



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education

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Recognizing May 5, 2021 as a “Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls”

Whereas, according to a 2016 report from the National Institute of Justice 84% of American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime, more than half of whom experienced sexual violence;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, homicide is the third leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native women between 10 and 24 years of age and the fifth leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska Native women between 25 and 34 years of age;

Whereas, in 2016, the National Crime Information Center reported nearly 6,000 cases of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls, but the U.S. Department of Justice was tracking only about 100 cases;

Whereas, still little data exist on the number of missing American Native and Alaska Native women and girls in the United States, but there have been instances of violence towards Indigenous women and girls from the eleven Wisconsin Native American Tribes;

Whereas, some of the Wisconsin Indigenous women we know about include: Bad River Ojibwe members Angeline Whitebird-Sweet, murdered 1989, Charlene Couture, missing since 2009, Sheila St. Clair, missing since 2015; Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe members Susan Poupart, murdered 1990, LaVonne Frank, murdered 1997, Donna (LaBarge) Peterson, murdered July 2004, and Emily Anne Marie Wayman, murdered 2010; Ho-Chunk member Kozee Decorah, murdered May 2020; and Menominee member Katelynn Kelley, murdered July 2020;

Whereas, we commemorate the lives of missing and murdered American Native and Alaska Native women and girls whose cases are documented and undocumented in public records and the media; and demonstrate solidarity with the families of the victims in light of those tragedies:

Whereas, the Wausau Board of Education recognizes the importance of ensuring compliance with Act 31 to allow students to properly learn about the eleven (11) federally-recognized Wisconsin tribes, tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, and ongoing awareness of existence of Indigenous Peoples in Wisconsin; and

Whereas, failure to properly learn about Wisconsin’s Indigenous Peoples as required by Act 31 can lead to misunderstanding and impact social relations; and

Whereas, the Wausau Board of Education recognizes the harmful and dehumanizing impact of Native American mascots, logos, nicknames, images and symbols; and

Whereas dehumanizing language can lead to violent outcomes; and

Whereas, other local public bodies recognize the importance of raising awareness of the ongoing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls epidemic;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, the Wausau Board of Education commemorates the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and recognizes May 5, 2021, as a "Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls" on which we mourn and call attention to the many missing and murdered Native women and girls, as well as those who have experienced violence and assault and resolve to act to prevent further victimization.

THEREFORE LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Wausau School District recommits to ensuring compliance with Act 31.



Board President



Superintendent of Schools