

SW Times 9-9-15

# Southside High School Mascot Panel Assembled

By Chad Hunter

TIMES RECORD • CHUNTER@SWTIMES.COM

Southside High School's principal announced Tuesday the members of a committee tasked with identifying a new mascot as the Rebel is put to rest.

Called the Southside High School Mascot Selection Committee, the newly formed panel includes Principal Wayne Haver as chairman, along with 28 other students, faculty and alumni. Haver said the panel will begin meeting later this month "to organize and to discuss the responsibility and duties of the committee."

"It is likely that this committee will meet three or four times this fall so



TIMES RECORD FILE PHOTO

**A committee has been formed** to identify a new mascot for Southside High School in Fort Smith.

that their work, and the results of their work, may be completed by the opening of the 2016-17 school year," a news release from the school district states.

In July, the Fort Smith School Board voted unanimously to phase out the

Rebel, Southside's mascot since opening in 1963. The School Board also voted to retire the school's fight song, "Dixie," which has already been replaced with American folk song "Wabash Cannonball."

SEE MASCOT PAGE 4A

## MASCOT: Panelists Named

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

The changes, according to a June statement from the school district, came after "giving great consideration to the continuing impact of perceived symbols of racism on the community, state and nation."

Haver, who is in his 34th year as principal, called the new panel "a very representative committee that will select a mascot for Southside that will reflect our traditions and heritage."

Southside students have also been encouraged to submit ideas through Sept. 18, according to the school district. No date has been set for the committee's first meeting.

The committee includes:

- Travis Biggs, Southside assistant principal.
- Sean Carrier, Southside band director.
- Paxton Clark, Southside senior class president.
- Abby Clemmons, Southside cheer captain.
- John Cooley, Southside alumnus.
- Scott Eady, Southside alumnus.
- Gordon Floyd, school district deputy superintendent.
- Dana Goins, current staff.

- Wayne Haver, Southside principal.

- Tim Hearn, Partners in Education adviser, alumnus.

- Patrick Jacobs, alumnus.

- Tony Jones, former band president.

- Randy Kern, current staff.

- David Humphrey, Southside parent.

- Paula Jeremiah, alumna, retired staff.

- Kevin Le, National Honor Society president.

- Larry Loux, retired staff.

- John Magness, junior class president.

- Stephanie Mahoney, alumna, Southside parent.

- Legacy Mendoza, student athlete.

- Catherine Owen, student body president.

- Patti Pinter, PTA president, alumna.

- Caroline Rhomberg, band president.

- Jim Rowland, district athletic director.

- Jean Ann Sadler, retired staff member.

- Sandy Sanders, Fort Smith mayor.

- Sam Sicard, alumnus.

- Pam Weber, alumna.

- Jeff Williams, athletic coordinator.