



## **THE HISTORY OF THE WARROAD WARRIOR NAME AND LOGO**

The history behind the Warroad Warrior name and logo has a story of its own. Many years ago, Ay-Ash-A-Wash was Chief of Warroad and Buffalo Point during the war of the Lake of the Woods southwest region. In one of the final battles between the Sioux and the Ojibwa at Two Rivers, some 40 miles west of Warroad on the War Trail, Ay-Ash-A-Wash was badly wounded and played dead. As he lay there, he was scalped by a Sioux Warrior. Ay-Ash-A-Wash still alive managed to crawl away and hide for a time. Most thought he was lost in battle, but he made it back to Warroad after a few days. There was a great outpouring of joy when he returned to Warroad badly injured, but still alive. Years later Ay-Ash-A-Wash's son Na-May-Poke, who was thought to be the Chief of Warroad, was a wise man who cherished education. Na-May-Poke decided to sell part of his land allotment on the Warroad River for the first Warroad School. He agreed to sell the land at a very cheap price and asked that the name Warriors be instilled for athletic competition. This would be used to show honor to those whose blood was left on the sacred land and to those who fell in battle. His request was honored and the teams would be carrying the name Warriors with pride.

In recent years the National Coalition Against Racism in Sports and Media upheld and supported the Name and Logo based on the history of the Warrior name in a pipe ceremony and dedication as the tribute to the War Trail.

The Indian Community, the Local Indian Education Committee, and the Indian Education Department helped design the Logo to go along with the name Warriors to be used as the only logo moving forward. We as Indian People fully support the use of the name Warroad Warriors and the use of the designed logo in its entirety.

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## Warroad Warriors rededicated amid National Coalition Against Racism in Sports and Media's ongoing campaigns

By Jon Lurie ([The Circle](#)) | November 2, 2014

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*(Photo by Jon Lurie) Warroad Ojibwe community leader and former Olympian/Minnesota North Star Henry Boucha stands over the Midnight Express drum as they play an honor song celebrating the rededication of the Warroad Warriors team name.*

In its 30 year quest to influence teams to change their names, mascots and logos from those that are offense to Native Americans, the National Coalition Against Racism in Sports and Media is making strides. Thousands of high schools and colleges across the country have felt the pressure and given up names which encourage stereotyping of indigenous people.

NCARSM, which is based in Minneapolis, still has work to do before the thousands of offensive team names still in use are relegated to the annals of history. The organization's current strategy is to go after the National Football League's Washington team, a nationally prominent team whose name is a racial slur and whose tradition of mocking Native American people is seen as particularly vile.

"We believe that when the Washington team changes, everyone else will follow," NCARSM board member Clyde Bellecourt said. He also said the Washington team has a tradition of upholding institutional racism that

goes far beyond the current disagreement over its name. The team was last in the National Football League to allow – in October of 1961 – non-white players on its roster, a move that prompted their former supporters, the American Nazi Party, to protest outside RFK Stadium.

But as NCARSM focused its efforts on organizing a major rally against the Washington team (who play the Minnesota Vikings at TCF Bank Stadium on the campus of the University of Minnesota Nov. 2) one of its board members, the organization alleges, Alan Yelsey – without the knowledge or blessing of others within the organization – was mailing threatening letters to schools with disparaging team names. Yelsey and NCARSM have since parted ways.

Warroad Public Schools superintendent Craig Oftedahl was among those who received the rogue letters, which reportedly threatened to sue the district if it failed to give up its Warriors team name and logo. Oftedahl's first impulse was to call Henry Boucha, a prominent local Ojibwe community leader and former member of the Minnesota North Stars and U.S. Olympic hockey teams.

"I was surprised as hell when Craig called me," Boucha said. "I thought we were in the clear regarding the name change issue. We had already gone through this with the Coalition back in 1989."

In 1989, after two years of discussion, Warroad Public Schools settled out-of-court with NCARSM, then led by Clyde Bellecourt's now-deceased older brother Vernon Bellecourt. At the time Warroad agreed not to use an Indian mascot and to reaffirm with the local Ojibwe community its support of the Warriors name and logo.

"NCARSM dropped its objections after it was verified that the Indian community, the Indian Parent Committee and our Indian Education Department all supported the use of the Warriors," Boucha said. "The name comes directly from our Ojibwe history. Our warriors secured Warroad and the Lake of the Woods area after a long war with the Dakota. The logo was designed by our own Indian people."

