



SIERRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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To inspire,
engage,
challenge, and
support all
students to
reach their
highest level of
learning and
personal
development.

Dear Sierra Unified Community,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing today to share an important update regarding Assembly Bill 3074 and its impact on our school community.

Assembly Bill 3074 requires California schools to review and, in some cases, change school mascots that reference Native American culture or imagery. This legislation is intended to ensure that all school representations are respectful, inclusive, and aligned with the values of dignity and cultural sensitivity.

At this week's regularly scheduled board meeting, the Sierra Unified School District Board of Trustees was presented with a formal letter from Mr. Fred Beihn, Tribal Chairman of the North Fork Rancheria, and Ms. Elizabeth Hutchins, Tribal Chairwoman of the Big Sandy Rancheria. In their letter—and in deeply meaningful remarks made in person at our meeting—both leaders provided their full consent for Sierra High School to continue using the "Chieftain" as its mascot.

Chairman Beihn and Chairwoman Hutchins shared the rich history of the Chieftain mascot at Sierra High and emphasized that it honors the noble and lasting contributions of our community. They described the term "Chieftain" as one of pride and leadership, reflective of strong, dignified, and noble leaders who have shaped and guided their people. Their words underscored that our use of the Chieftain mascot is not only appropriate, but a source of shared honor and respect.

We are incredibly grateful for their partnership and leadership, and for their recognition of how deeply our school and community value this symbol. Moving forward, we remain committed to ensuring that the Chieftain mascot continues to be portrayed with the reverence and respect it deserves.

Thank you for your continued support of Sierra Unified and for working together to build a future rooted in respect, unity, and shared pride.



Around the District

We are excited to offer families an alternative option to receive the required vaccinations at a more convenient location. The Fresno County Immunization Mobile Clinic will be on site at Foothill Elementary on **May 27th** and at Sierra Jr. & Sr. High on **May 29th**. To take advantage of this convenient service, parents will need to accompany their students. In addition, Sierra Jr. & Sr. High will also be hosting a FREE Sports Physical Clinic for prospective 2025-26 student athletes, which will be held on August 15th. Just a reminder that California does require some vaccinations for students to attend any school in California. Please take advantage of this opportunity to make sure your child may attend school on the first day. This includes 6th grade students moving to 7th in need of their TDAP.

Good News

There are far too many good things to share around the district this month. The senior project judging, spring sport accomplishments, and carnival successes to name a few. I hope each of you has the opportunity to celebrate our students in one of the many ways we showcase their talents and accomplishments in the month of May.

Measure U Update

- Lease Leaseback contracts approved by the Board 5-12-25
- Contracts for abatement and carpet for library remodel approved by the Board 5-12-25
- Renderings of the library remodel shared with the Board
- \$100,000 of furniture donated for the library remodel by Smith System
- Half of the carpet for the library donated by Mowhak Carpet
- Building Standards approved by the Board 5-12-25
- **Groundbreaking set for June 11th at 9:00 In front of Sierra High**

As always, thank you for being part of the Sierra Unified family.

Warm regards,



Dr. Lori Grace
Superintendent, Sierra Unified School District