

**CONTACT**

Ellen Siuta, Board of Education Chair  
siutae@fpsct.org



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## **The Farmington Board of Education and Farmington High School (FHS) to Commence a Community Engagement Process Related to the Native American Mascot for FHS Athletics**

The Farmington Board of Education announces the development of a Farmington High School (FHS) Ad Hoc Committee to begin a community engagement process that will address the use of the current Indian mascot and the potential to move toward the selection of a new mascot for FHS.

The FHS Ad Hoc will be made up of students, parents/guardians, community members, faculty and staff members, the Athletic Director, administrators, and two Board of Education liaisons. The work of the FHS Ad Hoc will begin in September, 2020 and recommendations will be due to the Board of Education for their follow-up and possible action no later than January, 2021.

The purpose of the FHS Ad Hoc committee is to engage in a community discussion, with the assistance of experts in the field, on the subjects of race, culture, and the use of Native American school mascots, symbols and names. The committee's goal will be to advise the Board of Education regarding the impact of utilizing Native American symbols and names as school mascots, and to present a recommendation regarding the possible selection of a new mascot.

Principal Dr. Hurwitz will be sending a communication out in the coming days related to the FHS Ad Hoc committee to begin the process of establishing the ad hoc committee and engaging in this important topic with the FHS school community and the Farmington community at large. Listening respectfully to one another's perspectives as well as experts in the field will be a focus of the FHS Ad Hoc committee's work. It is important that we engage in a community process to ensure the Board of Education, in collaboration with administration, make informed decisions based on a thorough and transparent community process in which all voices are heard, respected and included. The establishment of the FHS Ad Hoc Committee will be officially voted upon at an upcoming meeting of the Board of Education.