

Jan. 17, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Board of Education  
From: David S. Doty  
Subject: Selection of Mascot for Corner Canyon High School

Issue

After students within the new Corner Canyon High School boundary voted on mascot options for the school, the Board at its last meeting requested that a second vote be conducted, with the list of mascot options narrowed to the top four vote-getters in the first vote. The second vote would ask students to select among Cougars, Diamondbacks, Raptors, and Falcons.

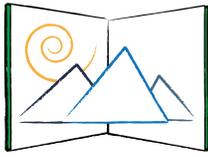
However, since the last Board meeting, we have received numerous e-mail messages and phone calls from parents and patrons in Draper asking us to reconsider the inclusion of "Cougars" as a mascot option. Opposition to the "Cougars" focuses on a concern that the mascot, combined with the school's blue/white/silver color scheme, will be too similar to Brigham Young University. Many also have commented on the negative double entendre of the word "cougar."

Background

Selection of the name, colors, and mascot for new schools is the prerogative of the Board of Education. Therefore, the Board is not legally or otherwise bound to the results of the student vote. At this point, the Board has three legitimate ways it could proceed: 1) accept the results of the first vote as information, but select the mascot by motion that carries a majority of the Board; 2) remove "Cougars" from the ballot and hold a second student vote on the next top three vote-getters from the first student vote; 3) remove "Cougars" from the ballot and hold a second student vote on no more than three options selected by the Board, regardless of whether they received votes on the first student ballot.

Recommendation

The Board should move forward with its stated intention to get meaningful student input on the mascot selection while at the same time honoring the sincere feedback received from parents who have objected to "Cougars." Therefore, the Administration recommends the Board remove "Cougars" from the ballot and hold a second student vote on no more than three options selected by the Board (any of which would be ultimately acceptable by the Board), regardless of whether they received votes on the first student ballot.



# CANYONS

School District

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While it is the Board's prerogative to determine which three mascot options are on the second ballot, we suggest the Board take a closer look at two of the options on the original ballot — Cavaliers and Chargers. Both of these names are unique (they are not used by other schools in Utah), have good alliteration with Corner Canyon (like Brighton Bengals and Hillcrest Huskies), and would fit well with the navy blue color scheme. Included here are links showing some images from the University of Virginia Cavaliers, the Richland Northeast High School Cavaliers (Columbia, S.C.), the San Diego Chargers, and a couple of out of state high schools whose mascot is the Chargers (albeit with color schemes).

<http://www.virginiasports.com/>

<https://www.google.com/search?q=University+of+Virginia+Cavaliers&hl=en&client=firefox-a&hs=VqZ&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&prmd=imvnsu&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=I7MPT70xIMeyiQLLrrzaDQ&ved=0CJoBELAE&biw=1280&bih=601>

<http://www.richland2.org/schools/RNH/content.aspx?id=35160>

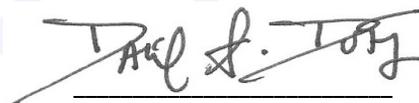
<http://www.chargers.com/media-vault/photo-gallery/Chargers-vs-Bills/081a387f-ca6f-435b-badb-073a9a23e312>

<http://www.chargers.com/media-vault/photo-gallery/Chargers-vs-Bills/081a387f-ca6f-435b-badb-073a9a23e312>

<http://www.ckk12.net/high/default.htm>

<http://www.maxpreps.com/high-schools/edison-chargers-%28huntington-beach,ca%29/home.htm>

<http://www.michiganhelmetproject.org/get-helmets/?nickName=Chargers>



David S. Doty  
Superintendent