



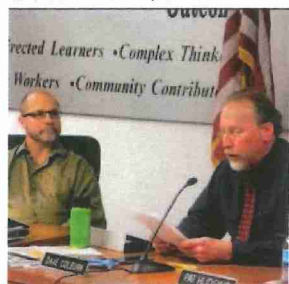
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# USD 383 board votes to keep Indian, study options

By Dylan Lysen

December 7, 2016



Dylan Lysen

Dave Colburn, right, lays out his proposal for a compromise to keep the Manhattan High Indian mascot and create a committee to address issues related to it, including finding a new dedication to Frank Prentup, whom the mascot is meant to honor.

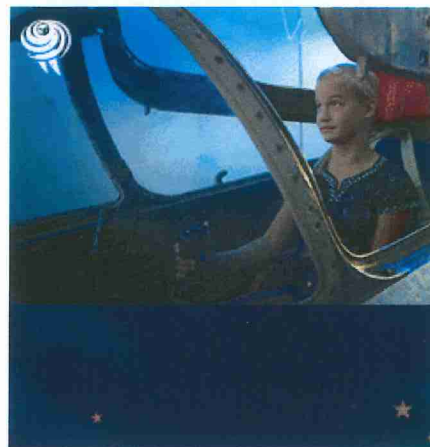
Without a detailed plan and with possible funding cuts on the horizon, Dave Colburn said he could not support changing Manhattan High School's Indian mascot.

But Colburn said he could not support the status quo either.

"Status quo means we went through all of this argument and effort for nothing if we just go back to the way we were," he said. "We've got to come out of this having shown some progress."

Colburn proposed a compromise the Manhattan- Ogden school board ultimately approved.

The board unanimously voted to retain the mascot while creating a committee to address at least four issues related to the Indian during its meeting Wednesday. About 30 members of the public attended the meeting, but weren't allowed to speak before the board's vote. There are normally fewer than five people



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Dylan Lysen

About 30 people from the Manhattan community

attended the meeting to present at a typical board meeting. hear board's decision.

**The committee will work from January to September to address the following points:**

- **Finding a portion of or an entire facility and scholarship to name for Frank Prentup, a former MHS coach, a descendant of the Tuscarora tribe and the man the mascot is meant to honor.**
- **Develop a teaching program and plan that educates students, faculty and community members about Native American history, religion and culture.**
- **Explore the creation of a mascot for students to "rally around" that is distinct from the Indian name and the image.**
- **Establish what the true costs would be and what the timeline would look like if the Indian name and image were retired.**

The committee will be comprised of, but not limited to, those seeking to change the mascot and keep it the same, as well as students, teachers and administrators.

Colburn said his personal beliefs align more with ReImage MHK, the group advocating to change the Indian, but he could not vote to change because of the state's \$350 million budget hole that could lead legislators to cut money from K-12 education. He said the board also does not know how much it will cost to make a change and does not have any available options to change to yet.

A cost estimate provided by Eric Reid, assistant superintendent, showed a possible bill of \$318,000, but a significant portion of that includes items the school district is likely to purchase in the near future regardless of the mascot, including upgrading the turf at Bishop Stadium and buying new team uniforms.

"We've heard some numbers, but we have no idea if they are high or low," Colburn said. "This board can't fiscally, prudently vote to change something when they have no idea what kind of fiscal note they are taking on."



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