

Chris Steller

From: Jason Kjos <jkjos@menahga.k12.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 4:08 PM
To: Chris Steller
Cc: Eugene Sommers; Sarah Lusti
Subject: Mandated Report Request: Minn. Stat. 121A.041 Subd. 2(c); 2024 Minn. Laws Chap. 109 Art. 2 Sec. 17

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Dear Chris,

I am writing to provide an update regarding Menahga Public Schools and our compliance efforts related to Minnesota's legislation on school nicknames and mascots.

We have initiated and continue to engage in active communication with representatives of the White Earth Nation to ensure we are meeting both the letter and spirit of the law in Minnesota. Specifically, we are working with Eugene Sommers, District II Representative on the White Earth Reservation Business Committee and member of the Education and Human Services Subcommittee. Conversations have begun and remain ongoing. While we have received verbal communication and constructive dialogue, we have not yet received formal written documentation.

For historical context, in the 1990s Menahga transitioned from an Indigenous mascot to the letter "M." At that time, White Earth Nation granted Menahga permission to make that change. Our current use of the nickname "Braves" carries significantly fewer Indigenous ties than most, if not all, schools whose nicknames could be interpreted as Indigenous in nature. There are no Indigenous images, caricatures, symbols, or direct cultural representations associated with our branding.

Our intent is to proceed in full partnership and transparency. We are committed to either clearly demonstrating zero Indigenous connection to the nickname as currently used or securing appropriate support and collaboration from White Earth Nation.

Please let me know if there is any additional documentation or process you would recommend as we continue this work.

Respectfully,

Jay Kjos
Superintendent
Menahga Public Schools

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Superintendent
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T. Harv Eker — **'If you** are willing to do only what's easy, **life will be hard**. But **if you** are willing to do what's **hard, life will be easy**.

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