



Dear Teachers, Parents, Students, Community Members and Staff of the School District,

I would like to respectfully and formally introduce myself to you, in a way that my Grandmother taught me.

Ya'at'eeh Shik'ei aadoo Shidine'e,
Shí éi Tó Hané Nishíí, Tabaahá Báshishchíín, Tłashchí'í' Dashícheii, Naakai Dine'é Dashínalí.
Tó Níhalíí' Naashá. Shí éi Makaius Marks.

With Beauty and Harmony, I acknowledge the Stewards of the Land, who are the Indigenous Peoples. I recognize the presence of the Hopi, Havasupai, Hualapai, Zuni, White Mountain, Chiricahua, Navajo, Fort Mojave, Gila River, Ute, Piute, Yavapai, Akimel O'odham, and Tohono O'odham Nations, who understand the Land as Home. In respect and understanding, I revere the Communal Roots of the Community, composing of the Indigenous, African American/Black, Hispanic/Chicano/Latino, Asian, and Pacific Communities.

I introduce myself in the context that my history is HER-story, as a Child of my Mother and my Father. I am Near The Water, Born for Edgewater, my Mother's Father's Mother is Red Bottom People, my Father's Father's Mother is The People Coming Home. I naturally am from Where The Water Comes Together, I am Makaius Marks.

I am a 19-year-old Indigenous man, a recent graduate of Flagstaff Unified School District and I am running for a position on the Flagstaff Unified School District. I am a current student at Northern Arizona University majoring in Applied Indigenous Studies, and minoring in Ethnic Studies, I study these particular fields to continue to build off the work I have been doing for years. Speaking and partaking in City Council and City Hall meetings, School District hearings, University lectures, and Community Gatherings, creating language and action to support, respect and reflect the Community.

Respecting and acknowledging community, not just one community but all of the Community, by doing so to encourage and assure the youth from Preschool to High School. Inspiring voices and listening to the youth. Especially, when it comes to School Shooting to a Police Shooting, discrimination based on language, religion, or identity. Pushing for years to have language developed to respect and honor People, no matter their Identity, Sexual Orientation, Language, and Religion. Even then, there is still much work to be done for the children to learn more about the whole world around them.

Committing countless hours to in service of the community, in the betterment of our community. Devoting numerous hours in conversation with City and Community in Schools and Communal spaces. Advocating for changes to more accurately reflect the Community,

constituting of the Indigenous, Black, Hispanic/Chicano/Latino, Asian, and Pacific Communities. Utilizing and acknowledging the historical backgrounds of said communities and their historical presence here in the Flagstaff area.

I am a 19-year-old Indigenous man, and I am not alone demanding change in educational inequities and inaccessibility, because no one else is. They are families and young people who need change to better reflect the community because this is where we all have belonging, where you and I have belonging.

Haagone', I will see you on the Ballot,
Makaius Marks