



Bellefonte Area School District

318 North Allegheny Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823
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Mrs. Tammie Burnaford, Interim Superintendent
Mr. Kenneth G. Bean, Jr., CMA, Director of Fiscal Affairs

July 08, 2020

Dear BASD Community,

Over the past several weeks, important conversations related to the effects of racism in our society have been taking place across our nation. Locally, the Bellefonte Area School District has received some feedback on our school sports nickname: the Red Raiders.

We know that some in our community have been outspoken on the issue, especially on social media. Involved in these conversations are those who are for changing our school sports nickname and those who are against a change.

As a school district, we appreciate these conversations and the viewpoints that have been expressed. However, our attention at this time is on getting our students and staff back to school in August. We must do so while protecting everyone's safety and ensuring we deliver an equitable educational experience to all students. Although the school sports nickname is not on the agenda for any Board of Education meetings in the near future, we are committed to addressing important issues of equity and inclusivity to ensure we provide a safe and welcoming educational environment for the students and families we serve.

To that end, our administrative team will continue to review all practices in the district—including our curriculum—through the lens of diversity, inclusion and finding opportunities to enhance the educational experience. Any matters identified through this process as needing review will be open for input and discussion in a way that unites our tight-knit community.

For the time being, we ask for the community's patience as we work hard to prepare for what will certainly be a challenging school year.

Sincerely,

Jon Guizar, President
BASD Board of Directors