



THE PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE OF UTAH

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January 22, 2019

Iron County School District
Attn: Iron County School Board
2077 W. Royal Hunter Dr.
Cedar City UT 84720

RE: Cedar High School Mascot Change

Iron County School Board,

The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah (PITU) Tribal Council, is offering to collaborate with the Iron County School District, regardless of the Cedar High School mascot situation, with an Intergovernmental Agreement that mirrors the University of Utah Intergovernmental Agreement with the Ute Indian Tribe. Specifically, the PITU Tribal Council wants to address substantive improvements to the educational system that are consistent with the School District's mission - "Creating A Better Tomorrow For ALL". The PITU Tribal Council hopes that all stakeholders will acknowledge the need to change how the students in the Iron County School District learn about American Indians and address issues that affect American Indian students.

The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Tribal Council would like to request the following improvements:

1. The curriculum needs to change. Considering that 40% of the general population believe that Native Americans do not exist.¹ There should be more education regarding the history of the Paiute Indian Tribe and other Utah tribes. For example, students need to be taught the impact of colonization upon Indian tribes; the damaging effects of the ideology of "Manifest Destiny"; an overview of American Indian genocide and other massacres in the State of Utah; specifically, regarding the Circleville Massacre and Mountain Meadow Massacre. The impacts of United States government policies of termination and assimilation; the restoration of PITU; and specific education concerning the PITU tribal government and history. This course would be a mandatory course that is a required for

¹ Reclaiming Native Truth. "Research Findings: Compilation of all Research." Detailed Finding Report. <https://www.reclaimingnativetruth.com/research/>

all entering freshman or transfer students that is taught for credits and is a requirement to graduate from Cedar High School.

2. As far as institutional recommendations, the PITU Tribal Council recommends that the resources be increased, and structure be strengthened to help Native American students become successful. Statistically, Native Americans have a 76% graduation rate nationally for high school, compared to the national average of 84%.² The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah has a high school graduation rate of 70%, which statistically lowers then the national average for Native Americans and lower than the State of Utah. The 70% that graduate high school will statistically not enroll in postsecondary education, 55% will attempt to enter the workforce. According to the recent publications by the State of Utah, Utah Graduation Rates by Race and Ethnicity, American Indians have gradually increased their graduation rate over the last five years. In 2013, 65% of American Indians graduated high school with their co-horts. In 2017, 74% graduate high school with their co-horts, that is a 9% increase overall in the State of Utah for American Indian High School Graduates. Iron County Graduation Rates for Cedar High School is 90%, but it does not break down the data by race.³
3. A strong emphasis on college education; especially because we know that our students are not entering post-secondary education at the rates of their peers. This could be achieved by better outreach to students that would provide opportunities for continuing education courses, AP Courses, free ACT Prep Courses, and having advisors mentor the students to include emphasis on secondary education. With a set aside for Native American students to tour local university campuses during their Junior/Senior Year.
4. Iron County School District needs to illustrate that they are willing to invest more funding for the Title VI program to fully meet the needs of the students and families that participation as outlined in the Office of Indian Education Regulations⁴. The current funding does not meet the needs of Native American students and has left the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah to use our limited resources to fund the family activities every month at our building. If we did not have the Native Youth Program that is offered to all students that identify as Native American and the PITU Education Department, which is only able to assist PITU Tribal Members per the Code of Federal Regulations, we would not have been able to support Iron Counties Title VI Program in the capacity that we have done for the last three years. Working with Kevin Garret, the Director of Special Programs, has been meaningful, and we know from reviewing the Title VI Budget it is

² National Center for Education Statistics. "Public High School Graduation Rates." The Condition of Education. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_coi.asp

³ Utah Graduation Rate by Race/Ethnicity, 2013-2017. <https://www.schools.utah.gov/file/d72ce1cd-7244-4496-bc6b-a2be9c63de8e>

⁴ Office of Indian Education. <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/oie/index.html>

very limited on how the funding can be expended. With more resources, we would be able to accomplish more meaningful interactions between the School District, Tribe, Parents, and Students by offering a program that is designed to meet all our needs. Collaborating with the Washington County School District Title VI Program to see how they establish their partnerships, not with just the tribe, but Dixie State would be beneficial for all because their program is one of the best the tribe has been able to partner with.

5. Iron County School District needs to promote diversity, which include promoting Black History, Hispanic Heritage, and Asian American Heritage months. Attending the Public Meetings has taught us that our education system is failing to include diversity of our students. If Iron County School District emphasized and promoted the various historical months, it would bring better knowledge for all.
6. Going through the process of the hearing and listening to students, it has come to our attention that we need to have a specific contact at the School District to report discrimination and bullying. This is because we are currently asking students to report student, teachers, and possible administrators to the high school administration. It doesn't give the students a layer of protection and proper due diligent needed to investigate such conduct. This is for the entire student body.
7. Creating an American Indian specialist position in the Superintendent's office. This would be helpful and would allow the Title VI Tutors to be placed under this position instead of the Special Education Program. It would also provide Native Americans with a liaison to advocate for their needs.
8. Establishing an ExOfficio Seat on the School Board to represent PITU interests. This seat would be a non-voting member but would be able to provide the School Board with meaningful collaboration and communication between the PITU Tribal Council and the Iron County School District.
9. Recruiting and retaining American Indian educators, so that Native American students are able to see educators that they self-identify with. The National Indian Education Association has a material including a resolution to Support for the establishment of a Native American Teacher Campaign.⁵
10. Finally, if the School Board elects to keep the current mascot, the PITU Tribal Council recommends that the narrative surrounding the alleged approval of the mascot by PITU be correctly told. In reality, the School District did not conduct meaningful consultation with the PITU Tribal Council when the Redmen name was selected. The circumstances

⁵ The National Indian Education Association. <http://www.niea.org/2016/09/13/support-for-the-establishment-of-a-native-american-teacher-campaign-3/>

surrounding the selection of the mascot occurred in the 1940's, when issues regarding offensive imagery, racial slurs, and discrimination were viewed in a different light. If both sides would have understood how the Redmen mascot would be used and the resulting imagery, costumes, dances, and other offensive results, both sides would have never approved it. Thus, if the mascot is not changed, the PITU Tribal Council demands that it approves how the mascot is used and portrayed by being the final approval on all and any mascot imagery.

Again, we are looking forward to working with you in the change of the mascot for Cedar City High School. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me as soon as possible at (435) 586-1112 ext. 102 or at tslayton@utahpaiutes.org.

Sincerely,



Tamra Borchardt-Slayton

Chairperson

The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah