

**The Urban Native Education Alliance
Native Warrior Athletics and Seattle Clear Sky Leadership Council
Native High School Resolution 2018**

WHEREAS, we the members of the Urban Native Education Alliance (UNEA), Clear Sky Native Youth Council, and Native Warriors Athletics (NWA), invoking the blessings of the Creator in all our efforts and purposes to preserve Native cultural values, and promote the health, safety, and well-being of all Native People, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, we strive to dismantle the systemic racism and denial of support as experienced by Native (First Nations/Indigenous/American Indian/Alaskan Native) students in Seattle Public Schools' educational communities; and

WHEREAS, Native students experience systemic racism, cultural exclusion, invisibility, lack of culturally competent and relevant Instruction, and multiple institutional barriers to accessing resources, support, and opportunities for success; and

WHEREAS, Native students and all other students of color are fundamentally deserving of educational equity, dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, Native learners report alarming rates of bullying and lack of inclusion within culturally-intolerant hostile school environments; and

WHEREAS; Native learners enrolled in SPS is undercounted however, SPS data indicates Native student enrollment at 2,910.

WHEREAS, Clear Sky serves over 56 Native SPS families and our data indicates all 56 families (representing 86 Native learners) endorse and fully support a Native focused option H.S.

WHEREAS, a quality education is the birthright of every Native learner under treaty law, federal law, and Washington State Law; and

WHEREAS, **31.5%** of Native learners are identified for Special Education Programs, score **30%-40%** lower on State Standardized testing than their White peers, and achieve only a **48%** On-Time Graduation rate according to Seattle Public Schools' own data, and **74%** of Native learners qualify for free and reduced school lunches; and

WHEREAS, SPS currently lacks any formative alternative high school for successfully and effectively addressing Native student drop-out and graduation rates; a persistent, acute and chronic educational crisis.

WHEREAS, Indian Heritage High School, under the leadership of Principal Robert Eagle Staff (1986-1996) had an exceptional and well documented successful graduation rate (100% graduation from 1994-1996), matriculation, and is recognized as a national model of public school funded success in serving urban Native learners; and

WHEREAS, Seattle Public Schools' leadership promised to revitalize Indian Heritage, collaborate and take part in authentic engagement for cooperative partnerships for supporting Native Learners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the UNEA, Native Warrior Athletics (NWA), and Clear Sky Leadership Council stand in support of restoring a Native-focused, Indigenous pedagogy, Indian Heritage model option High School in Seattle Public Schools, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UNEA, NWA, and Clear Sky Leadership plan aligns with Seattle Public Schools Policy 4270 – "Lead Partners Policy", in compliance with the SPS Strategic Plan 2013-2018 goals to: "Ensure Educational Excellence and Equity for every student, improve systems district wide to support academic outcomes and meet student's needs, and strengthen school, family and community engagement".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UNEA, NWA, and Clear Sky Leadership Council believe in educational excellence for all students, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UNEA, NWA, and Clear Sky Leadership Council endorse Seattle Public Schools' Policy 0030 implementing, applying, and ensuring educational equity, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UNEA, NWA, and Clear Sky Leadership Council will advocate and serve as advisors and consultants to co-create with Seattle Public Schools a Native-focused option High School, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UNEA, NWA, and Clear Sky Leadership Council are committed to pursuing and advocating the establishment of a Native-focused option High School, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UNEA, NWA, and Clear Sky Leadership hereby declare its full support of upholding our commitment to advocate and promote educational equity, and Native education through the fulfillment of Seattle Public Schools moral, ethical, and legal obligations to provide an education to Native learners by establishing a Native focused option High School.

Clear Sky Leadership Council

A.J. Oguara (Colville)
Asia Gellein (Cherokee)
Autumn Yellow Bear (Northern Arapaho/ Comanche)
JoAnne Sayers Pinkham (Ojibwa)
Josiah Vaomu (Northern Arapaho)
Taleah Vaomu (Northern Arapaho)

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