



LANE TECH COLLEGE PREP HIGH SCHOOL

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Meeting Minutes: LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL SPECIAL “Symbol” MEETING

Meeting Details: 6:30 PM on August 4, 2020, Via Zoom (Recorded) Meeting

Following are the meeting minutes. Original posted Meeting Agenda items are listed with the meeting minutes noted directly below.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Emily Haite called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

2. Roll Call / Establish Quorum (7 minimum)

Present: Billy Cashman, Maureen George, Emily Haite, Daniel Law, Anne Lokken, Patricia O’Keefe, Ana Scales, Laura Symons, Brian Tennison (Principal), Dannixa Velez and Benjamin Wong, Matthew Beaudet (entered the meeting a few minutes late)

Absent: Katharine Whittaker-Gomez

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

3. Approve Agenda

Motion: Emily Haite motioned to approve tonight’s Agenda.

By: Emily Haite

Second: Benjamin Wong

Vote: Unanimous, all in favor

Result: Motion Passes

4. Approve Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve meeting Minutes from July 14, 2020.

By: Emily Haite

Second: Maureen George

Abstained: Laura Symons

Vote: All in favor

Result: Motion passes

5. Public Participation

- Participants must “raise their hands” in the zoom meeting to be called on.
- Will have one hour of public participation at 2 minutes each.
- All emails sent to lanetechsymbol@gmail.com will be read before the meeting by all LSC members, but not read out loud during the meeting.

Emily Haite defined the rules for public participation (via Zoom)

Participants to raise their hands and state if Lane Tech’s Symbol be retained or not retained. May not give their minutes to others.

If an email was sent, please allow others to speak first.

People must say their name and affiliation with the school.

Would like to hear from all stakeholders. If one group of stakeholders (students, alumni, teachers, community members) becomes over-represented, we will ask them to unraised their hands to allow others to be heard. May not use profanity.

Laura Symons (vice chair) will call out the raised hands and unmute them.

Anne Lokken will be the time timekeeper, with 30 second ‘yellow’ warning card time, ‘red’ card means times up.

Maureen George will mute the person at the end of their 2 minutes.

The imagery of the symbol has been a subject of debate. Brian Tension reached out to the Network and Equity Office. They recommended LSC hold a forum and obtain input from the community. The LSC was informed recently that its vote will be considered non-binding but a recommendation of action.

Thirty-two participants shared their views about Lane Tech’s Symbol. Most were from alumni’s, then teachers, community, Indigenous members, and students. Time began at 6:48 pm and ended 7:48 pm.

A letter from Maurice Swinney, CPS, Chief Equity Office was shared, explaining its position.

6. New Business

a. Symbol Action Committee questionnaire results

Committee Members: Benjamin Wong (parent /Alumni), Matt Beaudet (chair/parent), Maureen George (former parent /community rep).

Benjamin Wong shared and summarized the analytics of the questionnaire.

Overall, there were 9,135 participants.

47.5 % - the Indian name and symbol to be continued.

52.5% the Indian name and symbol should be discontinued.

5,444 (60%) response from alum with 3279 (60%) in favor of continuing.

3,691 (40%) responses for the combined students, faculty staff, parents/guardians, and community member constituencies with 2629 (71%) in favor of discontinuing.

A spreadsheet identified stakeholders and their responses to continue/discontinue use of the current Indian symbol. A proportioned data of community, faculty, staff, students, parents/guardians and alumni and graduating years gave a snapshot of trends.

Subsequently the LSC also received and read over 270 emails.

Statements from the American Indian Center of Chicago, the National Congress of American Indians, Native American Rights Fund, American Indian Associations of Illinois, Illinois Native American Bar Association, and Chi-Nations Youth Council are all in favor of discontinuing.

The Native American Guardian Association, a pro-group (no name change) provided research and reports.

b. LSC Discussion and Symbol Vote

Motion: I motion to continue using the Indian Mascot.

By: Emily Haite

Second: Maureen George

Vote: (note: members expressed their opinions, then cast their votes. Yes/continue or no/discontinue).

1. Matt Beaudet – vote to discontinue

2. William Cashman – vote to discontinue

3. Maureen George – vote to discontinue

4. Daniel Law – vote to discontinue

5. Emily Haite – vote to discontinue

6. Anne Lokken – vote to discontinue

7. Patricia O’Keefe - vote to discontinue

8. Laura Symons – vote to discontinue

9. Brian Tennison – vote to discontinue

10. Ana Scales – vote to discontinue

11. Dannixa Velez – vote to discontinue

12. Benjamin Wong – vote to discontinue

Result: The motion was defeated unanimously. The LSC has decided not to continue the symbol of the Indian.

c. Next Steps:

Emily Haite - This is not a binding vote (re: CPS/Equity Office). We will let the Equity Office and our Network know. This is an administrative vote. Once the decision is official that we are no longer the Lane Tech Indians, another committee will be formed to launch a “co-design” process to identify the new symbol.

7. Announcement

The next Special Meeting re: (School Resource Officers) SRO’s, Monday, August 10, at 6:30pm via Zoom.

The Agenda will be sent out and the Zoom link will be posted LT website and Google page.

Congratulations to our teacher rep Katie, she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl!

Thank you to everyone who participated.

8. Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn meeting at 8:37 pm.

By: Emily Haite

Second: Anne Lokken

Vote: Unanimous

Result: Motion passes

Next meeting will be held on ---August 10, 2020, 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Ana Scales

LSC Secretary

(2 attachments)

Dear Lane Tech LSC members and Community:

Chicago Public Schools strives to provide a safe, welcoming learning environment where every student feels supported and valued, and is committed to advance equity in the district. We learned about the on-going effort at Lane Tech to remove the symbol from stakeholders who believe it is racist and offensive and does not honor our Indigenous communities. The Office of Equity believes in a culturally responsive educational environment from wall to wall and across our district. We support the removal of the Lane Tech symbol. We strongly believe the symbol is racist and actively miseducates all students about the significance and value of our Indigenous community while also harming all People of Color. For example, the American Indian Center (AIC), in partnership with other Native serving National organizations, has carried out extensive research documenting the negative psychological impact of racist symbols on Native youth and Students of Color.

We believe the school community should engage in a process to identify a new symbol reflective of Lane Tech's identity through an Inclusive Partnership process. In this case, Lane Tech can remove the symbol but should engage the community in dialogue to identify a new symbol. We know the Lane Tech principal and school community have been engaging in thoughtful and long term conversations including a survey and most survey respondents - especially current students and staff - support the symbol change.

According to the definition of Inclusive Partnerships, as defined in the [CPS Equity Framework Draft](#), every time we make a decision we should prioritize the voices of those most impacted by inequity, those with institutional memory and those accountable for a decision. While we Inclusively Partner, we converge toward a common definition of equity as outlined in the CPS Equity Framework. In this case, we bring those to the table who are most impacted by the symbol and ensure our decisions reflect our equity principles. In the Equity Framework, part of how we define equity is as "championing the individual cultures, identities...of each student...to meet their unique needs and aspirations." We have recently spoken with the AIC who believes the Lane Tech symbol and mascot is racist and upholds our genocidal past as a nation. The AIC is aligned with many other Native serving National organizations, and has membership from over 100 federally recognized tribes. If we believe we must prioritize most impacted voices, we need to listen to the AIC and our Native youth. Those most impacted by inequity in this case include Indigenous students and communities as well as other Students and Lane Tech community members of Color. What we are hearing from communities of Color regarding the symbol is to immediately change it to stop the compounding harm occurring in the Lane Tech community. While we believe all voices are essential, we must recognize and prioritize those experiencing daily harm.

Finally, the next step for Lane Tech is to launch a [co-design](#) process to identify a new symbol if the LSC votes to remove the symbol on August 4th, 2020. The Office of Equity will support the Lane Tech principal and school community throughout the process to center the voices of the community while working to operationalize the CPS Equity Framework in identifying a new symbol. We understand there is also interest in removing racist artwork in the school community and the updated [CPS Arts Acquisition Policy](#) outlines the procedures to advance this cause including working with a Steering Committee led by the CPS Arts Department. We appreciate the efforts of the Lane Tech community to ensure the entire environment in which students are educated reflects principles of cultural responsiveness and anti-racism and believe this can help set precedent for other schools who take up this effort.

In Community,

Maurice R. Swinney, EdD
Chief Equity Officer

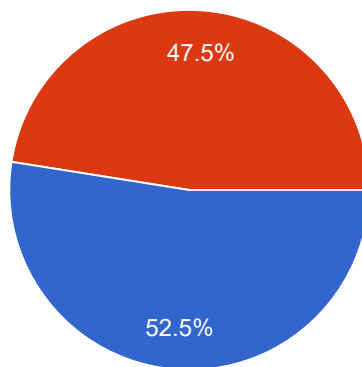
Lane Tech Indian Name and Symbol

9,135 responses

[Publish analytics](#)

Should the Lane Tech Indian name and symbol be DISCONTINUED or CONTINUED?

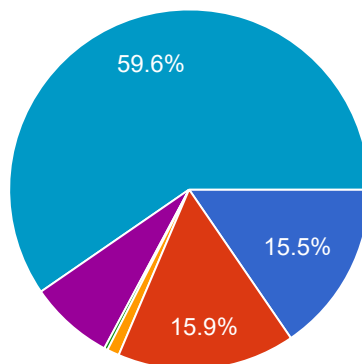
9,135 responses



- The Indian name and symbol should be DISCONTINUED.
- The Indian name and symbol should be CONTINUED.

Please identify your connection to Lane Tech.

9,135 responses

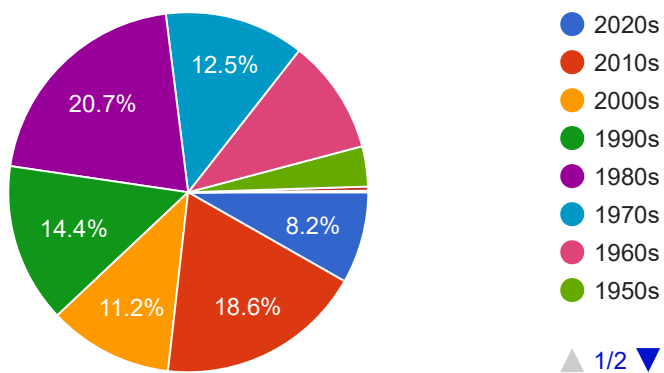


- I am a current Lane Tech Student.
- I am the Parent/Guardian of a current Lane Tech student.
- I am a current Lane Tech Faculty Member.
- I am a current Lane Tech Staff Member.
- I am a current Community Me...
- I am a Lane Tech Alumni. (If ye...



Lane Tech Alumni who wish to share the decade of their graduation may do so (optional):

5,658 responses



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