

**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., Nisqually, with leaders from the Muckleshoot Tribe, whose efforts spurred the Fish Wars movement, reaffirming treaty rights in Tribes’ usual and accustomed areas.

WHEREAS, Seattle Public Schools is required by federal law to consult with Tribal nations and 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; 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, 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, such as Muckleshoot 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 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 delegation who passed a resolution designating March 9, 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 18, 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 requires Local Education Authorities to teach 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 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 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, it shall ensure focus on 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 and Suquamish Tribes 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


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Chandra N. Hampson, President


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Lisa Rivera-Smith, Member-at-Large

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Leslie S. Harris

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Brandon K. Hersey, Vice President

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Zachary DeWolf

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Liza Rankin

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ATTEST: Denise Juneau, Superintendent

Secretary, Board of Directors
Seattle School District No. 1
King County, WA