

Sunday, October 18, 2015

School Board Needs To Hear Us

With regards to the Southside mascot

issue: There seems to be confusion over what the school board passed and didn't pass.

They voted to do away with "Dixie" as a fight song and the Johnny Reb mascot. They have not voted to remove the name Rebels at all, even though that is clearly their intent. It makes no sense to change the name Rebel and spend taxpayer money on turf, uniforms, signage, etc.

Doing away with the Rebel name is not what the majority of citizens want, no matter how Benny Gooden spins it. As most people know, Ole Miss went through this same deal, yet they

had the sense to retain the name, Ole Miss Rebels, not the Ole Miss Black Bears.

It's high time that Benny Gooden, Ms. Mehl, Ms. Cole and Ms. Martin wake up to the fact that Fort Smith is tired of the, "We're gonna do it our way, no matter what you want" attitude. You would think they would have gotten the message when a long-standing board member and one who served one term were voted off by a large margin. Clearly, it's time for at least three more new board members, and certainly time for Benny Gooden to look elsewhere for employment.

The schools need major upgrades and repair, not to mention

supplies, not a knee-jerk name change. If they are going to change it anyway, why stop halfway? What could denote segregation more than schools named "Northside" and "Southside?" Let's change it to School One and School Two; that way nobody can be offended, except maybe those who can't count.

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