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**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

**Indigenous Peoples Day Intent Resolution
Approved by the Board of Education, December 7, 2016**

Aimee Hemminger
President

Michael O'Donnell
Vice President

WHEREAS, Columbus Day was originally proclaimed as a federal holiday in 1937 and is recognized as a public holiday in New York State on the second Monday in Octoberⁱ; and

Brian Cournoyer
Member

WHEREAS, there is a nationwide movement to recognize the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day instead of Columbus Day, including states, cities, towns, and school districtsⁱⁱ; and

Alison Easton
Member

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District ("Board") believes that the narrative of first contact between Europe and the New World needs to be closely examined, to ensure that what we are teaching our children engages an accurate and complete picture of the colonization, conquest, and exploitation of America and its Indigenous Peoples; and

Steven Greenfield
Member

WHEREAS, the geographic region that comprises the New Paltz Central School District was the original home of the Lenni-Lenape peoplesⁱⁱⁱ, who contributed to the culture, history and uniqueness of this region, as recognized by the Board in naming a school building in honor of the Lenape; and

Sophia Skiles
Member

Matthew Williams
Member

WHEREAS, the Board believes that the students of the New Paltz Central School District should have the opportunity to examine American history regarding the Eurocentric perspective of its colonization and the discovery of America, acknowledging the violence and injustice committed against Indigenous Peoples, and the accomplishments and contributions of all people that helped shape America; and

SUPERINTENDENT
Maria C. Rice

WHEREAS, the District's Vision^{iv} encourages a passion for learning by activating the unique history of this region, creating citizens of the world by connecting the past struggle for indigenous sovereignty to that of the present, committing to empowered students who are equipped to fight for environmental justice and resource protection that is the legacy of Indigenous Peoples; and

DISTRICT CLERK
Dusti Callo

WHEREAS, the Board has a proactive history of approving resolutions that have sought to defend and empower the students of this District and the school community, and to address injustice at the local, state and federal levels^v; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that consideration should be given to renaming the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day;

THEREFORE, BET IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District hereby declares its intent to carefully explore and consider renaming the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

(Supporting references and footnotes located at the end of this document.)

ⁱ Section 24, NYS General Construction Law; *Attendance and the School Calendar*, New York State Education Department, https://stateaid.nysed.gov/attendance/attendance_memo.htm

ⁱⁱ *City of Berkeley, CA City Council Proclamations* (2015/2016): ;

http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/Clerk/City_Council/City_Council_Proclamations.aspx

Resolution #31538, City of Seattle, WA. October 6, 2014: http://clerk.seattle.gov/~legislativeItems/Resolutions/Resn_31538.pdf

The City of Minneapolis Resolution of the Mayor and City Council Recognizing the Second Monday of October as Indigenous People's Day, April 25, 2014: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-123839.pdf>

SL 1990, ch 7, § 2. South Dakota State Legislature/Legislative Research Council,

http://www.sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=1-5-1.2

State of Vermont State Proclamation, October 6, 2016: <http://governor.vermont.gov/sites/shumlin/files/documents/16-140%20Indigenous%20People%27s%20Day.pdf>

Akron Central School District (Akron, NY) *BOE Minutes, August 19, 2015*:

<http://www.akronschoools.org/cms/lib/NY19000426/Centricity/Domain/3/BOE%20Regular%20Business%20Meeting%20Minutes%208-19-15.pdf>

Plattsburgh, NY BOE, *Minutes, February 25, 2016*: <http://www.plattscsd.org/BOE/documents/minutes/2015-16/2-25-16%20Board%20Minutes.pdf>

Niagara Wheatfield, NY BOE, *Minutes of September 26, 2016*:

<http://www.nwcsd.k12.ny.us/cms/lib/NY19000569/Centricity/Domain/22/BOE%20Minutes%20Regular%20Meeting%2009.21.16.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ Alfieri, J., Berardis, A., Smith, E., Mackin, J., Muller, W., Lake, R., Lehmkuhl, P. *The Lenapes: A study of Hudson Valley Indians*.

June 3, 1999: <http://www.localarchives.org/nahc/themes/native-americans/NAHC%20Lenapes%20in%20the%20Hudson%20River%20Valley.pdf>, p. 1

^{iv} *Our Vision*. New Paltz Central School District:

http://www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us/cms/lib/NY01000611/Centricity/shared/districtwidedocuments/2015-2016schoolyear/NP_Standards.pdf

^v *Resolution Highlights*. New Paltz Central School District Board of Education: <http://www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us/Page/9101>