Warroad is within the territory of the Red Lake Nation. The school district also serves Native students with affiliations to Leech Lake, White Earth, Bois Forte and two Canadian reserves – Northwest Angle Band 33 and Northwest Angle Band 37.

After the NCARSM Facebook page received a flood of angry messages from Warroad residents and hockey fans around the country, the organization invited Boucha to address its board.

Warroad is well known in hockey circles for the disproportionate number of Olympians it has produced. The small city on Lake of the Woods near the Canadian Border (population 1,800) has sent seven hockey players to the Olympic Games, including Boucha, Bill Christian, Dave Christian, Gordon Christian, Roger Christian, Gisele Marvin and T.J Oshie.

"I educated the Coalition on the history of Warroad and how proud we are of the heritage we have there. Most of these people weren't around in 1989 and had no idea we'd been through all of this before," Boucha said.

Boucha told the story of Ay-Ash-A-Wash, the chief of Warroad during the heat of the war for the Lake of the Woods region. Ay-Ash-A-Wash was in a battle at Two Rivers, 40 miles west of Warroad, when he was badly wounded and played dead. One of the Dakota warriors, according to the oral history, scalped him and left him for dead.

Ay-Ash-A-Wash managed to crawl away and made his way back to Warroad. Most thought he had been lost in battle and there was a great outpouring of joy when he returned to his people. Years later, Ay-Ash-A-Wash's son Na-May-Poke, a wise man who valued education, donated land from his allotment on



the north side of Warroad for the community's first school. He asked that the school's teams be called the Warriors in honor of Ojibwe warriors who fell in battles past.

NCARSM president David Glass apologized to Boucha for the errant letter and extended an invitation for Boucha to join its board, which he accepted. The former hockey great and current film and television producer said he hopes to utilize his position "to do as much good as possible."

Boucha arranged for the NCARSM board to visit Warroad where, on Oct. 1, they participated in a pipe ceremony and celebration to rededicate the Warriors name and logo.

Hundreds of school children, parents, teachers and community members attended events at Warroad High School and Warroad Gardens & Olympic Arena where they sang the school's fight song and clapped along to a drum performance of honoring songs by Midnight Express. Speakers at the events included NCARSM board members Norma Renville, David Glass, Clyde Bellecourt, Henry Boucha, American Indian Movement Grand Governing Council Chairman Keith Lussier and Warroad Public Schools superintendent Craig Oftedah.



NCARSM members apologized to the community and encouraged its young people to uphold, through positive action and behavior, the time-honored Warrior tradition they represent.

Gabe Shaugabay, a member of the White Earth Nation, and a junior hockey player at Warroad High School, said he was crushed when he first heard the Warriors name might have to be changed. After the rededication ceremony, the 17 year-old defenseman was elated.

"My whole life I had watched my older cousins and then my step-brother, play for the Warriors," Shaugabay said. "I always dreamed of being a Warrior too when my time came. Just then they threatened to take it away from us. When I heard that we got to keep our name I was just so happy. As a Native person it makes me really proud to represent our school as a member of the Warroad Warriors hockey team."

*PHOTOS: (Middle) Warroad powwow royalty joined over 1000 members of the northern Minnesota community in rededicating the Warroad Warriors name and logo.*

*(Above) Frank Marvin, past president of Marvin Windows and Doors, Warroad's largest employer, greets NCARSM board member Norma Renville upon arrival in the city. The Marvin company provided its private airplane for the Coalition's members' flight from the Twin Cities. Frank Marvin pledged a generous donation to aid the Coalition's efforts to convince Washington's NFL team to change its name.*

*(Photos by Jon Lurie)*

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# WARROAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS #690



**Dr. Shawn W. Yates, Superintendent, 386-6066**  
**Dennis Abernathy, High School Principal, 386-6080**  
**Brita Comstock, Elementary/ELC Principal, 386-6025**  
**Mark Chamernick, Dean of Students/Activities/Community Ed Director, 386-6005**  
**Kristina Edman, Special Education Director, 386-6085**

**510 Cedar Ave, NW**  
**Warroad, MN 55763**  
**Phone: (218) 386-1472**  
**Fax: (218) 386-1909**

2/28/2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of legislation prohibiting the use of Native American imagery by schools within the state of Minnesota. Most specifically I am concerned about the aspect requiring Unanimous Consent from all 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations in Minnesota. I believe that stipulation could be overly limiting.

