

EXCLUSIVE: Menomonee Falls Superintendent Tells Friend He Intends To Change High School Name To "Falcons;" Says If Name Doesn't Change, He Will Quit

By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

Menomonee Falls Schools Superintendent Corey Golla, in an email to a colleague obtained through an open records request, states he has been pushing for some time to dump the high school's "Indians" nickname and mascot, essentially admitting that a community input process is all a sham. The excerpted email appears below:

Thanks for sharing your thoughts (colleagues name). This is something that has bothered me as well. Few know that the root of my regular interruptions as "good morning scholars" was born from the discomfort in the logo. I have regularly felt embarrassed by the logo ..(additional transcript of personal information I was requested not to share).

While my tenure is still in its first year we have begun a process which while slow will ultimately result in a new mascot or a new superintendent. In our rebranding process for the district we have formally adopted the Feathered F you referenced. We anticipate a future change to the Falcons. We have begun work to eliminate references to Indians wherever possible. Our current Athletic Director has been helpful in that effort. This summer we will paint over references that were added just two years ago without approval of our leadership team. I have initiated discussions with our board.

In each of my roles I have wrestled with our mascot. It was the only reason I considered not applying. In the end I felt the community had the best opportunity to grow with me as leader. While I recognize the pace of change may seem soft I've learned over the years that relentless leadership typically wins the day and has the longest impact. It is important to bring people along. I am also not blind to the fact that this fight poses a threat to me professionally and I have to consider the impact on my family. I can sleep at night knowing I am working toward building our community understanding around issues related to equity and dignity. I am confident I will lead us through this change.

...Patience grasshopper. I shared your letter with our board. No need for more right now. We need time to process this as a team. I've been in discussions during the year. A hard push will shut the effort down. I need the board with me.

It is apparent by the comments Golla makes in the email to the colleague that he intends to get the nickname changed. Golla is in his first year as Menomonee Falls superintendent and stated in the email that he is embarrassed by the Indian logo and actually considered not applying for superintendent. The email seems to make it clear that the community input Menomonee Falls has been seeking is a total sham and that the superintendent is determined to change the longstanding "Indians" nickname and mascot.

The email was obtained by a Menomonee Falls resident in an open records request to the school district. The resident provided the email to me.

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