

Chris Steller

From: Bob Jaszczak <bjaszczak@rwps.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 1:38 PM
To: Rep. Peggy Bennett; Rep. Sydney Jordan; sen.steve.cwodzinski@mnsenate.gov; sen.julia.coleman@mnsenate.gov; reports
Cc: deb.henton@mnasa.org; valeried@ewald.com
Subject: Mascot Progress Report

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.

At this point the district has not been able to determine what part of the name or mascot is at issue. Is the problem with the name Red Wing? Chief Red Wing is the Native chief the city is named after. Does this mean the school district needs to change its name from Red Wing Public Schools? Is the problem with the name Winger, which refers back to the name of the city and school district? Is the problem with the use of an eagle as a symbol? No one from the State has been able to answer these questions.

In addition to raising these questions with the State, the same questions have been asked of the Tribal Nations Education Council. TNEC was also unable to provide an answer and this legislation has placed them in a position they did not ask for, or want to be in.

Red Wing Public Schools has met with The Prairie Island Indian Community Tribal Council regarding the mascot issue. Prairie Island is proud of the fact their ancestor is the namesake of the city and the school and they are fully in support of retaining the name and mascot in its current form. Red Wing Public Schools will continue to maintain a positive, culturally responsible relationship with the Prairie Island Indian Community.

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

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Complete

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Partially complete

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Incomplete

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

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Complete

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Partially complete

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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.

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Complete

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Partially complete

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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:

- *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:

- *Advocate for more funding at the legislature in the event a change is required.*
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This report is completed by Red Wing Public Schools.

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