

Se-ah-dom Edmo, Oregon Indian Education Association, provided a summary from across the nation regarding viewpoints on Native American mascots and specifically on how many groups believe both names and images to be racist and psychologically harmful to students. She is also concerned about how Native Americans who are members of one of nine Oregon tribes are the only voice as there are several other non-Oregon tribes represented in public school systems throughout the state. She also stated that the state and districts will be sued. She is also working with districts that do not have Native American mascots to encourage them to not engage in athletic events/activities with districts who keep mascots. She suggested limiting the number of districts a tribe could enter into agreement with or limit agreements between a tribe and district of which the tribe claims traditional territory. She also submitted a power point.

Sam Sachs, racial justice advocate, provided testimony that he is against any loosening of the ban. He encouraged districts to eliminate usage of mascots and "do the right thing". He also mentioned a potential lawsuit against the state and districts.

Robin Butterfield, who facilitated the workgroup testified that she thought there is movement on this topic and that most students are not wedded on Native mascots. She also testified that students are misinformed by images and that educators have a responsibility.

April Campbell from the Department of Education also attended the hearing.

Respectfully submitted this 27th day of February, 2007

Cindy Hunt
Hearing Officer

BEFORE THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

RULE HEARING: OAR 581-021-0047, Native American Mascots

HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Department held a public hearing on February 27, 2015, to receive public comment on the proposed rule amendments. Notice of hearing was published in a timely manner in the Secretary of State's bulletin and was sent to interested parties and persons who requested notice pursuant to ORS 183.335 (7). The hearing was held at the Department's offices in Salem, Oregon before Cindy Hunt, Hearing Officer.

Paul Young, Rogue River School District Superintendent testified that the rules were more specific than what was presented to the workgroup. He is specifically concerned about subsection (4)(b) of the rules and its applicability to specific districts. His school district has not started negotiations with a tribe. He noted although his district has not started negotiations with a tribe, the School Board had the great-grandson of Chief Joseph, Nez Perce Tribe, as a member of the board for 40 years. He deferred additional comments regarding proposed amendments to Larry Parsons.

Tony Mann, Molalla River School District Superintendent testified that an earlier draft of the rules had specific names of mascots that were acceptable such as 'Indians' and 'Braves'. He noted that the amendments were not reflective of the workgroup. Also by taking these out of the draft implies that the state board has veto authority over particular names. He also suggested changing "individual" to "person" in subsection (4)(b) to be consistent with other places in the rule draft. He also testified that relationships between districts and tribes is what is most important. He also submitted written testimony.

Larry Parsons, Roseburg School District Superintendent testified that he thought subsection (4)(b) did not reflect the intent of the original Senate Bill. He also testified that a requirement for agreements to include history and achievement gap plan should not be included because it implies that just these schools must do this. He believes all schools should be doing this and that this is reflected in law. He also submitted written testimony.

Larry Rich, Roseburg Schools principal testified that he was concerned about which tribe a district must enter into an agreement with. Is it the closest? He noted specific concern that the rule would allow for multiple uses of a Tribe's name. He had concerns the rule language was vague and inconsistent; specifically noting section subsection (6) (b) which enforces the ban on or before July 1, 2017. He is also concerned that subsection (4)(b) applies to names of mascots such as "Indians."

Ed Edmo, testified about the racism that he directly experienced as a Native American in Oregon. He also testified about the harm associated with Native American mascots. He is against any loosening of the original State Board ban. He also suggested taking the issue forward to the Governor.