

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION 2024-04:

HONORING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples have occupied the land that now constitutes the Fairbanks North Star Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough is built upon the homelands and villages of the Indigenous Peoples of this region, without whom the existence of the Borough would not be possible; and

WHEREAS, students of Indigenous Peoples heritage are a significant population of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District's student body; and

WHEREAS, exempt and classified staff of Indigenous Peoples heritage support all students' learning; and

WHEREAS, educators of Indigenous Peoples heritage distinguish themselves as educators in Fairbanks North Star Borough School District classrooms; and

WHEREAS, building administrators of Indigenous Peoples heritage have led their schools with vision; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples have served the school board with distinction; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education values the many contributions made to our community through Indigenous Peoples knowledge, labor, skills, monetary contributions, and the deep cultural contribution that has substantially shaped the character of the City of Fairbanks and the entire Fairbanks North Star Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education opposes the systematic racism towards Indigenous Peoples in the United States, which exacerbates disproportionate educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education promotes the closing of any achievement and equity gaps for Indigenous Peoples through policies and practices reflecting the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, ensuring greater access and opportunity, and honoring our region's indigenous roots, history, and contributions; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, representing 59 Tribes from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Northern California, Western Montana, and some Alaskan Tribes, passed resolution #11-57 to "Support to Change Columbus Day (2nd Monday of October) to Indigenous Peoples' Day"; and

WHEREAS, in June 2017, the State of Alaska passed legislation establishing AS 44.12.155, officially recognizing the second Monday of October of each year, as Indigenous Peoples Day in Alaska, to be "observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education proclaims the second Monday in October, October 9, 2023, as Indigenous Peoples Day, and encourages staff and students to honor it through research, classroom lesson plans, guest speakers, displays, lectures, practical activities, and cultural celebrations. Assistance with resources is available through the Alaska Native Education Program.

Passed and Approved: September 5, 2023



Chrya C. Sanderson, President
Board of Education

ATTEST:



Carmella Richardson
Board of Education Executive Assistant

