



Pokégnek Bodéwadmik

POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI
TRIBAL COUNCIL

POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI INDIANS TRIBAL COUNCIL

Resolution No. 21-03-04-02

- WHEREAS:** The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians of Michigan and Indiana (“Pokagon Band”) is a sovereign, federally-recognized Indian tribe, as reaffirmed under P.L. 103-323, enacted September 21, 1994; and
- WHEREAS:** The Pokagon Band is organized under a constitution, which was adopted on November 1, 2005 and became effective on December 16, 2005 (“Constitution”); and
- WHEREAS:** In accordance with P.L. 103-323 and pursuant to Article IX of the Constitution, the Tribal Council is the governing body of the Pokagon Band; and
- WHEREAS:** The Tribal Council is vested with the sovereign powers of the Pokagon Band not inconsistent with any provisions of the Constitution, including without limitation those enumerated powers set forth in Article IX, Section 2, of the Constitution; and
- WHEREAS:** The Tribal Council, in resolution 13-09-16-04, opposed the use of the term “Redskins” as the name of a football team of the National Football League; and
- WHEREAS:** The Tribal Council, in resolution 16-08-22-01: (1) recognized that the use of the term “Redskin” as any component of a mascot, name or symbol by any school has a detrimental effect on the Native American students of such school, (2) opposed the use of such term as any component of a mascot, name, or symbol, in order to help ensure an educational environment that is safe, supportive, and respectful for all students, and (3) encouraged all schools to eliminate such term as any component of a mascot, name, or symbol; and
- WHEREAS:** The Tribal Council established the Native Imagery and Language Workgroup (“Workgroup”) to provide recommendations to the Tribal Council regarding the use of native imagery and language by non-Native institutions, organizations, and entities; and
- WHEREAS:** The Workgroup has spent significant time studying the use of native imagery and language, including reviewing different studies on the issue and meeting with the Pokagon Band’s Traditions and Repatriations Committee, Curriculum Committee, Youth Council, Department of Language and Culture, Department of Education, and Behavioral Health; and
- WHEREAS:** The Workgroup also reached out to Hartford Schools, Dowagiac Schools, the Dowagiac Library, and Pokagon Band citizens for input; and
- WHEREAS:** The Workgroup prepared a report containing its recommendations (“Report”), a copy

of which is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS: The Report acknowledges that the Pokagon Band has developed close working relationships with the Dowagiac School District and the Hartford School District regarding the Pokagon Band; and

WHEREAS: As stated in the Report, research demonstrates that the use of Native American mascots have negative psychological effects on Native American students, can lead to negative treatment of Native Americans by non-Native Americans, and can also have negative effects on non-Native persons; and

WHEREAS: The Workgroup has determined that the use of native imagery and language by non-Native institutions, organizations, and entities: (1) has a detrimental effect on the self-esteem, self-confidence, and emotional well-being of Native people, (2) has negative effects on non-Native people, and (3) promotes harmful stereotypes of Native people; and

WHEREAS: As stated in the Report, the recommendations of the Workgroup include that the Tribal Council condemn the use of Native American / Indian mascots, native-themed imagery, symbolisms, logos, and nicknames by non-Native institutions, organizations, and entities including without limitation, sports teams (both school sanctioned and league affiliated), universities, colleges, and schools (parochial, private and public) throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS: The Tribal Council has reviewed the Report.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tribal Council, on behalf of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, recognizes that the use of Native American / Indian mascots, native-themed imagery, symbolisms, logos, and nicknames by non-Native institutions, organizations, and entities including without limitation, sports teams (both school sanctioned and league affiliated), universities, colleges, and schools (parochial, private and public) throughout the United States has a detrimental effect on Native Americans and promotes harmful stereotypes of Native Americans;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Tribal Council, on behalf of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, condemns the use of Native American / Indian mascots, native-themed imagery, symbolisms, logos, and nicknames by non-Native institutions, organizations, and entities including without limitation, sports teams (both school sanctioned and league affiliated), universities, colleges, and schools (parochial, private and public) throughout the United States;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tribal Council, on behalf of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, encourages all non-Native institutions, organizations, and entities including without limitation, sports teams (both school sanctioned and league affiliated), universities, colleges, and schools (parochial, private and public) throughout the United States, to eliminate the use of Native American / Indian mascots, native-themed imagery, symbolisms, logos, and nicknames.

CERTIFICATION

We do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was presented and voted upon with a quorum present at a duly convened SPECIAL meeting of the Tribal Council held on the 4th day of March, 2021 by a vote of 10 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 absent, and 0 abstaining.



Matthew Wesaw
Tribal Council Chairman



Kelly Curran
Tribal Council Secretary