While I respect the intent of the legislation, I would like to let you know about the specifics of the Warroad Warrior and its ties to Warroad ISD #690. The Warroad Warrior mascot is and was intended as an honor and recognition of the heritage and history of our very specific geographic location. The name of our community itself is steeped in recognition of this history. The land that our school was founded on was gifted by a member of the Indigenous community many years ago with the understanding and stipulation that we use the Warrior name and logo to honor and carry forward the story of this area.

We have a rich and supportive partnership with our Indigenous community. Our school logo was created and endorsed by our Indigenous leaders. This trademarked logo helps fund programs for our Indigenous youth, as a portion of the proceeds of every item sold with our logo goes directly to our American Indian Education program and the use is governed by our American Indian Parent Advisory Committee. These funds help support additional programming for the Indigenous youth of the Warroad area.

Our school district is unique for northern Minnesota insofar as our diversity. I would like to continue to show respect to every group and that includes our families of American Indian descent. We have a number of resources available via our website, specifically a document discussing the history of our name and logo. It also documents a bit of more recent history including **support** for the use of our Warrior Logo from the National Coalition Against Racism In Sports and Media. A traditional Pipe Ceremony was held to honor the name and logo in 2014.

A brief synopsis of the logo history can be found on our website at: <https://www.warroad.k12.mn.us/o/warroad-isd/page/the-history-of-the-warroad-warrior-name-and-logo> if you are interested in more information. We take seriously our commitment to educating others regarding our history and the traditions of this region. The story of the Indigenous people and the ties to the Warroad Warrior are shared prior to the start of every sporting event and there is signage across campus that tells the story as well. We recently partnered with the AIPAC in purchasing banners with the 7 Grandfather Teachings that adorn the street along the front of the school.

**Laune Thompson, Chairperson**  
**Cindy Dren-Bandy, Vice Chairperson**  
**Bryre Nelson, Treasurer**  
**Brenda Solar, Clerk**  
**Matt Schreiner, Director**  
 **Gus Booth, Director**

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

We have tremendous support from our Indigenous community for the Warroad Warrior name and logo. I can provide you with letters of support from community members and we have numerous individuals willing to testify on behalf of ISD #690. As Superintendent I have been asked to protect the Identity of our District. I have contacted several people who would love to advocate on behalf of ISD #690 including Mr. Henry Boucha who works with the National Coalition Against Racism in Sports and Media. Having fought this battle in the past and educating others as to our intent and rationale behind the Warroad Warrior name and logo, we would appreciate the opportunity to visit about possible alterations to the legislation that would either grant more localized control or else include our District on a protected list.

If you would be willing to discuss any items in this regard further, please contact me at [shawn\\_yates@warroad.k12.mn.us](mailto:shawn_yates@warroad.k12.mn.us) or in the office at 218.386.6066. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Regards,

Dr. Shawn W. Yates  
Superintendent

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March 15, 2023

Dr. Yates  
Superintendent of Schools Warroad, Minnesota

Dr. Yates,

I am the father of two daughters at Warroad High School. I was a Warroad Warrior hockey player and now proudly watch my girls, Kaiya and Katierie, play the sport I love. My children wear the Warroad Warrior jersey & emblem with pride, knowing that they carry the tradition of their indigenous heritage with them.

My family are members of the Northwest Angle First Nation. My sisters and I traveled fifty miles from our home to Warroad in 1972 to attend high school. The same Warroad Warrior jersey was worn by my three sisters as well as my two daughters. For our First Nation, the name and logo hold particular significance. It is truly unfair to our Indigenous people to learn that a few State House representatives want to remove our historical logo.

It is false to suggest that our Warrior logo is discriminatory or derogatory to our people or any other First Nation. Everyone and the inner Warrior are represented by our Warrior emblem. It seems that we, the entire indigenous population, must once more battle to defend what has always been ours.

Based on Warroad's past, the town was granted the Warrior logo. Every community has a distinctive past and present. Our past is unique, especially to the Anishinaabe and not just to the Warroad community. By removing the Warrior logo, which was created by the Indian Community in our area, you are taking away the homage to those who came before us.

