1. **TITLE**

Approval of Board Resolution 2020/21-22, Designating March 9, 2021 as a day of observance recognizing and honoring the life and legacy of Billy Frank Jr.

2. **PURPOSE**

This Board Action Report presents a resolution to designate March 9, 2021 as “Billy Frank Jr.: Salmon Celebration Day”

3. **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

I move that the School Board approve Board Resolution 2020/21-22, designating March 9, 2021 as “Billy Frank Jr.: Salmon Celebration Day” to honor his life and legacy. Immediate action is in the best interest of the district.

4. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

   a. **Background** Clear Sky Native Youth Council/UNEA Youth brought this resolution to Directors Rivera-Smith and Director DeWolf. The Directors, as well as President Hampson, began working on redrafting the resolution to fit Seattle Public Schools and to consult with Nisqually Nation representatives, as well as Muckleshoot and Suquamish Nation representatives. Much of the helpful background about Billy Frank Jr. and his legacy is captured within the resolution.

   b. **Alternatives** Not approve the resolution. This alternative is not recommended.

   c. **Research** N/A

5. **FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE**

Fiscal impact to this action will be N/A

The revenue source for this motion is N/A

Expenditure: □ One-time □ Annual □ Multi-Year ☒ N/A

Revenue: □ One-time □ Annual □ Multi-Year ☒ N/A
6. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

With guidance from the District’s Community Engagement tool, this action was determined to merit the following tier of community engagement:

- Not applicable
- Tier 1: Inform
- Tier 2: Consult/Involve
- Tier 3: Collaborate

This resolution was drafted by the incredible youth of Clear Sky Native Youth Council and Urban Native Education Alliance (UNEA)—they deserve an immense amount of praise for their initiation and hard work to bring forward such an meaningful resolution in honor of Billy Frank Jr. After the youth’s work on the resolution, Directors Rivera-Smith and Director DeWolf worked with Nisqually Nation representatives to confirm their support. Once they approved, Director DeWolf and President Hampson connected with representatives from Muckleshoot Nation, Suquamish Nation, and Native leaders on language to ensure consultation and collaboration with Seattle Public Schools’ Treaty Tribes.

7. **EQUITY ANALYSIS**

This resolution centers equity because it highlights a prominent Native leader who fought for recognition of Native people, sovereign people, and treaty rights.

8. **STUDENT BENEFIT**

This is a benefit to students because it will elevate the story and history of both Billy Frank Jr. and his leadership during “Fish Wars,” it also highlights the work our Treaty Tribes, Muckleshoot and Suquamish Nations in those fights. It also requires the District to follow through on its commitment to teach **Since Time Immemorial**.

9. **WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY**

- Amount of contract initial value or contract amendment exceeds $250,000 (Policy No. 6220)
- Amount of grant exceeds $250,000 in a single fiscal year (Policy No. 6114)
- Adopting, amending, or repealing a Board policy
- Formally accepting the completion of a public works project and closing out the contract
- Legal requirement for the School Board to take action on this matter
- Board Policy No. _____, [TITLE], provides the Board shall approve this item
Other: Board action is required to approve a resolution

10. **POLICY IMPLICATION**

N/A

11. **BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The resolution was brought to the Board for introduction and action without moving through the committee process.

12. **TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Upon approval of this resolution, Seattle Public Schools will notify our community and inform them of available resources to utilize on March 9, 2021.

13. **ATTACHMENTS**

- Resolution No. 2020/21-22 (for approval)
Seattle School District No. 1
Board Resolution

Resolution No. 2020/21-22

A RESOLUTION to designate March 9, 2021 as a day of observance recognizing and honoring the life and legacy of Billy Frank Jr., as well as all Nisqually, with leaders from the Muckleshoot and Suquamish Tribes, who are the Treaty Tribes of the Seattle Public Schools, Tribe, whose efforts spurred the Fish Wars movement, reaffirming treaty rights in usual and accustomed areas.

WHEREAS, Seattle Public Schools is required by federal law to consult with Tribal nations and communities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. § 7918, and for said consultation to be (a) timely and (b) meaningful, in a manner and in such time that provides the opportunity for such appropriate officials from Indian tribes or Tribal organizations to meaningfully and substantively contribute; and

WHEREAS, Seattle Public Schools falls under the jurisdiction of the Treaty of Point Elliott, therefore making Muckleshoot—a signatory to the Medicine Creek Treaty, as well—and Suquamish Indian tribes our legally bound education partners; and

