

Friday, November 6, 2020

Good Afternoon:

I have two pieces of information for you this afternoon. I hope you all have an excellent afternoon.

**Mascot News:**

I have sent an email to students via Skyward announcing the four semi-finalist choices for our new mascot. Students will vote on November 17th and the two choices that earn the most votes will be on the ballot for a final round of voting in December. Here are the names: [Mascot Semi-Finalists Announcement.pdf](#)

We know that some kids will be disappointed that their choices aren't going to be options to vote on, but they all got the opportunity to participate in the nomination process and I hope that each student will vote on November 17th.

- There were 424 students who participated in the nomination process
- Out of all the nominations, there were 158 separate and distinct nominations.
- Criteria Used by the Committee to Narrow Down the Choices: we used these to guide our discussions and decision making:
  - They had to meet all our policies about the prohibition of discrimination.
  - They had to meet our policies about appropriateness.
  - They had to reflect the characteristics and attributes valued by students, staff, and parents that came out in the Thought Exchange activity. You can see those posted on our website.
  - We also considered the list of school mascots around the state and in our League to make sure we weren't duplicating a mascot from a school near to us or one that many schools already had (such as "Eagles" , which is the most commonly used mascot in the state).
- Process Used and Next Steps:
  - We had a committee of 17 people comprised of staff, students and parents. This group worked very hard and I am proud that everyone let their voices be heard and we had some very rich discussions.
  - We met 3 times and engaged in a variety of activities to narrow down the choices through.
  - Why only 4? After our discussions over the final 12, we only had consensus over 4 as the remaining 8 were not the best representations of our characteristics and values.

**Schedule Next Week:** We have a short week next week...no Wednesday. We are going to keep our same schedule we usually have on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in order to keep the asynch time the same. So, we are following our regular daily schedule, except for Wednesday because there is no school!

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