



School Board Briefing/Proposed Action Report

Informational (no action required by Board) **Action Report** (Board will be required to take action)

DATE: July 8, 2016
FROM: Scott Pinkham, Board Director
Leslie Harris, Board Director

I. TITLE

Resolution 2016/17-1, Memorialize Support of Federal Recognition of the Duwamish Nation

For Introduction: August 24, 2016
For Action: September 7, 2016

II. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY

The School Board is the body empowered to adopt Resolutions on behalf of the Seattle School District.

III. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

Fiscal impact to this action is minimal, for staff time and postage to mail copies of Resolution to other government entities.

The revenue source for this motion is General Fund.
Expenditure: One-time Annual Other Source

IV. POLICY IMPLICATION

N/A

V. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the Board adopt Resolution 2016/17-1 memorializing support of federal recognition of the Duwamish Nation as the original people of our area and increasing the emphasis on Native education within our schools.

VI. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This item was reviewed at the Executive Committee meeting on August 17, 2016. The Committee reviewed the item and moved the item forward to the full Board with a recommendation for approval.

VII. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The City of Seattle is named for the Chief of the Duwamish Nation. The Duwamish Nation has been supportive of public education in Seattle, hosting meetings at the Duwamish Longhouse & Cultural Center attended by Seattle Public Schools Superintendents and School Board members. The Duwamish Nation has long sought but been denied formal recognition by the Federal

government, and the Duwamish Nation continues to seek such recognition. The Duwamish are listed in the Washington State Tribal Directory as a non-federally recognized tribe seeking federal recognition.

Much information on the background of the Duwamish Nation and their efforts to obtain Federal recognition has been gathered by the Duwamish Nation.

Brief extracts are included here:

“Duwamish Fight for Federal Tribal Recognition ... The Duwamish Tribe was recognized at the end of the Clinton administration – only to have that positive determination overturned by the incoming Bush administration.”

“In 1983, after more than 100 years of broken United States treaty promises, the Dkh^wDuw’Absh established Duwamish Tribal Services ... to provide social and cultural services to the Duwamish Tribal community.”

“In the absence of federal recognition, funding, and human services, Duwamish Tribal Services has struggled to provide numerous social, education, health, and cultural programs. The Duwamish Tribe currently has around 600 enrolled members. Many more people have Dkh^wDuw’Absh ancestry but have chosen to enroll with federally recognized Tribes.”

“Dkh^wDuw’Absh have created programs that help our culture survive. Our cultural heritage group T’ilibshudub (“Singing Feet”) teaches traditional oratory, dancing, singing and ceremonial practices to our community, other First Peoples, and the public. T’ilibshudub helps Dkh^wDuw’Absh children do better in school. T’ilibshudub helps preserve the Lushootseed language, our dances, our songs, and helps support our native artisans and our elders, who are our Tradition Keepers.”

“The people known today as the Duwamish Tribe are the Dkh^wDuw’Abs, “The People of the Inside”. We are the people of Chief Seattle. We are the First People of the City of Seattle, Mercer Island, Renton, Bellevue, Tukwila and much of King County, Washington. We have never left our ancestral homeland. ... The name “Duwamish” is an Anglicization of Dkh^wDuw’Abs. In the Puget Sound Salish language *Lushootseed*, Dkh^wDuw’Abs means “The People of the Inside”. This name refers to Elliott Bay, the Duwamish River, and the other rivers, lakes, and waterways that connect our ancestral Dkh^wDuw’Abs homeland.”

“As the First People of this area, the Dkh^wDuw’Abs witnessed geologic events that occurred in Puget Sound during the last Ice Age. Events recounted in the extensive oral history of the Dkh^wDuw’Abs have been confirmed by scientific discoveries. In 1979, an archeological excavation in Dkh^wDuw’Abs ancestral homeland unearthed artifact fragments that were radiocarbon-dated to the Sixth Century AD, attesting to the antiquity of their tenure in this area.”

“In 1851, when the first European-Americans arrived at Alki Point, the Dkh^wDuw’Abs occupied at least 17 villages, living in over 90 longhouses, along Elliott Bay, the Duwamish River, the Cedar River, the Black River (which no longer exists), Lake Washington, Lake Union, and Lake Sammamish.”

“On January 22, 1855, near Mukilteo, among the signers of the Point Elliott Treaty, the Duwamish Tribe was listed first. Chief Si’ahl’s name was placed at the very top of the treaty, reflecting his personal importance and that of his tribes. ...The 1855 Treaty created a Government-to-Government relationship between the United States and the *Dkh^w’Duw’Abs*. The United States Senate ratified the Point Elliott Treaty in 1859. The Point Elliott Treaty guaranteed hunting and fishing rights and reservations to all Tribes represented by the Native signers.”

“In return for the reservation and other benefits promised in the treaty by the United States government, the Duwamish Tribe exchanged over 54,000 acres of their homeland. Today those 54,000 acres include the cities of Seattle, Renton, Tukwila, Bellevue, and Mercer Island, and much of King County.”

“European-American immigrants soon violated the Point Elliott Treaty of 1855, triggering a series of Native rebellions from 1855 to 1858 known as “the Indian War”. Instigated by the European-Americans, this war set tribe against tribe, and brother against brother. Chief Si’ahl helped protect the small group of European-American settlers from attacks by other Native warriors in what became the City of Seattle during the rebellions.”

“The name “Seattle” is an Anglicization of Si’ahl (1780-1866), the most famous *Dkh^w’Duw’Abs* chief. Si’ahl’s mother *Scholeetsa* was *Dkh^w’Duw’Abs* and his father Schweabe was chief of the *Dkh^w’Suq^w’Abs* (the Suquamish Tribe). It is said that Si’ahl was born at his mother’s *Dkh^w’Duw’Abs* village of *Stuq^w* on the Black River, in what is now the city of Renton.”

