

## Chris Steller

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**From:** Sarah Lusti <slusti@menahga.k12.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:57 AM  
**To:** Rep. Peggy Bennett; Rep. Sydney Jordan; sen.steve.cwodzinski@mnsenate.gov; sen.julia.coleman@mnsenate.gov; reports  
**Cc:** Deb Henton; Jason Kjos  
**Subject:** American Indian Mascot Compliance Report-Menahga Public School  
**Attachments:** Braves Resolution signed.pdf

2/11/2025

To Minnesota House and Senate Education Policy Committee,

Attached is a report of compliance for M.S. 121A.041 for Menahga Public School I.S.D. # 821.

We sincerely appreciate your support of our schools.

This report is submitted per M.S.121A.041 passed during the 2024 Minnesota legislative session. The information required is taken from the statute followed by the school district's response in parentheses.

1. Confirmation that the district has removed the American Indian mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead, or team name from the district website.

- ☐

*Complete*

- ☒

*Partially complete*

- ☐

*Incomplete*

2. Confirmation that the board has approved a new mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead, or team name.

- ☐

*Complete*

- ☒

*Partially complete*

- ☐

*Incomplete*

3. A summary of the district's progress on removing the American Indian mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead, or team name from uniforms, equipment, signs, elements of facilities, and other district items.

- ☐

*Complete*

- ☒

*Partially complete*

- ☐

*Incomplete*

in compliance with M.S. 121A.041, the rebranding initiative in Menahga began with a small committee meeting in November 2023 to devise a comprehensive plan. This plan was subsequently published in local newspapers and on the official website to ensure community awareness.

Following this, a larger committee was formed in partnership with Jostens to facilitate the creation of a community survey. Concurrently, the committee began to gather data regarding the costs associated with the rebranding process.

The community survey was distributed to the public in the spring of 2024, and on May 28, 2024, the larger group of stakeholders convened to review the feedback and data collected. As a result of their discussions, the committee has narrowed down the selection of a new nickname to four potential options.

The group is scheduled to reconvene this spring, after the budget meetings, to assess the availability of funds for the rebranding initiative. Currently, there are indications of a future deficit, which suggests that the transition to the new nickname will need to be implemented gradually as financial resources allow.

In the interim, when purchasing new uniforms and signage, the current nickname has been omitted [pic of generic uniform](#) to reflect the ongoing changes. It is essential to note that securing adequate funding is a critical aspect of compliance throughout this rebranding process.

#### [Documents around the Process](#)

4. A summary of resources necessary to comply with the prohibition and the district's plan to raise and allocate any necessary funds.

*Financial resources:*

[Menahga School Buildings and grounds cost](#)

[Uniform and athletic cost](#)



**SARAH LUSTI**  
**MENAHGA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*District Secretary*

☎ 218-564-4141 Ext. 1200  
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📍 216 Aspen Avenue SE  
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Menahga, MN 56464

# MENAHGA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

216 Aspen Avenue SE, PO Box 160, Menahga, MN 56464

218-564-4141

*"Home of the Braves"*



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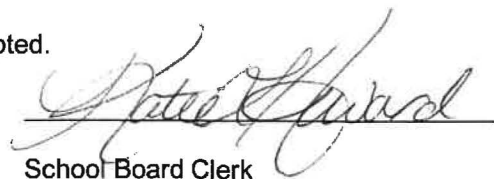
[Menahga School Buildings and grounds cost](#)

[Uniform and athletic cost](#)

Be it further resolved, that this resolution shall take effect immediately and the report shall be sent in to ensure that the mandate is followed.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly seconded by School Board member Julia Kicker and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor there of: Andrea Haverinen, Katie Howard, David Treinen, Cherie Peterson, Sara Makela, and Julia Kicker.  
And the following voted against the same: NONE

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

  
School Board Clerk



The Mission of Menahga School District #821 is to build strong partnerships with stakeholders to ensure all learners succeed.

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Member Andrea Haverinen introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**Resolution on board support for the report submitted to the legislature for compliance with M.S.**

*This report is submitted per M.S.121A.041 passed during the 2024 Minnesota legislative session.*

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