

Resolution 2021R-015
Indigenous Peoples' Day

By Directors O'Halloran and Peterson

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, Many communities throughout the United States including the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County have recognized the 2nd Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day; and

WHEREAS, On October 9, 2019 Gov. Tony Evers issued an executive order to rename the holiday traditionally known as Columbus Day, the second Monday of October, as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS The United States was built upon the genocide, removal and wars against Native peoples, along with the enslavement of millions of Africans and the annexation through war of one-third of Mexico; 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 School Board recognizes that Milwaukee was built upon land taken from the Ojibwe, Menominee, Potawatomi and Ho-Chunk peoples; and

WHEREAS, In this time of a new awakening in the United States about the deep roots of white supremacy and systemic racism, thanks to the growth of the Black Lives Matter movement, it is important for MPS to examine all aspects of inequity, disproportionality and discrimination within our school system, in this case for Native American students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED That every second Monday of October will be Indigenous Peoples' Day in the Milwaukee Public Schools, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the District shall encourage staff to use the second Monday in October as an opportunity to reflect upon how to better promote understanding by our students of the Indigenous Peoples of Wisconsin, to celebrate the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples, and to stand in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples everywhere and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board ask the administration to have the staff of MPS's First Nations Studies Program get input from Native American community partners, staff, parents and students as to how MPS can better serve our Native American students' academic and social and emotion needs and to report back to the school board no later than the December or January board cycle with recommendations.

Introduced August 27, 2020