

14. Resolution to Repatriate a Skull of a Native American Ancestor Within the School District's Possession to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe for Burial

Action Item - 14

Board of Education Meeting Date: 4/24/2025

Title: Resolution to Repatriate a Skull of a Native American Ancestor Within the School District's Possession to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe for Burial

WHEREAS, in July 2021, human skeletal remains were discovered as part of the anatomy teaching resources at Central High School;

WHEREAS, District personnel took immediate action to consult with the Temple University Department of Anthropology to ascertain identifying information on the discovered remains;

WHEREAS, upon anthropological assessment, a skull among the collection was identified as belonging to a male Native American;

WHEREAS, the District investigated all high schools within the District and found no other remains covered by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) in its possession;

WHEREAS, the NAGPRA requires federally funded institutions to return Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony to "lineal descendants" and "culturally affiliated Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations."

WHEREAS, in compliance with NAGPRA, the District completed an inventory and summary of the Native American remains (the one skull) within its possession;

WHEREAS, before completing its inventory, in compliance with NAGPRA, the District initiated consultation with more than 100 tribal representatives on the cultural and geographical affiliation of the remains;

WHEREAS, no associated tribe claimed the remains and no lineal descendant and no "Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization" with cultural affiliation was identified;

WHEREAS, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe, although unaffiliated with the remains, have agreed to repatriate this ancestor for burial;

WHEREAS, the District has submitted a notice of inventory completion to the Federal Register for publication;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the District may repatriate the above referenced remains in its possession.

Office Originating Request: General Counsel

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