

Chris Steller

From: Dennis Laumeyer <dlaumeyer@benson.k12.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 4:20 PM
To: reports
Subject: Mandated Mascot Report
Attachments: Upper Sioux Resolution of Support.pdf

Some people who received this message don't often get email from dlaumeyer@benson.k12.mn.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear MDE Rep:

Benson Schools sent to MDE, in August 2025, the resolution from the Upper Sioux Tribal Community granting permission to continue using nickname and logo. Therefore, we should not need to send a report of compliance each year.

Attached is the resolution that was sent.

Let me know if there is anything else that is needed.

Thanks,
Dennis



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN - KEVIN L. JENSVOLD
TRIBAL VICE CHAIRMAN – CARALYN TRUTNA
TRIBAL SECRETARY – DREW BROCKMAN
TRIBAL TREASURER – CAMILLE TANHOFF
MEMBER-AT-LARGE – JEREMY HAMILTON
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**Upper Sioux Community Resolution No.016-FY2025
(Support for Benson Independent School District #777 “Braves” Mascot Exemption
Application)**

WHEREAS, the Upper Sioux Community – Pezihutazizi Oyate is a federally recognized Indian Nation bordering the counties of Yellow Medicine and Chippewa of the state of Minnesota, possessing the powers of self-government and self-determination and asserting its Sovereignty by the Constitution of the Upper Sioux Community; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Sioux Community is governed by the Board of Trustees of the Upper Sioux Community which is empowered by the Tribal Constitution to act on behalf and in the best interests of the members of the Upper Sioux Community; and

WHEREAS, through consultation with the Upper Sioux Community Board of Trustees, leadership from the Benson School District acknowledges the Dakota ancestries within Mni Sota Makoce since time immemorial and the indigenous values habituated to present day. The Benson Independent School District #777 thrives to respectively emulate these core values into the daily lives of the students, staff, and supporting communities. Exemplifying for neighboring school districts the pathway towards dignifying reverence of the indigenous histories within their communities.

WHEREAS, the Upper Sioux Community Board of Trustees supports the Benson Independent School District #777 “Braves” Mascot exemption. The constructive ways the staff, students and community have characterized their “Braves” mascot as a collective core value foundationally keystone to their educational environment adapts the cultural teachings of being a good relative to one another follows in the traditional values of the Dakota Oyate.

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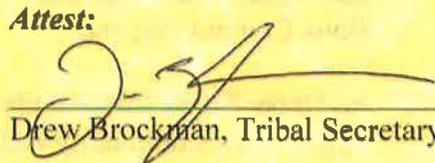
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Upper Sioux Community Boards of Trustees, on behalf of the Upper Sioux Community, hereby approves the Mascot Exemption for Benson Independent School District #777 "Braves" whereas the Benson School District continues to respectively represent the indigenous values they exhibit in their educational environment.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned officers of the tribal council known as the Board of Trustees, do hereby certify that the foregoing Governing Resolution entitled **Upper Sioux Community Resolution No.016-FY2025** was duly adopted and approved by the Tribal Council on August 29th 2025 by a vote of 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions and 0 Absent and Excused.



Kevin Jenvold, Tribal Chairman

Attest:


Drew Brockman, Tribal Secretary

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