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Thornton Fractional District 215  
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### **Thornton Fractional South High School new mascot announced**

**Lansing, IL-** At their April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Thornton Fractional High School District 215 Board of Education voted unanimously on a resolution to adopt “Red Wolves” as the new mascot for Thornton Fractional South High School. Principal Jacob Gourley, along with social studies teacher Rob Shell and junior Caleb Newman shared information with the Board about the process and presented a brief Power Point in advance of the vote.

The student body voted last month to narrow the possible choices from five down to two: Red Wolves and Flyers. The final vote between the remaining options was taken earlier this month, with Red Wolves receiving 715 of the 999 votes that were cast by staff and students. Votes were submitted via a Google form that also included Power Points for both options with possible logos and ideas for utilizing the mascot.

Twelve students and four staff members, along with Athletic Director Marc Brewwe, comprised a task force that met over the past six months to lead the process. Students interested in being on the task force submitted their names and each grade level then voted to select their top three choices for representing their class on the task force. Staff members had a similar process to select their representatives. The task force worked to narrow over 100 ideas submitted from the community, staff, and students down to twenty. Next, the task force narrowed the twenty options down to the five options students voted on in the first round of voting. The top two choices with the most votes were then put to a final round of voting by the T.F. South students and staff.

The students who served on the task force were Taeveon Gaines, Quentin McCray, and Audrey Ortega for the senior class, Kyndall Jackson, Breanna Lopez, and Caleb Newman for the junior class, Opeyami Azuka, Zamyah Holmes, and Antoine Morgan for the sophomore class, and Byron Magee, Nikyah McCoy, and Mekhi Robinson for the freshman class. TF South staff members on the task force were paraprofessional Darrion Payne-Bennett, dean’s assistant Ryan Richardson, and social studies teachers Chris Roberts and Rob Shell.

Prior to this year’s task force and voting, a process began during the 2020-21 school year that resulted in student and staff concerns that not enough students participated due to remote learning that was in place because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board of Education voted on a resolution to select a new mascot in June of 2021 to ensure more staff and students could participate in the process. The original vote in 2021 had 366 total responses.



District 215 Board President Rita Oberman stated, “I am glad we chose to take the time and allow more staff and students to participate in selecting the mascot. It’s exciting to know that so many staff and students participated in the process. Thank you to all that spent time collaborating on this project so that student voices were heard.”

The Board of Education voted on the resolution to formally adopt “Red Wolves” after voting in August of 2020 to dissolve “Rebels.”

T.F. South principal Jacob Gourley stated, “I am excited for us to move forward with the process of selecting artwork and a logo to go along with our new mascot. As we anticipate the 2022-2023 school year, students will begin to see “T.F. South Red Wolves” on team uniforms and on signage throughout the school.”

**About Thornton Fractional High School District 215:** District 215 serves the students of Burnham, Calumet City, Lansing, and Lynwood at Thornton Fractional North High School, Thornton Fractional South High School, Thornton Fractional Center for Academics and Technology, and Thornton Fractional Center for Alternative Learning. The mission of District 215 is to provide diverse learning opportunities that inspire all students to become life-long learners who contribute to their community.

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