

SHORELINE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 412
Shoreline, WA 98155

RESOLUTION 2021-19

AUTHORITY TO RETIRE THUNDERBIRD AS SHOREWOOD MASCOT

WHEREAS in 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed House Bill 1356 prohibiting the inappropriate use of Native American names, symbols, or images as public school mascots, logos, or team names; and

WHEREAS as stated in House Bill 1356, the legislature “finds that the use of racially derogatory or discriminatory school mascots, logos, or team names in public schools is antithetical to their mission of providing an equal education to all, and contrary to the goal of making schools safe and respectful learning environments”; and

WHEREAS it further states in House Bill 1356, the legislature “finds also that certain mascots, logos, or team names that are or have been used by schools and other entities are uniquely discriminatory in singling out the Native American community for derision and cultural appropriation”; and

WHEREAS in 2012, the Washington State Board of Education adopted a resolution urging school districts to follow the principles outlined in its 1993 Board Resolution and encouraged school boards to review and reevaluate policies related to the use of Native American mascots or other symbols; and

WHEREAS in 1993, the Washington State Board of Education adopted a resolution asking school districts to re-examine their policies regarding the use of Native American mascots; and

WHEREAS in 2005 the American Psychological Association, citing research documenting harm to Native American children, called for the immediate retirement of all Native American mascots, symbols, images, logos, and nicknames; and

WHEREAS many national organizations and tribes have called for the immediate retirement of the use of Native American mascots, including the National Congress of American Indians, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Education Alliance, and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS national student achievement data reveals that the achievement gap for Native Americans is widening and continued use of Native American mascots, symbols, images, logos, and nicknames does not empower Native American students towards academic achievement and success; and

WHEREAS the continued use of Native American mascots, symbols, images, logos, and nicknames, by educational institutions, has a negative impact on the self-esteem of Native American children; and

WHEREAS the continued use of Native American mascots, symbols, images, logos, and nicknames establishes an unwelcome, divisive, and often times hostile learning environment for Native American students and affirms negative images and stereotypes that are promoted in mainstream society; and

WHEREAS the continued use of Native American mascots, symbols, images, logos, and nicknames is considered an offensive and intolerable practice by most in Native American Nations; and

WHEREAS the continued use of Native American mascots, symbols, images, logos, and nicknames teaches non-Native American children and communities that it is acceptable to engage in culturally insensitive behavior and perpetuates inaccurate misconceptions about Native American people, culture, history, sovereignty, government, customs, and traditions; and

WHEREAS the continued use of Native American mascots, symbols, images, logos, and nicknames undermines the ability of Native American tribal nations to portray respectful and accurate images of their history, culture, government, sovereignty, customs, and traditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Shoreline School District, for good cause, directs the superintendent to retire the Shorewood High School mascot, the Thunderbird, on December 31, 2021.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Shoreline School District #412, King County, Washington at a regular open public meeting held this ___ day of _____, 2021.

SHORELINE SCHOOL DISTRICT #412
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dissented:

Meghan Jernigan, President

Rebeca Rivera, Vice President

Sara Betnel, Director

Emily Williams, Director

Sarah Cohen, Director

Attest: October 5, 2021

Dr. Susana Reyes, Secretary
Shoreline Board of Directors