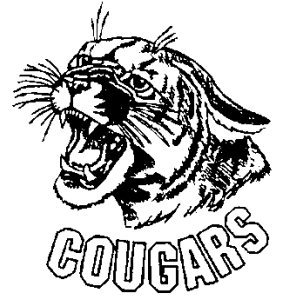




Centennial



Like many high schools in the state and, indeed, across the nation, Centennial High School was among those who had an Indian mascot. The trend, out of respect for Native Americans, was to stop using a symbol that some find offensive. However, Superintendent John McClellan felt it was the right thing to do.

Students at the high school, led by the principal and student council, solicited suggested mascot names from the student body and from the community. A variety of names were recommended and put on a ballot. The students at the high school voted to change the name to "Cougars", and sent that recommendation to the Centennial School Board. The board approved the name, and a new tradition began in the fall of 1995.

The change in mascot has been difficult for some who graduated as Chiefs and still consider themselves Chiefs. The parents and community members on the district's Indian Education Committee are very supportive of the change. During Centennial's 50-year celebration in 2008, there was talk about using the Chief and Cougar artwork together. However, the Indian Education Committee did not approve of such use and the combined artwork was not used.