



TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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TIMOTHY A. OLDENBURG, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

December 6, 2022

Dear Tonawanda City School District Community:

Our District is aware of the recent announcement from the New York State Department of Education regarding the continued use of mascots, logos, and imagery that is non-discriminatory. The memo from the Department of Education can be found linked here: <https://t.co/39RzB5fZMf>

Our District is committed to being an inclusive, culturally sensitive, and responsible member of the City of Tonawanda and the Western New York region. Although our District has taken numerous steps in recent decades to modify our logo, change our team name, and eliminate our mascot, there may be more work in this area to consider at this time.

The Board of Education and I are awaiting the regulations that are currently being developed by the Department of Education. These regulations, once adopted by the NYS Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Education, will provide the requirements, restrictions, and parameters for a focused evaluation of the current logo and team name in our District.

This guidance will inform our pathway forward. The Board of Education and I are committed to a transparent process that includes clear communication and a purposeful approach that is appropriate for this sensitive topic.

While our District has proud history, traditions, and honor, we need to ensure that our past intentions appropriately match the contemporary concerns of our students, parents, staff, and our community. I will keep you informed in the coming weeks/months as we await more information from the NYS Department of Education that will define our next steps in this process.

Thank you for your continued trust and support in the work we do each day to best care for and support our students, staff, and community.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Oldenburg, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools