Resolution Recommending the Immediate Retirement of Native American Mascots in Thompson School District

Whereas the continued use of Native American mascots, symbols, images, logos, nicknames, and behaviors interferes with the educational experiences of members of our community; and

Whereas prominent organizations such as the American Sociological Association and American Counseling Association have passed resolutions recommending the end of all American Indian mascots in sports due to the damaging effects on both the American Indian and non-Native population; and

Whereas the American Psychological Association has called for immediate retirement of Native American mascots, symbols and images because of the harm caused to the social identity development and self-esteem of Native American students and because non-Native American students witness perpetuation of derogatory stereotypes; and

Whereas the National Congress of American Indians called on the U.S. Secretary of Education “to urge all schools, which have a federal nexus and which use “Native” sports stereotypes, to change their team names, logos, mascots and behaviors to those that do not violate the human or civil rights of Native Peoples or of any students.” (Commending Efforts to Eliminate Racist Stereotypes in Sports and Calling on the U.S. President and Congress to Combat These Continuing Affronts to Native Peoples, NCAI Resolution #TUL-13-050, October 18, 2013); and

Whereas the Thompson School District has adopted a Strategic Plan that specifically calls out the creation of an inclusive and supportive culture with a belief that its school and administrative campuses foster a welcoming environment, a feeling of hope, a sense of belonging, and a safe environment; and

Whereas the Thompson School District has adopted an Educational Equity policy whereby the District is committed to providing safe, inclusive, and supportive learning and work environments in which students, staff, families, and community’s diversity are recognized, honored, and respected, thereby creating a strong sense of belonging so that each individual can achieve their goals.

Now, therefore BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Thompson School District:

1. The Indian as a mascot and nickname at Loveland High School is retired effective upon approval of this resolution and the nickname, images, and logos are or will be removed, and school materials bearing the existing nickname and related imagery may not be acquired and must be phased out by August 1, 2021.
2. The Warrior as a mascot and nickname at Bill Reed Middle School is retired effective upon approval of this resolution and the nickname, images, and logos are or will be removed, and school materials bearing the existing nickname and related imagery may not be acquired and must be phased out by August 1, 2021.
3. Administration from Loveland High School is authorized to initiate a process that
utilizes protocols identified in Policy FF and FF-R to determine the new mascot and nickname and ensure input from students and staff of Loveland High School and the community.

4. Administration from Bill Reed Middle School is authorized to initiate a process that utilizes protocols identified in Policy FF and FF-R to determine the new mascot and nickname and ensure input from students and staff of Bill Reed Middle School and the community.

Approved by the Thompson School District Board this second day of September, 2020.

Signed: ____________________________________________
Lori Hvizda Ward, Thompson School District Board President

Attest: ____________________________________________
Barbara Kruse, Thompson School District Board Secretary