The Anishinaabe people's seven teachings were to be represented by this logo, which was to be used as the ONLY logo going forward for Warroad High School Warriors. Our hearts beat to the beat of the logo, which is more than just the face of the Warrior. The logo serves as a reminder of the lessons of our forefathers, which include the principles of love, respect, bravery, truth, honesty, humility, and wisdom.

Now, the "powers that be" want to obliterate Warroad's proud past as well as the Warrior brand and logo. We Native Americans and all who stand for the Warriors and the heritage of the "War-Trail" should be fearless. This is OUR Warrior emblem, let us not forget that.

To maintain it, I'm hoping that our ancestors will now hear us. A reminder that those who don't comprehend our history shouldn't take it away.

Miigwech (Thank you)

Bill Sandy-From the First Nation 33 of NW Angle  
Son of a First Nation Chief  
Grandson of two medicine men of the First Nation 33  
Warroad Warriors Hockey Player  
Father of two First Nation State Hockey Champions of Warroad High School, 2022-2023

To Whom It May Concern,

My family came to the US as refugees in 1990, fleeing the residual conflict from the American Secret War in Laos that began in the 1960s. You might be wondering what stakes an immigrant has in the realm of Indigenous affairs as it pertains to the Warrior logo utilized by Warroad Public Schools, and to that point I am offering perspective.

As a person of color in this country who proudly identifies in my Lao culture and heritage, despite the pressures of assimilation that came with immigration, I've walked and watched the lines of understanding cultural appropriation versus appreciation my entire life. As a first generation immigrant, I've found that many of my peers frequently diverge on the path of preserving and retaining our culture, or walking toward erasure to better assimilate to American culture.

When we choose preservation over erasure, I feel like this is the place where so many Black, Indigenous, and People of Color converge in this common piece of knowledge: It's going to cost us something. Whether that is in persecution, or exploitation, I've yet to encounter any BIPOC American decidedly steeped in their culture that has failed to experience at least one, if not both of these.

Every era of my life, from early childhood to now, I have endured being on the receiving end of racial slurs, intimidation, and condescension, based on my appearance alone, from the rural town that I grew up in, to the metropolitan cities I went to school and lived in as an adult. There's no age that's off limits, and there's no place in America where you can truly escape that ugly ignorance and prejudice that is racism.

But, what I've learned is that though you can't escape racism, you can defy it. When we take pride in our respective cultures, when we celebrate our history, when we persevere and are unafraid of our heritage, when we treasure and uphold who we are, despite hate and ignorance, we honor those who came before us and those who will follow. When we revere our heritage and culture, despite the challenges thrown at us, we are fighting against and defying racism.

The Warroad Warriors logo and namesake is inherently anti-racist in nature. For the community of Warroad, it has always been a symbol of reverence for the rich Indigenous culture and history of the town's first people. Never derogatory, but always a symbol of strength, the Warrior endures against social tides that threaten the very spirit of its existence.

Symbols are important. They carry with them messages, history, and culture. While the town of Warroad would undoubtedly continue its culture and tradition of honoring its past, current, and future Indigenous population regardless of this iconic piece of its history, that does not diminish its significance.

The Warroad Warriors name and logo was conceived by Indigenous people to honor and carry on their legacy, representing their history, strength, and future in our nation. In a nation that has



made the mistake over and over again of exploiting and harming its Indigenous populations, it is antithetical to continue to question one of the few symbols that so obviously reveres Indigenous people against the greater tapestry of American history.

Many of Warroad's residents and advocates will reiterate the importance of the Warriors name and logo as a representation of the community, honoring the Indigenous people, the rich history and culture—and all of that is true. But it must be said that it is also so much more than even those things: It is a symbol of American history, a rare and enduring one on the right side of history since the day of its conception. It is a symbol of defiance against racism, and it is a symbol of strength for all those who look upon it and know that their heritage is celebrated and will not be erased.

Sincerely,  
Mani Souphom

March 16th, 2023

Dr. Shawn Yates; Superintendent of Schools  
Warroad High School  
Warroad, MN 56763

Dear Dr. Yates,

My name is Lynn Sandy-Braegelmann, a 1975 graduate of Warroad High School, a First Nation American Indian, an athlete and a former Warrior hockey cheerleader. My personal experience as a Warroad Warrior will always be memorable. I'd like to share one experience with you, and to those who oppose the Warroad Warrior logo.

