

# EAST ISLIP UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Superintendent of Schools

May 3, 2023

Dear East Islip Community,

Earlier last week, the New York State Board of Regents voted unanimously to ban the use of mascots, team nicknames and logos that display Native American imagery or likeness for all New York public schools. This comes on the heels of a period during the covid crisis where unelected officials unilaterally made decisions based upon political purview and along ideological lines where consideration of other viewpoints were not heard. Reflections upon these decisions have shown the miscalculations of such a “one size fits all” policy in which the state remains unapologetic and bears no accountability.

It is entirely acceptable to mandate changes in NYS Learning Standards and policy that are well thought out and universally accepted. However, the capricious mandates as of late are political in nature and represent an overreach by the Board of Regents that burden taxpayers and usurp local control of decision making affecting our district. The East Islip School Board is in the process of reviewing the decision. Legal counsel will be consulted in order to ascertain every conceivable option that we can take.

Faithfully,  
Your East Islip Board of Education

*Christopher Zachry - Board President*  
*Michael Dorgan - Vice President*  
*William Carpluk - Trustee*  
*Stephen Ruland - Trustee*  
*Timothy Sassone - Trustee*

*Paul E. Manzo*  
*Superintendent of Schools*