



Resolution No.

A **RESOLUTION** relating to Indigenous Peoples' Day; declaring the second Monday in October as Indigenous People's Day in the Somerville Public Schools (SPS), encouraging other institutions to recognize the day, and reaffirming the school district's commitment to promote well-being and growth of Massachusetts's Indigenous community.

- Whereas: Somerville Public Schools recognizes that the Indigenous Peoples of the lands that would become known as the Americas have occupied these lands since time immemorial.
- Whereas: Somerville Public Schools recognizes the fact that Massachusetts is built upon the homelands and villages of the indigenous peoples of this region, without whom the building of the City of Somerville would not have been possible.
- Whereas: Somerville Public Schools values the many contributions made to our community through indigenous people's knowledge, labor, technology, science, philosophy, arts, and the deep cultural contribution that has substantially shaped the character of the City of Somerville.
- Whereas: Somerville Public Schools has a responsibility to oppose the systematic racism towards indigenous people in the United States, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, exacerbating disproportionate health, education, and social crises.
- Whereas: Somerville Public Schools promotes closing of the equity gap for indigenous peoples through policies and practices that reflect the experiences of indigenous peoples, ensure greater access and opportunity, and honor our nation's indigenous roots, history, and contributions.
- Whereas: The City of Somerville has led the way in recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day as announced September 12, 2018.
- Whereas: Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas.
- Whereas: In 2011 the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, representing 59 Tribes from Washing, Oregon, Idaho, Northern California, Western Montana, and some Alaskan Tribes passed resolution #11-57 to "Support to Change Columbus Day (2nd Monday of October) to Indigenous Peoples' Day."
- Resolved: The Somerville School Committee acknowledges the 2nd Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day and urges the Somerville Public Schools community to



join in this observance. Further the School Committee refers this change to Rules to review our policies and procedures for compliance with this change.

Voted: Unanimously

Date: October 1, 2018

By the Somerville School Committee