WHEREAS, under Article VI of the United States Constitution, Federal Treaties are “the supreme Law of the Land”; and Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution lists Indian Tribes as sovereigns recognized by Congress; and in 1859 Congress ratified the Point Elliott Treaty, which had been signed in 1855 in 1859; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington discriminated against Native people and infringed on their Treaty fishing rights, established in the Treaty of Point Elliott, and the people of the Muckleshoot and Suquamish, Nisqually, Puyallup and other Pacific Northwest Tribes were not able to fully exercise their fishing rights and therefore were not able to continue their Treaty affirmed lifeways; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Jr. and many other leaders, specifically from such as Muckleshoot and Suquamish Tribe whose ancestral lands are within the Seattle Public Schools catchment area, fought to protect their ancestral and inherent fishing rights by suing the State of Washington, officially intervening in the United States v. Washington case in 1970, spurring a series of arrests and protests led by tribal communities throughout the PNW, Pacific Northwest. This became widely known as “The Fish Wars” - during which hundreds of Native people in the Pacific Northwest were incarcerated for protesting for rights affirmed in their Treaties; and
WHEREAS, Billy Frank Jr.’s particular leadership, commitment to his people and the
environment, and fierce dedication to upholding Tribal Treaty rights helped galvanize
momentum toward the successful outcomes of the 1974 “Boldt Decision,” the legal victory
reaffirming the fishing, hunting, and gathering rights guaranteed under Federal Indian Treaties; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Jr. was arrested at the age of 14 for fishing salmon in the Nisqually
River and subsequently arrested and cited more than 50 times throughout the “fishing war era’
for exercising his treaty protected right to fish for salmon in “usual and accustomed places”; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Jr. was honored with countless awards for his decades-long fight for
justice and environmental preservation, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the
Common Cause Award for Human Rights Efforts, the Albert Schweitzer Prize for
Humanitarianism, the American Indian Distinguished Service Award, the 2006 Wallace Stegner
Award, and the Washington State Environmental Excellence Award, and was honored in 2015 by
members of the Washington State Congressional Congregation with delegation who passed a
resolution designating March 9th, the day of his birth, as a National Day of Remembrance of
his life, legacy, and accomplishments, and by President Obama, who signed into law the Billy
Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act on December 18th of that year, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Native people of the Puget Sound, Columbia River, and Salish Sea continue to
exhibit remarkable leadership, tireless efforts and dedication to defend and protect their Treaty
fishing rights; and in doing so have protected the salmon species for future generations; and

WHEREAS, salmon is now and has always been central to the cultures, diets, religions,
identities and societies of Pacific Northwest Tribes, and the continued harvest of salmon is
critical to maintaining the culture and lifeways of all Washington citizens; and

WHEREAS, all Seattleites, Washingtonians, Indians and non-Indians owe a debt of gratitude to
local heroes like Billy Frank Jr. and all those that fought in the Fish Wars. Because of this effort
to not only protect cultural lifeways but also the entire Puget Sound ecosystem, we enjoy the
salmon and their impact on our environment today; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 5433 modifying the original 2005
legislation, RCW 28A.320.170, now requiring the Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty
in Washington State be taught in all schools and includes lessons in Tribal government, sovereignty, history, culture and federal Indian policy such as tribal treaty rights and fishing rights; and
WHEREAS, Seattle Public Schools is required to teach about Through Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State Tribal History curriculum, Puget Sound Tribal history and whereas the life and legacy of Billy Frank Jr., the importance of salmon, Tribal Treaty rights, and the consistent efforts that help uphold treaty rights and responsibilities of local Treaty Tribes, as well as the life and legacy of Billy Frank Jr. through Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State Tribal History curriculum, are integral to said history; and:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1 hereby observes and acknowledges March 9, 2021 as “Billy Frank Jr.: Salmon Celebration Day” and encourages district-wide celebration, remembrance, and recognition of Billy Frank Jr.’s life, work, and legacy; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that Seattle Public Schools recognizes that Billy Frank Jr.’s legacy and life serves as a guiding light for cross cultural connections, bipartisanship, leadership through collaboration, consultation and bridge building to ensure protection of our natural environment, salmon and cultural lifeways; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, as the Seattle Public Schools requires the implementation of curriculum through the Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State Tribal History curriculum efforts on March 9, with a strong emphasis on Billy Frank Jr., the Fish Wars, local Treaty Tribe efforts to manage salmon resources and the significance of salmon for all citizens of the Pacific Northwest; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Seattle Public Schools will consult and coordinate with the Muckleshoot Tribe and Suquamish Tribe on future activities that celebrate Billy Frank Jr., a Salmon Celebration Day, the curriculum and other Tribal activities within our schools.

ADOPTED this 24th day of February, 2021

___________________________________  __________________________________  
Chandra N. Hampson, President  Brandon K. Hersey, Vice President  
___________________________________  __________________________________  
Lisa Rivera-Smith, Member-at-Large  Zachary DeWolf  
___________________________________  __________________________________  
Leslie S. Harris  Liza Rankin  

ATTEST: _______________________
Denise Juneau, Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Directors
Seattle School District No. 1
King County, WA