



Area Superintendent – Horizon Schools

May 22, 2024

To: Board of Education Members
From: Triscilla Weaver, Area Superintendent – Horizon Schools
Through: Dr. Devon Q. Horton, Superintendent
Subject: Recommendation for the name change of the mascot for Cross Keys High School

At the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, Cross Keys High School stakeholders presented a request for consideration to rename the school's mascot. The current mascot is the Indians. Students, staff, parents, and alumni expressed concerns that the current mascot is an inaccurate and unacceptable name for Indigenous people and that the current mascot can lead to offensive stereotypes. Additionally, nearly 90% of the students are Hispanic, and the translation of the word Indian is problematic in some Spanish dialects.

The renaming of the mascot was an agenda item at the April 12, 2023, faculty meeting and the May 9, 2023, PAC meeting. Focus groups were conducted with several classes of students in April and May 2023. The feedback obtained further showed a strong community interest in the renaming of the mascot.

According to Board Policy FDC-R1 (Naming Facilities), a committee was selected based on the protocol for changing the name of a mascot. The process was followed. The committee convened four times over four months. Stakeholders were given multiple opportunities to submit names for the committee to review. After reviewing several submissions, the committee solicited public feedback on the final selections. Once the top three names were selected, the community voted electronically or through paper ballot.

As a result, this is the final recommendation for the DeKalb County School Board to consider for the new mascot of Cross Keys High School is the Phoenix.

We are requesting that the Board of Education approve the new mascot name.

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