



Public Comment

May 18, 2021 Regular Meeting

- 1. Steve Petzold – Email (Monday May 17, 2021 – 2:47 PM)**

Opposes Hart High School (Santa Clarita) possibly taking action to remove the Indian mascot.

- 2. Steve Petzold – Email (Monday May 17, 2021 – 10:40 AM)**

Opposes Hart High School (Santa Clarita) possibly taking action to remove the Indian mascot.

Public Comment for May 18, 2021 Meeting-Hart High Indian "Mascot"

You replied on Mon 5/17/2021 3:15 PM

SP

Stephen Petzold <stephen.petzold@gmail.com>

Mon 5/17/2021 2:47 PM

To: Alexandra Ferguson (Valdes)



CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.

Members of the Commission,

The William S Hart Union School district is in the process of preparing to cancel Indians as the moniker-nickname at Hart High School

I think that this is terribly unfortunate because there has not been a mascot in years....Indians has been reduced to a simple nickname years ago.

Your member Rudy Ortega Jr. has spoken out for removing the "mascot" in his role as leader of the FTBMI and his public testimony will be used to justify canceling the Indian. With leaders like Ortega, Indians do not need enemies. With the Indian out of sight, they will be out of mind.

If the Indian is removed, any effort at educating the public will be lost. Truth be known, the Trustees are eager to get rid of the Indian once and for all so that they do not have to deal with it in the future. They have zero intention of raising awareness of First Peoples going forward.

My purpose in writing this note is to make you aware of this controversy in the Santa Clarita Valley. If you have any interest in the issue this is the time to speak up. The Hart Board is meeting on Wednesday.

Before this issue is decided and a final solution is selected I want to make you aware of the situation in Santa Clarita.

I believe that the Board has the votes necessary to remove the Indians.....so if you support this action there is no reason to take any action.

Should any of you be willing to discuss the issue in a civil manner, please call me.

This is the last call to save the Hart Indian. I encourage you to take an informed interest in the controversy.

Education NOT Eradication !!

Sincerely

Steve Petzold

661-609-1739

Community Activist-Open Government Advocate

Indian Moniker "Nickname" at Hart High-Santa Clarita, CA

ⓘ You forwarded this message on Mon 5/17/2021 10:44 AM

SP

Stephen Petzold <petz2@icloud.com>

Mon 5/17/2021 10:40 AM

To: Alexandra Ferguson (Valdes)



CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.

My name is Steve Petzold and I live in Santa Clarita, CA.

The William S Hart School District is determining a process which may lead to the removal of Indians as a nickname for stakeholders at Hart High School.

There is no current mascot or representation of a Native American in current use.

The logo for Hart High is the letter H with a single feather attached to it.

I think that your commission should be made aware of this process and if appropriate take a position.

Your member Rudy Ortega Jr has spoken in favor of removing all racist mascots as a leader of the FTBI and he seems to have been a big influence on the Hart Board.

If you would like to have a civil discussion about the facts....I would be glad to discuss it with you.

I believe it will be a sad day for Indians if it is removed. It certainly will not lead to additional education or advancement of Indian issues for the community of Santa Clarita.

Before this issue is decided, I wanted you to at least be aware of it.

Steve Petzold
Open Government Advocate
Santa Clarita, CA.
5th District of Los Angeles County

Sent from my iPad

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