I was given the privilege as a hockey cheerleader to wear a handmade deerskin dress sewn and beaded by my Aunt, and wore the traditional Native American headdress at a hockey playoff semi-final game. Wearing the headdress, well known by the Chippewas and Anishinaabe, each feather in the bonnet represents bravery, strength and leadership as does the Warrior logo and the history of the Warrior name.

I've submitted an image of me, although the headdress worn in the image is not the original as the full length headdress that was worn at the 1975 hockey playoffs. The original headdress was destroyed in a fire on August 5, 2006 during a severe F3 tornado. The headdress which was made by Native hands, lasted for thirty-one more years (1975 to 2006), beyond my wearing it 48 years ago. The headdress stood the test of time and could only be taken by nature itself, not by the ways of the government.

We are a First Nation of the Northwest Angle which does not or should not subordinate us to the power of the state government or other First Nations. Our community should not be subjected to those who do not understand our history and beliefs of the "War-trail," that led to the Warrior name and logo.

The Ojibwa people within our community support the Warrior head logo, which was designed specifically for the Warroad Warriors by the Indigenous Community. To remove the logo from our school is removing the history of the Anishinaabe of this town and saying to those who created the logo, the government is in control, not you the people. The Warrior logo **does not misrepresent** the Native people, it is a representation of our long history in the northernmost part of the United States.

Warroad has a long history with indigenous people of this small community who were given the name, Warroad (War-trail), the Warrior name and logo from a great Chief

many years ago. The community of Warroad is filled with pride when we see our young people represent the Warrior logo during games of competition, as we have done in the past. It is the Warrior spirit, where we use the Creator-given talent and ability to be an asset to the people we serve.

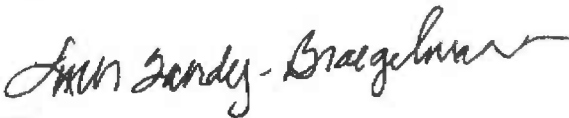
I, and the community of Warroad, do not see the Warrior logo as derogatory and that it **does not** defame the great First Nation people. The vision we see is one of deep respect for the Warrior in us, one that supports the beliefs of our people and God-given right for us the freedom of choice.

**\*\*\*This Warrior logo is held in trust by our community and the First Nation Athletes of Warroad High School and Alumni\*\*\***

Sincerely and with Great Respect to the Warrior Logo,

Lynn Sandy-Braegelmann  
Northwest Angle First Nation  
Hockey Cheerleader

Top Ten Native American Indian Athlete of Minnesota 1975



March 19, 2023

Warroad High School Superintendent

Dr. Shawn Yates:

My name is Cheryl Sandy. I am a Native American from Northwest Angle First Nation. I am also a Warroad High School graduate from the class of 1976. I am writing to you today in support of the Warroad Warrior logo.

For many years, the town of Warroad, the surrounding area, and all Native Americans have been represented by the Warrior symbol. The Warrior emblem is a representation of the spirit of our First Nation. It is a symbol that honors all the great Warriors who battled on the "War-trail" rather than disparaging our people or any other First Nation.

The Warrior emblem was carefully created by the Indigenous community to serve as the only logo for Warroad High School, and those who want to have it removed will be erasing the history of the "War trail" that passed through this town.

And let it be known to the few who want to rule us and who are offended by the Warrior logo that it is unfair to all Native Americans. Do not be ignorant of our past. The indigenous people have fought for what is rightly theirs for hundreds of years, but now legislation is being brought against us once more because of the whims of a select few. All First Nation indigenous people will continue to lose their cultural heritage if we lose this fight.

The numerous Native athletes who have worn the Warrior logo with class and respect do not find it offensive. I was one of the ten Minnesota's Native American athletes to be acknowledged by the state in 1975. Today, we watch many incredible Native American athletes thrive in Warroad. Our Warrior emblem holds a special place in our hearts because it motivates us to strive for greatness, to have faith, and to be proud of our ancestral heritage.

