



## Two More School Districts Retire Native "Themed" Mascots, Three Others Select Replacements

*"For me it is a matter of perspective...the time has come to care and listen to others of cultures different than our own."*

*-- Atchison USD 409 (KS) BOE Member Sean Crittendon*

### **Atchison Unified School District (KS) "Redmen" & "Braves"**

On April 12, [the Atchison USD 409 Board of Education voted unanimously to retire the mascots at Atchison High School and Atchison Middle School](#), formerly known as the "Redmen" and "Braves," respectively. After voting to keep the mascots in 2018, the BOE's unanimous vote earlier this month follows a monumental shift in public opinion. "I felt like my community spoke loud and clear, so that is why I changed my vote," said BOE President Carrie Sowers. "Not one person spoke in favor of keeping the mascots," Sowers added.

### **Susquehannock High School (PA) "Warriors"**

On April 15, [the Southern York County School Board voted 7-2 to retire all Native American imagery associated with its "Warriors" mascot](#). The school will retain the mascot name. NCAI staff worked closely with school and district leadership prior to last week's board meeting and are now consulting with the student body as they design a new logo. Superintendent Sandra Lemmon expects the board to receive an update on a replacement logo next month.

### **Replacement Mascots Selected in Massachusetts, Connecticut**

[Nashoba Regional HS \(MA\), formerly known as the "Chieftains," will now compete as the "Wolves."](#) After retiring its mascot last summer, the Nashoba Regional School District formed a committee to gather community input and select a replacement mascot. "Wolves" prevailed over "Golden Bears" in a final vote conducted earlier this month. In Connecticut, [Newington HS is rebranding itself as the "Nor'Easters" after retiring its "Indians" mascot last fall](#). Newington's renaming committee consulted with nearby schools who have recently rebranded. This includes Glastonbury High School (CT), which showcased its [new "Guardians" logo, designed by a student](#), last month. The "Guardians" mascot replaces the "Tomahawks," which was retired last August by the Glastonbury BOE.

**Ending "Indian" Mascots** is an informational service provided by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), which is the oldest, largest, and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization serving the broad interests of tribal governments and communities. It has been leading Indian Country's movement to eradicate offensive "Indian" mascots from sports and popular culture for the past 50 years by educating schools, sports leagues, and the general public about the [many harms they cause Native people](#). To learn more, please click [here](#).

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Founded in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country. NCAI advocates on behalf of tribal governments, promoting strong tribal-federal government-to-government policies, and promoting a better understanding among the general public regarding American Indian and Alaska Native governments, people and rights.

