

Districts Explore Native American Mascots

(KAIR/AP)--Manhattan High School is keeping its Indians mascot for now.

The Manhattan-Ogden school board unanimously voted Wednesday to create a committee to study several issues as part of a compromise in which the mascot was retained.

The Manhattan Mercury reports the committee also would look for ways to educate the community about Native Americans and recognize a former coach whom the mascot is meant to honor.

Atchison's USD 409 has also formed a committee focused on the local district's Native American themed mascot.

Superintendent Dr. Susan Myers says the district has received written communications pertaining to the use of the Redmen mascot.

Following discussion at their most recent meeting, the Board of Education, encouraging transparent discussion regarding the issue, decided to convene a workgroup to address the matter.

Myers says the group will be comprised of students from the high school and the middle school, district administration, community members, alumni, Native American representatives, and School Board members Diane Liebsch and Sean Crittendon.

The workgroup will provide a report of their efforts to the Board of Education in March.

Myers says the consensus of the Board is to have the group's discussion serve as a learning experience and as an opportunity to bring people together.

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