

Chris Steller

From: Pat Rendle <prendle@isd317.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 12:45 PM
To: rep.peggy.bennett@house.mn; rep.sydney.jordan@house.mn;
sen.steve.cwodzinski@mnsenate.gov; sen.julia.coleman@mnsenate.gov; reports; Deb
Henton; valerie@ewald.com
Subject: Fwd: Scanned from a Xerox Multifunction Printer
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Good afternoon. This is the Deer River ISD 317 response for data requested from each district impacted by American Indian Mascot Legislation.

If you needed anything else please contact Pat rendle 218-256-5466

Please copy and paste the following recipients and message into your email.

To	rep.peggy.bennett@house.mn.gov, rep.sydney.jordan@house.mn.gov, sen.steve.cwodzinski@mnsenate.gov, sen.julia.coleman@mnsenate.gov, reports@lrl.mn.gov
Cc	deb.henton@mnasa.org, valeried@ewald.com
Bcc	Person
Subject	Mascot Progress Report (per M.S.121A.041)

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*

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:

- **-All The Below stated Items.**
- *Funding for new uniforms and all athletic/activity gear and equipment for every activity to replace old logo with new logo*
- *Funding to replace old logos with new logos in/on facilities throughout the school district, both indoors and outdoors*
- *Funding for communication with students, staff, families, and communities*
- *Funding for consultant to assist with developing a new mascot*
- *Funding for the creation of communication materials that replace the old logo with the new logo (i.e. stationary, banners, flags, etc...)*

Plan to raise money:

- *Seek support from booster clubs*
- *Seek support from community organizations*
- *Propose a capital levy to the community*
- ***Advocate for more funding at the legislature***

Notes:

- ***Our district will be making reductions for the next three years to balance our budget and rebuild our Fund balance. We have a -3.0 enrollment drop per year over the last 6 years.***
- ***-Deer River rebranded itself a few years ago when we got rid of the Profile likeness and moved to a Spear and feather.***
- ***In many ways we are still not clear as to what items fall under this legislation and what was the direction from MDE.***
- ***Please see the attached decision our School board made when the legislation first was introduced to the districts.***

This report is completed by:

Pat Rendle

Superintendent Deer River Schools ISD #317

218-256-5466



DEER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL
101 First Avenue NE
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Home of the Warriors

KING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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PO Box 307
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King Pride

ISD #317 News

Deer River Mascot Board Decision

2023

You may have heard the Mn. State Legislature passed legislation in the 2023 session involving school mascots. Below is an excerpt from said legislation:

“American Indian mascot” means a name, symbol or image that depicts or refers to an American Indian Tribe (or any connection to); an individual, custom or tradition that is used by a public school as a mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead or team name of the district or school within the district. This includes symbols such as feathers, spears, tomahawks and Indigenous clothing. Schools and districts within a tribal reservation in Minnesota that have 95% American Indian students will be exempt from this legislation.”

If a school had a Mascot or symbol impacted by the legislation and wanted to keep it, they could...

“Subd. 3. Exemption. A public school may seek an exemption to the prohibition by submitting a request in writing to all 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations in Minnesota and to the Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC) by September 1, 2023, and receiving that exemption from each Tribal Nation and TNEC. The exemption is denied if any of the 11 Tribal Nations or the Tribal Nations Education Committee oppose the exemption by December 15, 2023. A public school whose request for an exemption is denied must comply with changing your mascot by September 1, 2025.”

At the August 14th, 2023, Deer River School Board meeting, by a vote of 4-2 the Board decided Not to seek an exemption and made the following decision:

The board voted to remove the spear and feather based on the Minnesota State Legislature's law passed on the use of Native American mascots in public schools.

The board's rationale for keeping the Warrior name is due to the word "Warrior: being non-specific and is defined as: brave person, experienced soldier; person who shows great vigor or courage, and sacrifices self for the good of others.

Any questions about this decision or the process can be directed to Superintendent Pat Rendle prendle@isd317.org or 218-246-2420.