



2017 Mid-Year Convention Portland, OR

RESOLUTION #17 - 25

“END CULTURAL MISAPPROPRIATIONS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS”

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, in 1988 Cleveland High School, in Portland Public School District, changed from the “Indians” to the “Warriors” which promoted the school newspaper change from the “The Tomahawk” to the “The Clarion”; however a review by the school of the dance

team name, "The Sundancers", was determined to be innocuous; and the team still bears the name today; and

WHEREAS, ATNI commends Cleveland High School for their past actions to change the school's mascot, however influences of the former mascot are evident in the current school climate and student behavior (i.e. face paint, etc.); and

WHEREAS, two Cleveland High School students who are members of the Nez Perce Tribe, a represented tribe of the ATNI, along with other Native students, have come forward to identify instances of cultural misappropriations which is occurring on the Cleveland High School campus; and

WHEREAS, the Sundance is a highly revered cultural and religious ceremony for many Indian Nations and is regarded as a healing and renewing act for dancers and their tribes; and

WHEREAS, educational institutions choosing to retain such imagery negatively impact students, faculty, and parents from their own school and other schools by exposing them to race-based imagery in interscholastic competitions; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Portland Public School District is urged to notify the Indian Education Advisor to the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction when issues concerning cultural misappropriation of American Indian Alaska Natives have been identified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby urge the administration of Cleveland High School and the Portland Public School District to refrain from using names, logos, mascots, or behaviors that culturally misappropriate or offend on the basis of race, ethnicity, or protected class by all athletic and extracurricular groups, including but not limited to alumni, foundations, parent committees, etc.; and

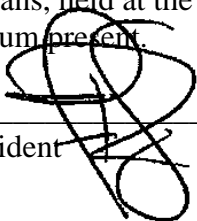
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls upon the Cleveland High School and Portland Public School Administration to call on the dance team to end the use of the name "Sundancers"; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, in consultation with tribal students, parents and leaders, the Cleveland High School is urged to significantly increase awareness and education about the culture, history, and values of American Indians and Alaska Natives, congruent with the intent of Oregon SB 13.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2017 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Double Tree by Hilton - Portland, Oregon, on May 23-26, 2017, with a quorum present.

Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary

