

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA STATEMENT

No. 3

MEETING OF November 11, 2021

Item Title:

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

National Native American Heritage Month & Alaska Native Heritage Month

November is recognized nationally as National Native American Heritage Month; and in Alaska, the month is recognized as Alaska Native Heritage Month.

Governor Mike Dunleavy's 2021 proclamation for Alaska Native Heritage Month is attached.

President Joe Biden's statements and proclamation for National Native Heritage Month can be found at this link: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/10/29/a-proclamation-on-national-native-american-heritage-month-2021/>

Office of Governor
MIKE DUNLEAVY

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Alaska Native Heritage Month

November 1, 2021

WHEREAS, Alaska is a culturally rich and diverse land, from the Iñupiaq of Northwest Alaska, the Athabascan of the Interior, the Yup'ik and Cup'ik of Southwest Alaska, the Unangax of the Aleutian Islands, the Alutiiq of Southcentral Alaska, and the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian of Southeast Alaska; each of these peoples have unique traditions and history; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska honors and recognizes the First People of our State and Nation. It is important that honor is bestowed not only on elders and those who lived before, but all Alaska Natives living today; and

WHEREAS, we value and respect the endurance of our great State's different heritages through the cultivation of traditional languages, cultural beliefs, oral narratives, the arts, and subsistence lifestyles. We appreciate the important work of elders and culture-bearers who share the knowledge of the past with Alaska's youth and work to preserve that heritage for the future; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial that these rich cultures continue to thrive for future generations, and that the historical values continue to grow through the practicing of time-honored ceremonies, subsistence lifestyles, and the use and preservation of traditional languages; and

WHEREAS, renewing our interest and growth in cultural programs is vital to preserving Alaska Native languages, dance and arts, and fostering understanding of the sophistication and complexity of Alaska Native cultures; and

WHEREAS, from their service in the United States Armed Forces to their vital role in Alaska's economic future to their dedication and contributions to artistic and literary endeavors, Alaska Natives play a key role in Alaska's prosperity; and

WHEREAS, by emphasizing the important background and traditions of Alaska Native people, Alaska's children can connect with the past and ensure a bright future. This month and throughout the year, we celebrate the traditions, languages, and stories of Native Alaskans and ensure their rich histories and contributions continue to thrive with each passing generation.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mike Dunleavy, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim November 2021 as:

Alaska Native Heritage Month

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to celebrate our Native cultures this month and throughout the year with appropriate respect, educational programs, and activities.

Dated: November 1, 2021