



Mission Statement
Grand Forks Public Schools will provide an environment of educational excellence that engages all learners to develop their maximum potential for community and global success.

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Superintendent of Schools
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January 28, 2015

Dear Native American Parent Committee:

I correspond in response to your letter dated January 13, 2015. In your letter, you request consideration for a change in current school-level practice regarding no adornment on high school commencement ceremony dress to allow Native American students to wear an eagle feather during commencement. Specifically, the request is made for supporting Native American students in wearing an eagle feather on their cap's tassel during commencement.

I am appreciative of the supporting documents provided with your letter. In addition, the input received during the Native American Parent Committee meeting on January 14, 2015, regarding the sacred history, symbolism, and origin of the eagle feather is useful. In a follow-up meeting with my administrative staff who were in attendance at the meeting, I understand the meeting was an opportunity for constructive and meaningful dialogue.

I have met to discuss this request with Mr. Jody Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Mr. Buck Kasowski, Central High School Principal, Mr. Kris Arason, Red River High School Principal, and Mr. Terry Bohan, Community High School Principal. We are in unanimous consensus that our district's high schools will allow Native American students, who have earned the eagle feather honor, to wear their eagle feather attached to their cap's tassel during high school graduation ceremonies.

I understand that the Native American Parent Committee supports the efforts of the district's Native American Liaison's development of a process to inform Native American senior students of this practice and to ensure their appropriate possession and display of the sacred eagle feather.

I thank the Native American Parent Committee and other persons supportive of this request for their interest in our Native American students' success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Larry P. Nybladh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Dr. Larry P. Nybladh
Superintendent of Schools

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