

ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOLS



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY RESOLUTION & NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, the Orange County Schools Board of Education recognizes that nations of Indigenous Peoples have lived upon this land known as the Americas since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Schools Board of Education values the contributions made to the progress of society accomplished through the knowledge, labor, technology, philosophy, arts and culture of Indigenous Peoples; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Schools Board of Education understands that, to help close the equity and opportunity gap, governments, agencies and institutions must change policies and practices to reflect the experiences of the Indigenous Peoples of this land, and uplift the Indigenous roots of this nation; and


WHEREAS, on February 4, 2002, the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, located in Orange and Alamance Counties, became the eighth Indian tribe recognized by the state of North Carolina, and is one of 556 Indigenous Nations in the United States; and

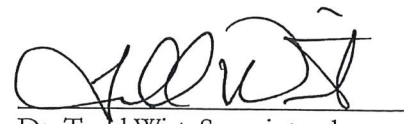
WHEREAS, in 1990, representatives from 120 Indigenous Nations, at the First Continental Conference on 500 Years of Indian Resistance, unanimously passed a resolution to transform Columbus Day into an occasion to strengthen the process of continental unity and struggle towards liberation, and thereby to use the occasion to reveal a more accurate historical record;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Orange County Schools Board of Education henceforth shall recognize the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day to celebrate and honor the history, legacy, heritage and activism of Indigenous Peoples who have existed here since pre-European colonialism; and

BE IT MOREOVER RESOLVED, that the Orange County Schools Board of Education acknowledges that each November is Native American Heritage Month, as declared August 3, 1990 by the President of the United States, and that it is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Native American Heritage Month and Indigenous Peoples' Day shall be used to reflect upon the struggles of Indigenous People in this land and elsewhere, to reaffirm a commitment toward reconciliation among all Peoples.


Brenda Stephens, Chair
Board of Education


Dr. Todd Wirt, Superintendent
Orange County Schools

November 5, 2018