and continues to be, a controversial and divisive issue in our school community; and

WHEREAS the Board of Education has duly considered the issue and desires to establish a team name and mascot that serves to unite rather than divide our school community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education that the Indians team name be retired at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 academic year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education directs the administration to establish a student and stakeholder-centered process to identify the purpose of a team name and mascot and to recommend to the Board of Education a new team name and mascot, if any, to represent Cheyenne Mountain High School beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year.