



Proclamation

Whereas, in 1990 Congress requested that President Bush designate November as National Native American Heritage Month in recognition of the rich history and culture of the country's native population; and

Whereas, since 1995 Presidents Clinton, George W. Bush, Obama, and Trump have issued annual proclamations which designate November as National American Indian Heritage Month, known since 2009 as National Native American Heritage Month; and

Whereas, Wisconsin is home to 11 federally-recognized tribes: Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Ho-Chunk Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin, Oneida Nation, Forest County Potawatomi, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, St. Croix Chippewa, Sokaogon Chippewa (Mole Lake), and Stockbridge-Munsee, in addition to other, non-federally-recognized tribes; and

Whereas, the Board of Education recognizes that the district currently exists on the ancestral homeland of the Ho-Chunk Nation, known as the People of the Sacred Voice, who resided on these lands for over three ice ages before being forcibly removed throughout the 1830s to Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and finally to Nebraska where many Ho-Chunk still live today as the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska; and

Whereas, as the First Americans, Native Americans have helped shape our nation at every point since before it's founding including being the inspiration for the ideals of self-governance and determination that are the framework of the government; and

Whereas, the Wisconsin Legislature passed Education Act 31, the statutory requirement that all school districts provide instruction in the history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of the American Indian nations in the state;

Whereas, the Board of Education twice passed a resolution recommending legislation be passed requiring that school districts in Wisconsin retire the use of Native American mascots, symbols, images, logos, and nicknames;

Therefore, be it resolved that the month of November be recognized as National Native American Heritage Month in the Sun Prairie Area School District. We request all members of our school community use this month to celebrate the traditions, languages, and stories of Native Americans and ensure their rich histories and contributions can thrive with each passing generation.

Steve Schroeder, President
Board of Education