“As a boy, Si’ahl saw British Captain George Vancouver’s ships passing through the *Kh^wulch* (Puget Sound) in 1792.”

“In 1866, United States Indian Agent Thomas Paige recommended to the United States government that a reservation be established for the *Dkh^w’Duw’Abs*. European-American immigrants – including Seattle civic leaders – petitioned against a *Dkh^w’Duw’Abs* reservation near the City of Seattle. In their letter to Congress member Arthur Denny, the European-American immigrants protested that “such a reservation would do a great injustice”, claiming that the promised reservation would be “of little value to the Indians”. It is said that Denny’s life was threatened.”

“The European-American immigrants’ protest blocked any reservation being established for the *Dkh^w’Duw’Abs*. Promises made by the United States government over 150 years ago to the *Dkh^w’Duw’Abs* in the Point Elliott Treaty have never been honored.”

VIII. STATEMENT OF ISSUE

Whether to adopt Resolution 2016/17-1 to memorialize the Board’s support of federal recognition of the Duwamish Nation as the original people of our area and to increase the emphasis on Native education within our schools.

IX. ALTERNATIVES

Do not approve this Resolution. This is not recommended because the School District needs to support the federal recognition of the Duwamish Nation as the original people of the land our schools are built upon as it would be evidence that the schools are sincere in their race and equity initiative, thus providing a supportive environment for Native education in Seattle Public Schools.

X. RESEARCH AND DATA SOURCES / BENCHMARKS

Much information on the background of the Duwamish Nation and their efforts to obtain Federal recognition has been gathered by the Duwamish Nation and is available at the Duwamish Longhouse & Cultural Center, 4705 W Marginal Way SW, Seattle, WA 98106, and has been posted on their website: www.duwamishtribe.org.

Other contact information for the Duwamish Nation: email: dts@qwstoffice.net; phone: 206-431-1582

XI. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Upon approval of this motion, District staff will send copies of the approved Resolution 2016/17-1 memorializing support of federal recognition of the Duwamish Nation as the original people of the area and their continued existence as a sovereign nation to the entities referenced in the Resolution, including to: the Duwamish Nation; Cecile Hansen Chair of the Duwamish Nation; Seattle Mayor; Seattle City Council; King County Executive; King County Council; Washington State Governor; Washington State House of Representatives; Washington State Senate; Washington State U.S. Senators; Washington State U.S. Representatives; U.S. President; Secretary of U.S. Department of Interior.

XII. ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution 2016/17-1 (font updated in highlight)
- Extracts of some of the information posted by the Duwamish Nation on their website on the background of the Duwamish Tribe and their efforts to obtain Federal recognition, as available on their website: www.duwamishtribe.org and at the Duwamish Longhouse & Cultural Center, 4705 W Marginal Way SW, Seattle, WA 98106.

**SEATTLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD RESOLUTION**

RESOLUTION 2016/17-1

A **RESOLUTION** of the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1, King County, Seattle, Washington, to memorialize our support for the restoration of federal recognition of the Duwamish Nation as the original people of our area and increasing the emphasis on Native education within our schools.

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle is named for the Chief of the Duwamish Nation, and

WHEREAS, the Duwamish Nation has been supportive of public education in Seattle, and

WHEREAS, the Duwamish Nation has long sought, but been wrongly denied formal recognition by the federal government, and the Duwamish Tribe continues to seek such recognition, and

WHEREAS, the Duwamish Nation's petition for federal status was approved during the end of the Clinton administration, but was overturned by the George W. Bush administration, citing that the Duwamish did not meet two of the criteria for federal status, and

WHEREAS, the people known today as the Duwamish Nation are the **dxw' dəwʔábš**, "The People of the Inside." They are the people of Chief Seattle. They are the First People of the City of Seattle, Mercer Island, Renton, Bellevue, Tukwila and much of King County, Washington. They have never left their ancestral homeland and therefore deserve to receive appropriate federal recognition, and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 1495, with the goal of educating citizens of our state about the tribal history, culture, treaty rights, contemporary tribal and state government institutions and relations, and the contributions of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the state, passed both the House of Representatives and Senate in April 2005 and was codified into law as RCW 28A.300.105, and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the Seattle School District, as part of our race and equity initiative, acknowledge this history of our community and many of our students and staff by supporting the Duwamish Nation in obtaining the restoration of federal recognition and to also make additional efforts to ensure supportive environments for Native education in our schools by providing an additional emphasis on Native education.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that it is the opinion of the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1 that the people of the Duwamish Nation are the original people of this area and deserve recognition by the government of the United States; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1 urges prompt action by the U.S. President and Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior to confer official recognition on the Duwamish Nation; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1 urges other local public officials to join with the Seattle School District in urging the restoration of federal recognition of the Duwamish Nation, to include the Mayor of Seattle; the Seattle City Council; the Executive of King County; the King County Council; the Governor of Washington State; members of the Washington State House of Representatives; members of the Washington State Senate; U.S. Senators of Washington State; and U.S. Representatives of Washington State; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1 requests the Superintendent advise the Board on improvements that could be made to Native education within our schools during the annual report to the Board in December of each year, and at Board Work Sessions as needed.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2016

Betty Patu, President

Sue Peters, Vice-President

Stephan Blanford, Member

Richard Burke, Member

Jill Geary, Member

Leslie Harris, Member

Scott Pinkham, Member

ATTEST: _____
Dr. Larry Nyland, Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Directors
Seattle School District No. 1
King County, WA