Nobody has the right to erase history or to determine what is best for our community or any other community that is not their own. The heritage of Warroad and the Anishinaabe is lost if the logo is removed. In summary, it appears that the State of Minnesota wants to eradicate the Anishinaabe once more, **one logo at a time**.

We, as a community, must gather the courage and spirit to resist those who want to take it down. Remember the battle over the moniker "Fighting Sioux"? The naming issue was

up for statewide vote, on the ballot as Referendum Measure #4, to keep or retire the Sioux logo. The name was removed by "those powers in the State House and NCAA," by their misrepresentation to North Dakota voters.

*The movement to keep the nickname and logo was led by Native Americans of Siouan descent from both the Standing Rock and Spirit Lake Sioux Nations, UND alumni, sports fans, and athletic players and officials, as well as the university administration for a time.*

*It remains unclear how many voters casting a "yes" vote actually had the intent of voting for UND to keep using the "Fighting Sioux" name and symbol."*

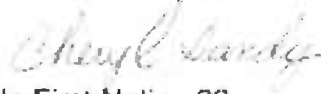
When everything, including words, logos, and monuments, are offensive, the world is in a sad place. This culture has become disoriented. They want to ban everything from the halls of history rather than value it as a teaching instrument. We boldly display the Warrior logo, which stands for the need to uphold the customs of our Anishinaabe and northern community of Warroad.

Wearing the Warrior jersey and logo with enthusiasm shows that you are a Warrior. Someone who is willing to keep the traditions alive. It is ours to hold graciously and with honor.

All members of our community, regardless of ethnicity, approve of the Warrior logo. We are acting in the interest of our community and to the Indigenous community who designed it.

Thank You to the Warroad Warrior Nation.

Cheryl Sandy



Northwest Angle First Nation 33

Athlete from Warroad High School (1972-1976)

Named one of the Top 10 Indian Athletes in Minnesota, 1975

University of Minnesota, Crookston Alumni and Athlete 1977-1979

← March 16th, 2023 Leslie Gail

March 16th, 2023

Dr. Shawn Yates  
Warroad Superintendent of Schools  
Warroad, MN 56763

Dear Dr. Yates,

My name is Leslie Sandy Makovsky. I am a Native American from the Northwest Angle First Nation on the Lake of the Woods. I'm an alumni of Warroad High School from the class of 1975.

It has come to my attention that the State of Minnesota and/or The National Coalition Against Racism in Sports and Media is attempting to remove the Warrior Logo from our school. The Warrior logo was revised by local American Indian artists, with the support of the local First Nation Indians and given to Warroad High School as a gift to use in perpetuity. Elders of the First Nation and community approved.

The "**Warrior**" and "**logo**" are specific to our community. Many years ago, there was a battle between the Ojibawe and the Sioux on the "War-Trail." This "War Trail," was a place of honor for the Ojibawa people. We hold the Warrior logo with that same type of respect.

The Warrior logo has nothing to do with racism or dishonor, the logo **is not a racist symbol**. The Warrior logo represents the strong presence and history of the Anishinaabe people in the area. Warroad High School shouldn't be restricted from the use of a logo that has special meaning to those in our community.

The National Coalition Against Racism in Sports and Media website states, "An educational institution's mission is to educate, not mis-educate, and to alleviate the ignorance behind racist stereotypes..." The ability to educate is not to remove logos that represent honor and respect from our town, our school.

**The mission of Warroad High School and the student athletes who wear the Warrior logo in sports is to appreciate the culture of the area, the people and community.**

Our heritage is proud. We are not faint of heart. Everything from the soil of this country to its air is sacred, and it is venerable, as is the Warrior logo.

I am sixty-seven years of age, and I take so much pride to this day, that I was a Warroad Warrior.

Miigwetch,  
Leslie Sandy Makovsky

March 17th, 2023

Dr. Shawn Yates  
Warroad Warriors  
Warroad High School

Boozhoo Dr. Shawn Yates,

I am 94 years of age, the elder of the Northwest Angle First Nation on Lake of the Woods. I was the Chief of Northwest Angle and I am the son and grandson of medicine men.

My family has told me there are those in St. Paul who oppose the Warrior logo. Many traditions have gone by the wayside but the traditions of the Warrior logo have been passed down to the children in the community by the indigenous people in our area. To remove the logo that many young Native athletes have worn is an insult.

