Recommendations from CHS Mascot Study Group

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Scope of Work

The Study Group’s role was to determine the viability of the current mascot, not make a specific recommendation as to what the new mascot might be. It was this group’s role to only answer the narrow question of whether CHS will maintain the “Padre” as the current mascot.

The group was comprised of members of the CHS faculty, parents, students, alumni and community members.
A Note about Timeline

The Study group met throughout the 2020-21 and 21-22 school years. These meetings were held both virtually and in person.

The work by this study group was done under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic and as such was often interrupted by other pressing needs of the school. The timing of this work may have been affected by school stoppages and almost certainly made gathering information more difficult. The group recognizes that these were not ideal circumstances for analysis to occur and has taken into account that viewpoints may not have been entirely focused on the question at hand. Many survey comments called into question the nature of the study as a distraction from the work of reopening school and those surveyed may have had different views on this question were it not for the legitimate concern about the pandemic.
Key Observations on the Data

1) There is clear division on this issue amongst all stakeholder groups. Both the quantitative data above as well as the comments made at the open forums suggest two viewpoints that are entrenched and unswayed by the other.

2) The data from the survey indicates the words RELIGION, HONOR, COMMITMENT and CHARACTER as the most commonly used when thinking of the current mascot.

3) The vast number of those surveyed indicated that this issue is not of significance, rating it a 1 (low priority) on a scale of 1-5. This was true of all stakeholder groups.

4) Of those who identified as wishing to keep the current mascot, the age distribution favored those alumni who are older, with the largest portion being ages 46-59 and 60+.

5) Of those identified as wanting to replace the mascot, the age distribution was more varied, with a third of this group coming from the age bracket of 31-45.

6) The committee was keen to pay particular attention to current student viewpoints. With that in mind, a few points should be highlighted:
   a) Roughly 50% of current students (during the 20-21 school year) were surveyed, which is a significant number.
   b) The student viewpoint is split 51.6% to 48.4% to keep the Padre.
   c) About half of the students found the issue to be of little importance at the time of the survey.
Key Observations from the Forums

1) During the Open Forums, the participants did express their clear beliefs about the issue on both sides. The first forum was heavily weighted for those who wish to see a change, particularly with representation from the local Native tribes. During this forum, the viewpoint clearly expressed that the mascot represented the image of an oppressive church figure who enslaved the Native peoples of the region.

2) Additionally, at both forums, the view of the mascot as a patriarchal image was seen as a concern since half of the student population does not identify as male.

3) There does not appear to be any written record of the original debate regarding the selection of the “Padre” mascot when the school was founded in 1938. It is assumed by the committee that the selection of the mascot was done due to the City of Carmel-By-The-Sea having a long and celebrated history in relation to its mission and Father Junipero Serra. It is not known if the selection of the mascot was a direct link to Father Serra or for a more generic representation of the Catholic religious position of Padre.
Recommendation on the Key Question

The committee conducted a vote to determine what if any recommendations should be made. The outcome was 5 members in favor recommending a change and 4 in favor of recommending that the Padre remain the current mascot. Without clear consensus, the committee is declining to make a formal recommendation at this time. The timing of the study and the highly extraordinary circumstances of a global pandemic made it of little importance to the current student population.
Questions

A copy of the full report can be viewed here