

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION 2017-08:

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 comprise a significant portion of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District's student body; and

WHEREAS, over 100 educators of Indigenous Peoples' heritage distinguish themselves as educators in Fairbanks North Star Borough School District classrooms; and

WHEREAS, principals 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

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education opposes the systematic racism towards Indigenous People 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";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education proclaims the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day and encourages schools and teachers to honor it with performances, readings, guest speakers, displays, lessons, lectures, and cultural celebrations. Assistance with resources is available through the Alaska Native Education Department.

Passed and Approved: October 4, 2016

Heidi Haas

Heidi Haas, President
Board of Education

ATTEST:

Sharon Tuttle

Sharon Tuttle
Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

