



Chairman Clyde Estes - Vice Chairman Neil Cody Russell - Secretary/Treasurer Marvin Grassrope, Sr  
Council Members: Stephanie Bolman - Donovan Grassrope - John McCauley

## **Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Council Meeting – December 2, 2020**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-054**

#### **APPROVE SUPPORTING LEGISLATION IN THE NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE TO CREATE EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION OPTIONS AND SOLUTIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934; and

**WHEREAS**, as empowered by the Constitution and Bylaws, Article VI, Section 1, (e) the Tribal Council as authorized by law to safeguard and promote the peace, safety, morals, and general welfare of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and to regulate and conduct of trade and the use and disposition of property upon the reservation provided that any ordinance directly affecting nonmembers of the reservation shall be subject to review by the Secretary of the Interior; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of the people of the state to provide all children with public schools that reflect historical truths and high expectations and to create conditions in all schools where these expectations can be met; and

**WHEREAS**, existing educational structures do not meet the academic, spiritual, cultural, and social needs of Indigenous students in South Dakota as evidenced by statewide achievement data; and

**WHEREAS**, education reform is necessary to strengthen the academic performance and cultural identity of elementary and secondary public school students, especially Indigenous students; and

**WHEREAS**, to date, the South Dakota Department of Education has not developed a metric to assess the level of implementation of the Oceti Sakowin Essential

Understandings, a state recognized set of standards, as approved by the State Board of Education Standards; and

**WHEREAS**, parents and educators have a right and a responsibility to participate in the education institutions which serve them; and

**WHEREAS**, different students learn differently and public school programs should be customized to fit the needs of individual students; and

**WHEREAS**, there are parents, educators, and other citizens in the state who are willing and able to offer educational programs but who lack a channel through which they can direct their efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of students and their communities to access instruction and educational experiences in the public school system that are anchored in the official Indigenous languages of South Dakota.

**NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED**, that the Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Council does hereby support the development and passage of legislation establishing a network of publicly and equitably funded community-based models of Indigenous education based on the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings with the State of South Dakota; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the South Dakota legislature shall convene a study committee with state and tribal representatives to develop a clear and equitable strategy to establish and grow community-based models of Indigenous education models in South Dakota; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the state shall not support the use of funds for community-based models of Indigenous education models if such funds are taken from existing programs for Indian education.

**CERTIFICATION**

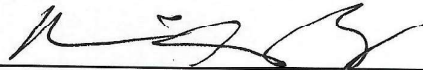
The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Council assembled in Regular Session with a quorum present on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2020 by the affirmative vote of five members for, none against, none absent and none not-voting.



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**Clyde Estes, Chairman  
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe**

**ATTEST**



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**Marvin Grassrope Sr., Secretary/Treasurer  
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe**