



*Striving for Excellence
in Everything We Do*

TETON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401

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PRESS RELEASE

Teton School District 401

June 10, 2013

Teton High School to change school Mascot

At the June 10th monthly school board meeting of Teton School District 401, Superintendent Monte Woolstenhulme informed the school board he is directing the administration at Teton High School to change the school mascot, which has been the Redskins.

Reasons for this change include:

- Reinforcing the importance of respect for others, where the 3-R's of Respect, Responsible and Ready are a focus on teaching positive social behaviors in all schools in the district.
- Honoring the Native American community in our state and nation, where acceptance of others is essential to students being successful in a diverse career and college work force.
- Empowering students to recognize others for their character, not the color of their skin, where there are no similar high school mascots designated for other demographic groups, for example 'Whiteskins'.
- Selecting a mascot that can be displayed with pride throughout our high school and at other schools in our conference, without creating controversy for its potential offensiveness or appropriateness.
- Recognizing that as the flagship school of the district, Teton High School represents not only our schools, but also our community; our student athletes, teams and mascot should represent Teton in a positive and respectful manner.

We recognize a national conversation is occurring regarding mascots with professional sports, collegiate teams and other high schools. Teton High School was referenced in a nationwide article about schools with the Redskins mascot. While that information surrounds the issue, this decision was made with recognition of many years of history and tradition of athletic success at Teton High School. In light of our tradition of not only athletic excellence, but also our respect for others, the decision was made to change the school mascot.

High school administration will work with students, staff, parents, alumni and the community in the fall to bring a recommendation of a new mascot for Teton High School.

Sincerely,

Monte R. Woolstenhulme, Superintendent

Teton School District 401 provides a safe and exceptional learning environment where career and college readiness are the academic cornerstones of a relevant and progressive education.