

Neshaminy School District Langhorne, PA

Neshaminy team name hearing to be held in January

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) has scheduled a hearing regarding ongoing litigation over the District's Redskins team name and related Native American imagery. This hearing, which is open for public viewing, will be held January 7 through 11, 2019 starting at 9 am each day in the Solarium Room at Bucks County Community College, 275 Swamp Road, Newtown, PA. If necessary, additional hearing dates are scheduled for January 14 and 15, 2019 at the same location. The Solarium Room is located in the Charles E. Rollins Center at the college. An official campus map appears below.

A statement regarding the District position on this litigation also appears below. This statement was read at the Neshaminy School Board of Directors Board Reorganization meeting on December 5, 2018.



STATEMENT ON PHRC v. NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

As you may know, there is currently ongoing litigation in which the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission ("PHRC") is suing the Neshaminy School District. In the interest of keeping the community informed of issues that affect the District, we are providing information regarding this litigation.

The PHRC contends that the District's Redskins team name and related Native American imagery discriminate against Native American students and create a hostile environment in the District's schools.

The PHRC's lawsuit has its roots in a separate claim of discrimination filed with the Commission in 2013 by a community member on behalf of her child who was then a Neshaminy student. That claim asserted that the child was Native American and was suffering educational and other harm due to the Redskins team name and related imagery.

In October 2015, the claim on behalf of the student was voluntarily dismissed.

Very shortly thereafter, in 2015, the PHRC initiated the presently pending litigation. The Pennsylvania Human Relations Act permits the PHRC to act as both the complaining party/plaintiff, as well as the hearing officer/finder of fact in this case.

The District denies the allegations in PHRC's lawsuit and, through its counsel, is defending the case, as it did in the 2013 case. The District contends that PHRC's allegations are unfounded.

At present, a public hearing in the case is scheduled to occur at 9 a.m. on Monday, January 7, 2019, through Friday, January 11, 2019. The PHRC still has not yet determined the location of that public hearing, but it will occur in Bucks County.

Since the hearing is public, members of the public are entitled to attend. When the hearing date is set, the District will post the location on the District website and Facebook page.

Finally, because the litigation is ongoing, we cannot discuss it beyond the general information we have provided in this statement.