

## Chris Steller

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**From:** Dave Kerkvliet <dkerkvliet@g.sebeka.k12.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:28 AM  
**To:** Rep. Peggy Bennett; Rep. Sydney Jordan; sen.steve.cwodzinski@mnsenate.gov; sen.julia.coleman@mnsenate.gov; reports  
**Cc:** Deb Henton; Jason Kjos; Sarah Lusti; Dee Dykhoff  
**Subject:** American Indian Mascot Compliance Report-Sebeka & Menahga Public School  
**Attachments:** Compliance Report M.S. 121A.041 Sebeka Public School I.S.D. 820 & Menahga Public School I.S.D. #821.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

2/11/2025

To Minnesota House and Senate Education Policy Committee,

Attached is a report of compliance for M.S. 121A.041 for Sebeka Public School I.S.D. #820 and Menahga Public School I.S.D. # 821.

We sincerely appreciate your support of our schools.

Best Wishes,

--

Dave Kerkvliet  
Superintendent  
Sebeka Public School District #820

Jay Kjos  
Superintendent  
Menahga Public School District #821

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.

The United North Central Warriors (UNC Warriors) is not published on Menahga or Sebeka letterhead or either district's website mainpage.

- Complete*
- Partially complete*
- Incomplete*

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

Both Menahga and Sebeka school boards have passed a board resolution to comply with M.S. 121A.041 by confirming that UNC Warriors name and logo will not be affiliated or utilized in any way with American Indian Tribal Culture. Out of respect for our local tribes and the Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC) and to comply with M.S.121A.041, UNC Warriors will only be affiliated with cultures outside of American Indian, similar to several other schools in the state of Minnesota utilizing the Warrior name such as Brainerd, Caladoneia, and Butterfield-Oden. The depiction and portrayal of the UNC Warriors mascot shall be symbolized with a shield containing a Trojan Sword connected to the legendary story in Greek Mythology, and a Loggers Axe in connection with the Nordic Vikings symbolizing power and rank.

- 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.

1. Quarterly discussions at pairing meetings between the Menahga and Sebeka school districts took place.
2. Monthly discussion took place at regular board meetings.
3. Multiple communications with our area representatives took place.
4. Phone conversations took place with various tribes.
5. An application to attend a TNEC board meeting was submitted but not accepted.
6. Phone conversations with Education Commissioner Wille Jett took place.

7. Multiple requests were made to connect with the Minnesota Lieutenant Governor and other legislators.

*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.

The district will pass a resolution and communicate with our community members that UNC Warriors pair sports program, name, and logo will not be allowed to have any affiliation or connection to American Indian Tribal Culture and that we are to respect the nature and intent of M.S. 121.A.041.

We will allocate any designated funds provided by the legislature in an appropriate, efficient and responsible manner to support the United North Central Warriors paired sports program.

This report is completed by:

Dave Kerkvliet-Sebeka Superintendent

[dkerkvliet@g.sebeka.k12.mn.us](mailto:dkerkvliet@g.sebeka.k12.mn.us)

218-837-5101

Jay Kjos-Menahga Superintendent

[jkjos@menahga.k12.mn.us](mailto:jkjos@menahga.k12.mn.us)

218-564-564-4141

Member Olson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**Resolution on the Use of United North Central Warriors Mascot in a Non-American Indian Format for compliance with M.S. 121A 041**

*Whereas*, the Sebeka and Menahga school districts value inclusivity, diversity, and respect for all cultures and communities within our student body and broader community;

*Whereas*, the use of mascots that depict or reference American Indian culture and imagery has been a topic of concern and sensitivity nationwide;

*Whereas*, the UNC Warriors mascot will not be associated with imagery that may be perceived as culturally insensitive or appropriative;

*Whereas*, it is the intent of the school boards of Sebeka Public School and Menahga Public School to uphold the highest standards of respect and inclusivity within our educational environments;

*Whereas*, the school boards recognize the importance of maintaining school spirit and tradition while also being mindful of cultural sensitivities and evolving societal norms;

*Now, therefore, be it resolved*, that the school boards of Sebeka Public School and Menahga Public School hereby agree to:

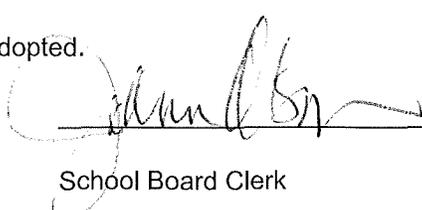
1. **Define and clarify the UNC Warriors Mascot:** The UNC Warriors mascot shall continue to represent our school spirit and community identity and will not associate the name and logo with American Indian Tribal Culture similar to several other school districts with the Warrior title such as Brainerd, Caledonia, and Butterfield-Oden.
2. **Commitment to Non-American Indian Imagery:** The depiction and portrayal of the UNC Warriors mascot shall be symbolized with a shield containing a Trojan Sword connected to the legendary story in Greek Mythology, and a Loggers Axe in connection with the Nordic Vikings symbolizing power and rank. There will be no references to American Indian culture, including imagery, symbols, or representations that could be perceived as stereotypical or appropriative.
3. **Educational and Cultural Sensitivity:** Implement educational programs and initiatives that promote cultural understanding, respect for diversity, and sensitivity towards all cultures and communities.
4. **Community Engagement:** Seek input and collaboration from students, staff, families, and community members in the ongoing development and implementation of mascot representation and related educational efforts.

*Be it further resolved*, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be communicated to all stakeholders within the Sebeka and Menahga school districts.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly seconded by School Board member Ericksen and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor there of:

And the following voted against the same:

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

  
School Board Clerk

Member David Treinen Introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**Resolution on the Use of United North Central Warriors Mascot in a Non-American Indian Format for compliance with M.S. 121A 041**

*Whereas*, the Sebeka and Menahga school districts value inclusivity, diversity, and respect for all cultures and communities within our student body and broader community;

*Whereas*, the use of mascots that depict or reference American Indian culture and imagery has been a topic of concern and sensitivity nationwide;

*Whereas*, the UNC Warriors mascot will not be associated with imagery that may be perceived as culturally insensitive or appropriate;

*Whereas*, it is the intent of the school boards of Sebeka Public School and Menahga Public School to uphold the highest standards of respect and inclusivity within our educational environments;

*Whereas*, the school boards recognize the importance of maintaining school spirit and tradition while also being mindful of cultural sensitivities and evolving societal norms;

*Now, therefore, be it resolved*, that the school boards of Sebeka Public School and Menahga Public School hereby agree to:

1. **Define and clarify the UNC Warriors Mascot:** The UNC Warriors mascot shall continue to represent our school spirit and community identity and will not associate the name and logo with American Indian Tribal Culture similar to several other school districts with the Warrior title such as Brainerd, Caledonia, and Butterfield-Oden.
2. **Commitment to Non-American Indian Imagery:** The depiction and portrayal of the UNC Warriors mascot shall be symbolized with a shield containing a Trojan Sword connected to the legendary story in Greek Mythology, and a Loggers Axe in connection with the Nordic Vikings symbolizing power and rank. There will be no references to American Indian culture, including imagery, symbols, or representations that could be perceived as stereotypical or appropriate.
3. **Educational and Cultural Sensitivity:** Implement educational programs and initiatives that promote cultural understanding, respect for diversity, and sensitivity towards all cultures and communities.
4. **Community Engagement:** Seek input and collaboration from students, staff, families, and community members in the ongoing development and implementation of mascot representation and related educational efforts.

*Be it further resolved*, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be communicated to all stakeholders within the Sebeka and Menahga school districts.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly seconded by School Board member Sara Makela and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: 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