

Resolution 2021R-003

By Directors Peterson and O'Halloran

WHEREAS, In August 2020 The Milwaukee Board of School Directors declared that the second Monday in October be recognized as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Milwaukee Public Schools; and,

WHEREAS, Milwaukee Public Schools has a holistically strong First Nations Studies Program that has thrived and expanded the original work of the W.E. I.N.D.I.A.N.S. Program, which was started in the early 1970's to meet the unique academic needs of our First Nations Studies students in Milwaukee Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, The passage of 1989 Wisconsin Act 31, requires all public school districts to provide instruction on the history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of Wisconsin's eleven federally recognized tribal nations and communities; and

WHEREAS, Land acknowledgements help us remember nations and our ancestors who had an enduring relationship to land and were keepers of the land where we now live and to raise awareness about histories often suppressed or forgotten; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the world, land acknowledgements express the belief that aboriginal, indigenous, and First Nations peoples should be honored and respected; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That at the July 2021 board meeting the MPS First Nations Studies program coordinator, after consultation with local historians and tribal people, bring to the Board a recommendation of the content of a land acknowledgement that is suitable for use in the Milwaukee Public Schools; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That beginning the month following Board approval, and thereafter, at each official meeting of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors, the meeting shall include the land acknowledgement read by the presiding officer; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That after approval of the land acknowledgement content, the Milwaukee Public Schools District's home webpage display the land acknowledgement language adopted by The Milwaukee School Board of Directors; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the land acknowledgement be used at appropriate Milwaukee Public School public gatherings especially those that relate to place and culture.

May 27, 2021