

MASCOT PROGRESS REPORT, FEBRUARY 2026
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #318, GRAND RAPIDS
GRAND RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL - THUNDERHAWKS

This report is submitted per M.S.121A.041, updated during the 2025 Minnesota legislative session.

M.S. 121A.041, Subd. 3 provides that

“A public school may seek an exemption to subdivision 2 by requesting a letter of consent from the federally recognized Tribal Nation in Minnesota that is located nearest to the public school and a letter of consent from the school's American Indian Parent Advisory Committee. If the school does not have an American Indian Parent Advisory Committee, the school may seek a letter of consent only from the federally recognized Tribal Nation in Minnesota that is located nearest to the school. A public school whose request for an exemption is denied must comply with subdivision 2.”

A letter of consent from the school district’s American Indian Parent Advisory Committee was obtained and submitted with the district’s application for an exemption (attached).

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe are the Tribal Nation nearest to the Grand Rapids district and Grand Rapids High School, when measuring the distance from the school district boundary to the reservation boundary, and also when measuring the distance from the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe headquarters to the district office of Independent School District #318, Grand Rapids Public Schools.

At a July 16, 2025 meeting of the Tribal Council of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, a motion was made by Secretary/Treasurer Leonard Fineday and seconded by District 1 Representative Kyle Fairbanks, followed by a unanimously vote of the council, to give consent for the continued use of the Thunderhawk name and mascot. While minutes of that meeting are not currently available, a verification can be found at (10:40) of the video recording of the meeting produced by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and available here:

https://vimeo.com/event/5257257?fbclid=IwY2xjawQK8hJleHRuA2FlbQIxMABzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzIxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEezZnxgxCV7z2IJEKFevn-Aj6MF3fE05eltujjhVW5p3GCIdNxOQ6UmdkaLGY_aem_aoNWhj4VT35R54jeHblcqQ

Numerous news sources reported on the action of the council, such as this one from MPR news.
<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2025/07/22/mascot-exemption-approved-by-tribal-nation-for-minnesota-schools>

A copy of the agenda has been attached.

Since the school has fulfilled both requirements of M.S. 121A.041, Subd. 3, the school will maintain use of the Thunderhawk logo and mascot.

This report was completed by Matt Grose, Superintendent of Independent School District #318, on behalf of Grand Rapids High School.

Matt Grose, Superintendent

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8/18/23

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in support of Grand Rapids School Districts application for approval of the Thunderhawk logo. The Grand Rapids school district changed their name from the Indians to the Thunderhawks in 1995. During the rebranding process the school district worked with the Anishinaabe Education Program to ensure the new logo would be culturally sensitive. In 2016 the school district made a change to the logo. The current logo has developed into a strong pride point for the community of Grand Rapids and the School District.

The Anishinaabe Education program along with the program's parent committee has met and supports ISD 318's application to continue using the Thunderhawk logo.



Bruce Goodwin, Director Anishinaabe Gekinoo Amaadiwin

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bruce Goodwin".

Ted Goggeye, Parent Committee Chair Anishinaabe Gekinoo Amaadiwin

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ted Goggeye".

**Leech Lake Tribal Council
Special Meeting
Wednesday, June 26 2025
9:00 A.M.
Government Center – Cass Lake, Minnesota**

A G E N D A

- I. Meeting Called to Order at _____.
- II. Roll Call:
- ____ District I – Kyle Fairbanks
____ District II – Steve White
____ District III – Leon Staples, Jr.
____ Secretary/ Treasurer – Lenny Fineday
____ Chairman – Faron Jackson, Sr.
- III. Approval of Agenda
- a) Motion by _____, Second by _____
Aye____, Oppose____, Silent_____
- IV. Meeting Minutes
- a) Approve the May 22, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes as presented.
- Motion by _____, Second by _____
Aye____, Oppose____, Silent_____
- V. New Business
- a) **Presentation by Matt Grose and Pat Rendle, Deer River and Grand Rapids Schools**
1. Approve the continued use of the Thunderhawk’s and Warrior Mascots and Logos as presented.
- Motion by _____, Second by _____
Aye____, Oppose____, Silent_____
- b) **Presentation by Nancy Beaulieu**
1. Discussion on the MNDOT HWY 371 Urban Reconstruction Project.