Through the years I have watched my daughters, my son, my granddaughters, and other young Native American athletes wear the Warrior name, including TJ Oshe, who won two high school state championships for the Warroad Warriors. He was a UND "Fighting Sioux" hockey player, and now an NHL star for the Washington Capitals. TJ is a 2017 Stanley Cup winner, who brought the Stanley Cup back home to Warroad to share with his community. He also represented the United States of America on the 2014 Olympic hockey team.

I have enjoyed watching the Gardiner sisters wearing the Warrior jersey, now having moved on to play Division 1 college hockey. Their younger brother Daimon, drafted by the Vancouver Canucks and Jason Shaugabay, senior at Warroad High School and winner of the 2023 Mr. Hockey.

The heritage of our people should not be stripped away by the taking of the Warrior logo that has long been a part of this community. It reminds our youth of the traditions and teachings of the past. I am proud to see the young Native athletes wear the jersey with such grace.

I have been blessed to see this age of 94, to watch my granddaughters win two State Hockey Championships (2022 & 2023). *Kaiya and Katerie wear the jersey with respect knowing they represent their heritage of the Chippewa Nation and all First Nation indigenous people. Do not strip them of what is rightfully theirs to wear with pride.*

**Anishinnaabe do not define friendships by the color of the skin or the difference in beliefs. My people define friendships by that which is not taken from us.**

*Megwitch* (Thank you) for hearing my words,

*Les Sandy, Elder from the Northwest Angle First Nation 33*



Shawn Yates <shawn\_yates@warroad.k12.mn.us>

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## [External] Warroad Logo Support

2 messages

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Robbie Storbakken <robbies23@yahoo.com>

Thu, Mar 23, 2023 at 12:19 PM

To: shawn\_yates@warroad.k12.mn.us

I am writing this email to express my support for the Warroad High School Logo. I am fully aware of the logo's history and how it became to be, in which I am very proud to support. I am an enrolled member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibway. My nephew who plays on the Warroad Warriors Hockey team is also an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation.

For the past two years my family and friends which includes enrolled members from all regional tribes have supported the Warriors Team and not once has the logo issues came up, not in person or on social media. In my view as well as a majority of others, the focus should be on the youth and the success they are achieving and that alone.

In addition, I would like to point out a couple of examples that show great support for the team and indigenous youth on the team and do not mention the logo as an issue or concern.

1. "Hockey Indigenous" a Facebook group with 53,000+ followers made two posts. One post supporting the Section 8A championship game and advancing to state and another post supporting Jason Shaugabay as 2023 Mr. Hockey. Between the two posts, which had photos there were around 4,000-Likes, 160 comments and around 300 shares. Among all of the views on the photos there was not one comment or discussion of the logo being offensive or of concern.
2. My other example would be the White Earth Nation also posting a Facebook post supporting the Warriors as section 8A champions last year and this year. The social media post this year alone had 619 likes, 89 comments, and 132 shares. The White Earth Nation has 20k followers on that Facebook account. Again not one comment on the logo and nothing but love and support for the team and the indigenous youth on achieving yet another great hockey game and season.

Thank you for reaching out to the community and surrounding areas. I strongly believe that the logo should be looked at as a positive aspect of the warroad high school given the nature of origin and the overwhelming support from the region, community, tribes, Indigenous community and most importantly the youth.

Thanks Again

Robbie Storbakken  
Leech Lake enrolled Member

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Shawn Yates <shawn\_yates@warroad.k12.mn.us>

Thu, Mar 23, 2023 at 1:31 PM

To: Robbie Storbakken <robbies23@yahoo.com>

Thank you so much for sharing your thoughtful support. It is appreciated.

Regards,  
Shawn

[Quoted text hidden]





Shawn Yates <shawn\_yates@warroad.k12.mn.us>

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## [External] Warrior logo

2 messages

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Dane Shaugabay <daneshaugabay@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 24, 2023 at 3:00 PM

To: "shawn\_yates@warroad.k12.mn.us" <shawn\_yates@warroad.k12.mn.us>

To whom it may concern,

The Warroad Warrior name and logo is not just a name and logo, it is so much more than that.

