

Resolution No. 5749

Resolution Proclaiming the Celebration of National Native American Indian Heritage Month in Portland Public Schools

**RECITALS**

- A. Native American Indians are descendants of the original, indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States;
- B. The Portland Metro region rests on the traditional lands of the Bands of the Chinook, Multnomah, Clackamas, Tualatin, Molalla, Kalapuya, Wasco, Cowlitz and Kathlamet tribes. These tribes established their communities in a resource rich area where they traded and fished along the rivers and harvested those natural resources that fed and maintained their families. In the 1950's, under Federal Relocation Policy a large segment of the Native population in the US was forced to relocate to several major cities of which Portland was one. This has added to the diversity of tribal representation in the region;
- C. Native American Indians people whose history is rich with those who positively influence and enrich our nation, our society, our region, our state, and our schools through their entrepreneurship, commitment to community service, deep value of justice and liberty, and social and cultural life;
- D. On August 3, 1990, President of the United States George H. W. Bush declared the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month, thereafter commonly referred to as Native American Heritage Month;
- E. Native American Indians have made profound contributions and continue to make advances in education, medicine, art, culture, and public service and been a consistent and vital influence in our nation's growth and prosperity;
- F. The Portland Metro's Native American Indian Community is diverse and growing with the population estimated to be nearly 70,000. Currently, .06% percent of enrolled students in the Portland Public Schools are Native American Indian and .06%percent of our Native American Indian employees contribute to the accomplishment of PPS's mission;
- G. Understanding Native American Indian history is an important part of celebrating Native American Heritage Month; Background:
- H. The Oregon Indian Education Association introduced and Oregon Governor Brown signed into law Senate Bill 13, Tribal History/Shared History in the 2017 legislative session. This Bill called upon the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to develop a statewide curriculum relating to the Native American experience in Oregon, including tribal history, tribal sovereignty, culture, treaty rights, government, socioeconomic experiences, and current events.

Tribal History/Shared History is one of 11 objectives identified in ODE's American Indian/Alaska Native State Plan, in which "Every school district in Oregon implements historically accurate, culturally embedded, place-based, contemporary, and developmentally-appropriate American Indian curriculum..." Oregon is one of several states adopting similar efforts to reaffirm the state's commitment in preserving tribal cultural integrity and the education of our citizens.

In May 2018, ODE facilitated coordination of the creation of Essential Understandings of Oregon's American Indians, which will be used to develop American Indian curriculum and assessment tools for 4th, 8th, and 10th grades aligning with state standards in the following content areas: English Language

Arts, Science, Math, Social Science, and Physical Education/Health. Education Northwest convened an advisory council comprised of representatives appointed from each of the 9 federally recognized tribes in Oregon, to begin drafting the Essential Understandings. The ODE will continue to work with the 9 federally recognized tribes to finalize the Essential Understandings during the 2018-19 school year. Portland Public Schools is supportive of this vital statewide work.

- I. Portland Public Schools has a Racial Education Equity Policy that states our commitment to affirmatively overcome the educational barriers that have resulted in a persistent, unacceptable achievement gap for students of color and to give each student the opportunity and support to meet his or her highest potential;
- J. Closing opportunity gaps while raising achievement for all students is the top priority of the Board of Education, the Superintendent and all district staff;
- K. The Portland Public Schools Board of Education believes each and every student is to be celebrated and appreciated for the distinct and vibrant contributions made by sharing cultures, language, ideas, beliefs and values within a school community.

### **RESOLVED**

- 1. The Portland Public Schools Board of Education hereby promotes November 1 through November 30th as Native American Indian Heritage Month and encourages staff, students, and community to observe, recognize, and celebrate the culture, heritage, and economic contributions of Native Americans to our Oregon and the United States through culturally relevant activity, and to learn from the past and understand the experiences that have shaped the United States.
- 2. The Superintendent or his designee shall work with all schools in the district to recognize Native American Indian Heritage Month through culturally relevant lessons and activities.