



RESOLUTION in Support of State Legislation Requiring School Districts to Stop the Institutional Use of Native American Symbols, Images, Logos and Nicknames as Mascots.

Whereas the continued use of Native American symbols, images, logos and nicknames as mascots undermines the educational experiences of members of all communities; and

Whereas the continued use of Native American symbols, images, logos and nicknames as mascots effectively teaches non-Native American children that it is acceptable to engage in culturally abusive behavior and perpetuate inaccurate misconceptions about Native American people, culture, history, sovereignty, government, customs and traditions; and

Whereas the continued use of Native American symbols, images, logos and nicknames as mascots establishes an unwelcome, divisive, unsafe, and hostile learning environment for Native American students that affirms negative stereotypes that are promoted in mainstream society; and

Whereas the continued use of Native American symbols, images, logos and nicknames as mascots is an offensive and intolerable practice to Native American Tribal Nations that must be eradicated; and

Whereas the continued use of Native American symbols, images, logos and nicknames as mascots has a negative impact on other communities by allowing for the perpetuation of stereotypes and stigmatization of another cultural group; and

Whereas the continued use of Native American symbols, images, logos and nicknames as mascots undermines the ability of Native American Tribal Nations to portray respectful and accurate images of their history, culture, government, sovereignty, customs and traditions; and

Whereas in 2001 the United States Commission on Civil Rights called for an end to the use of Native American images and team names by non-Native schools deeming them insensitive and a violation of anti-discrimination laws; and

Whereas in 2005, the American Psychological Association called for immediate retirement of Native American symbols and images as mascots because of the harm caused to the social identity development and self-esteem of Native American students and because non-Native American students witness perpetuation of derogatory stereotypes; and

Whereas continued use of Native American symbols, images, logos and nicknames as mascots does not empower Native American students towards academic achievement and success; and

Whereas the use of stereotypical images of Native Americans by educational institutions indeed creates a racially hostile educational environment that may be intimidating to Native American students; and

Whereas Wisconsin is comprised of 421 public school districts and approximately 31 districts retain use of Native American symbols, images, logos or nicknames as mascots; and

Whereas the State of Wisconsin recognizes the importance of education regarding the eleven (11) federally-recognized tribes in its territory through Act 31, mainly through direct intervention and modeling on how to interact respectfully with people from different cultures; and

Whereas the Wisconsin Association of School Boards and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction report most school districts do not fully comply with Act 31 requirements perpetuating forms of discrimination, oppression and institutionalized racism; and

Whereas the elimination of stereotypes will make room for education about real Indian people, their contribution to world sustainability and heritage, current Native American issues and aspirations, and the rich variety of American Indian cultures in our country;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire School Board calls on Governor Evers, the Wisconsin State Assembly, and the Wisconsin Senate to support state legislation that requires school districts to stop the institutional use of Native American symbols, images, logos and nicknames as mascots.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being all members of the School Board for the Eau Claire Area School District, have executed this resolution this 19th day of August, 2019.



Dr. Eric D. Torres, *President*



Joe Luginbill, *Treasurer*



Aaron Harder, *Board Member*



Dr. Tim Nordin, *Board Member*



Dr. Lori Bica, *Vice President*



Laurie Klinkhammer, *Clerk*



Charles Vue, *Board Member*

Rationale

Statement of the United States Commission on Civil Rights on the use of Native American images and nicknames as sports symbols. 2001. Retrieved from [2001 News Releases, Press Advisories and Public Affairs](#)

APA Resolution Recommending the Immediate Retirement of American Indian Mascots, Symbols, Images, and Personalities by Schools, Colleges, Universities, Athletic Teams, and Organizations. *American Psychological Association*. Retrieved from <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/mascots.pdf>

Dombeck, T. (2018, March 13). A symbol of pride or racism? Native American sports mascots debate hot in Wisconsin. *Herald Times Reporter*. Retrieved from <https://www.htrnews.com/story/sports/high-school/2018/03/13/change-native-american-sports-mascots-has-been-slow-some-say/383863002/>

Ho-Chunk Nation, Resolution 7-07-04 C, *Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature American Indian School Logo and Mascot Policy*.

Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, *Resolution 07-28-10-A, Resolution Opposing the Use of Race-Based Mascot Images* retrieved from <https://oneida-nsn.gov/dl-file.php?file=2016/02/07-28-10-A-Resolution-Opposing-the-Use-of-Race-Based-Mascot-Images.pdf>

Summary of the APA Resolution Recommending Retirement of American Indian Mascots. *American Psychological Association*. Retrieved from <https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/indian-mascots>

Wisconsin Association of School Board. (2018, August). *From Treaty Rights to Cultural Sensitivity*. Retrieved from <https://www.wasb.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/american-indian-education-Aug18.pdf>

Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction. (2010, Oct. 8). *American Indian Studies and Act 31* retrieved from <https://dpi.wi.gov/news/dpi-connected/american-indian-studies-and-act-31>

Wausau School District Board of Education, Resolution Recommending Legislation Requiring School Districts Retire Native American Mascots.