The history of the name and the pride that the whole community of Warroad has for it is something to marvel at. Children in all extracurricular activities grow up in Warroad excited to one day become a Warrior. Youth in Warroad are educated on the history, culture, importance, and pride that are associated with the Warrior logo. When people visit our local arena, school, and gyms they are able to learn about how and why the Warrior name and logo came to be. I believe there is so much importance in this to keep the Native American culture alive and thriving. Instead of replacing the logo, I believe it is important to keep it and use it to educate others on the rich history and culture of our small community.

When local Ojibwa tribe chief Na-May-Poke sold his plot of land for Warroad to build its first school, it is said that one condition he had was that the Warrior name be used for athletic activities. In the Native American culture, respecting, listening, and honoring your elders is of utmost importance. So why would we decide now, all these years later, that we should go against what chief Na-May-Poke insisted on.

People often confuse mascots with logos. Our Warrior name and logo is not to be confused with a mascot. It is a symbol of pride and honor. It is not someone in a suit running around at sporting events making a mockery of the Native American culture.

I am an assistant coach for the Warroad Warriors boys hockey team. As a staff we ensure that the young men we coach understand the importance of what that jersey means and it's something none of them take lightly. I've seen young men come to tears after their last game as a Warrior. Knowing it's the last time they will wear that logo and the black and gold colors is something that can be very emotional for them, as well as the coaches watching them deal with that fact. I can't speak for coaches of other activities, but I believe they stress the same importance to their athletes.

I encourage anyone who is against our name and logo to come and visit our town, take a walk down our school hallways and through our arena, baseball, or football fields. Our local library

has very well documented information on this topic as well as overall Native American history and culture.

Respectfully,

Dane Shaugabay  
White Earth Nation Tribe member  
Proud Warroad Warrior graduate, 2009

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**Shawn Yates** <shawn\_yates@warroad.k12.mn.us>  
To: Dane Shaugabay <daneshaugabay@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 24, 2023 at 3:13 PM

Thank you so much for your letter of support. Your voice is important and I will make sure it is heard.

Regards,  
Shawn

[Quoted text hidden]

To Whom It May Concern:

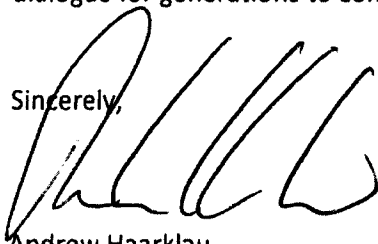
I am writing this letter in support of keeping the Warroad Warrior name and logo for the Warroad School District. I am not a resident of Warroad nor am I of Native American decent. I am a graduate of Grand Rapids High School and lifelong resident. Grand Rapids was previously the "Indians" until my sophomore year in high school (1995) of which we were all very proud of! Today we are the Thunderhawk's. Now, most of the general population is not aware that "Thunderhawk" was a Native Chief to the Hunkpapa tribe and a companion of Sitting Bull and was also used in Native American folklore as a mythical bird because our mascot in print is a drawn bird with an angry face with no real Native American lineage. That was the price to pay to be "politically correct" but what did we really accomplish??

Our past "Indian" logo was an elegant depiction of a Native American Chief with full headdress which was worn with pride by all our residents. Understandably, "Indian" by itself is not an accurate term (American Indian or Native American could be) but more importantly, the depiction created curiosity, inquisition and pride of our younger people and led to discussions about the Native American heritage in Northern Minnesota.

The loss of these iconic symbols amongst schools of primary and secondary education (ND Fighting Sioux) has accomplished only one thing. It has continually decreased the curiosity and dialogue of our youth and ultimately the discussion and education on the native heritage in our area. Today, (nearly 30 years later) our community is adding Ojibwe signage such as "Boozhoo" (Welcome) to our local building signage in an (albeit feeble) attempt to rekindle that curiosity and inquisition. However, our children and visitors do not have a plausible point of reference and it goes mostly unnoticed other than when read aloud, the occasional child responds "gazoontite" as a response...not quite success in my opinion.

The Warroad Warrior mascot is the epitome of a mascot created by the people, for the people and the proceeds from this trademark go back to the people by benefitting the indigenous youth. Please do not allow politicians to impact this in any fashion, it is a costly mistake that is nearly irreversible and beyond the dollars generated that go back to the community, we lose a great opportunity to educate and create dialogue for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Andrew Haarklau  
3187 Willivan Woods  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744