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# CNY high school drops Indians as nickname

Kenny Lacy Jr., [syracuse.com](#) - 8h ago

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Syracuse, N.Y. — A Central New York school decided its nickname is “not culturally appropriate anymore” and has picked a new one.



Lyme, once referred to as the Indians, will now be known as the Lakers. The move comes following news last year that an Albany area school district had to [stop using the nickname Indians](#).



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“I think we’re all aware of kind of what’s been happening across the state. ... We were aware that there’s a bill in the state senate that would ban the use of all Native American mascots, I believe by 2024,” said Lyme principal and athletic director Chris Marshall. “I think the writing’s on the wall and everybody understands that it’s really not culturally appropriate anymore.”

Marshall is referring to a bill that would prohibit public schools from using a native name, logo or mascot beginning Sept. 1, 2024.

Other schools in Section III that use some sort of Native nickname are the Oneida, Sauquoit Valley, Waterville and West Canada Valley who go by the Indians; Clinton, Hannibal, Indian River, Liverpool, Morrisville-Eaton, Weedsport, Westhill and Whitesboro, who all use the Warriors; and Oriskany, who still goes by Redskins.

Lyme, which is in Chaumont and about 15 miles north of the city, has about 1,000 students, faculty, staff and anyone in the community to

After they compiled all of the submissions, they narrowed the list to three

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choices: Lakers, Legends and Eagles. Lakers was the winner by “quite a landslide,” Marshall said.

Lyme is doing another competition for a logo, and a list of finalists is being put together for a community vote.

Marshall, who began his job in July, said he believes the new name is being received as well as could be expected.

“I think there’s some naysayers. There’s the old-school folks that are not happy at all,” Marshall said. “There’s a lot of people that really like it. I think it’s ... probably split, but overall, from what I’m seeing from the students and the people inside the building, it’s been very positive.”

Aside from changing the name publicly, Lyme had to physically change the name on team uniforms, fields, courts, scoreboards and more.

“This all just happened super recently. The only issue we had was in soccer. Our girls soccer jerseys had Indians on the sleeve,” Marshall said. “So we just sent that to one of our local print shops and they were able to do a nice little patch and really makes it not even noticeable.”

Marshall said the school is raffling off old Indians items such as old scoreboards and carpets. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the school’s welcome center or athletic events. Winners will be selected during homecoming later this month.

Contact Kenny Lacy Jr. anytime: [Email](#) | [Twitter](#)

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