

Press Release from the Native American Mascot Advisory Committee July 20, 2007

From: Oregon Department of Education

On December 7, 2006, Che Butler, senior at Taft High School and Luhui Whitebear, Grande Ronde, gave a presentation on the use of Native American mascots by Oregon public schools before the State Board of Education. Following the presentation and comments by Board members, *Superintendent* for Public Instruction, Susan Castillo and Oregon State Board of Education Chair, Jerry Berger, directed ODE staff to form an advisory committee to explore this issue, have a stake holder conversation, and to provide a report at the State Board September meeting. This process is the result of a student initiative that began in April of 2006 (refer to historical account below).

History:

- April 5, 2006 Che Butler and Luhui Whitebear give presentation to Oregon Indian Education Association (OIEA) Board, Portland
- April 7, 2006 Che Butler and Luhui Whitebear give presentation to OIEA general membership at the OIEA Annual Conference, Portland
- May 12, 2006 Che Butler and Luhui Whitebear give presentation at OIEA Youth Conference, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Dec. 7, 2006 Che Butler and Luhui Whitebear give presentation at the Oregon State Board of Education meeting, Salem
- Dec. 7, 2006 Native American Mascot Advisory Committee is formed
- April 3, 2007 OIEA Board votes to forward the Native American Mascot resolution to the OIEA General Membership, Lincoln City
- April 5, 2007 OIEA General Membership passes the Native American Mascot Resolution, Lincoln City
- May 11, 2007 Che Butler and Luhui Whitebear present the Native American Mascot Resolution at the OIEA Youth Conference, where it is approved, Eugene
- June 12, 2007 1st meeting of the Native American Mascot Advisory Committee, Salem
- July 17, 2007 2nd meeting of the Native American Mascot Advisory Committee, Salem
- Aug. 21, 2007 3rd meeting scheduled for the Native American Mascot Advisory Committee, Salem
- Oct. 2007 Native American Mascot Advisory Committee will present draft report to stakeholders meeting.
- Nov. 2007 NA Mascot Advisory Committee draft report and stakeholders response will be presented to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for further action.

Invitations to participate on the Native American Mascot Advisory Committee were sent to the following:

Oregon School Boards Association
Oregon Indian Education Youth Association
Oregon Civil Right Commission
Higher Education Native American Programs
Oregon Indian Education Association
Confederated Tribes of Oregon, Government to Government Education Cluster
Confederated Tribes of Oregon, Government to Government Cultural Cluster
Oregon Schools Activities Association
Oregon Indian Education Council
Oregon Indian Coalition on Post Secondary Education
Commission on Indian Services
Coalition of School Administrators
Oregon Education Association

Brad Victor
Facilitator, Native American Mascot Advisory Committee
Education Specialist, Student Learning and Partnerships
Oregon Department of Education
503-947-5655
Brad.victor@state.or.us