



## TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEETING      August 14, 2018  
OF:

---

TITLE:              Rename Rodeo Days Holiday - Requested by Board Member Rachael Sedgwick

---

ITEM #:            15

---

Information:

Study:

Action:            X

---

### PURPOSE:

For the Board to discuss and vote on changing the name of TUSD's Rodeo Days Holiday.

---

### DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The Board was contacted by "a local group that is interested in discussing the potential of changing the name of the break given to TUSD students in February away from one focused on the rodeo and toward one that focuses on Tucson's heritage more globally. Essentially, we oppose the use of the word rodeo because it glorifies horrifically abusive practices toward animals."

The group sent us information explaining their position, pasted below and titled "Rodeos: A Harmless Tradition or Spectacle of Animal Cruelty? Know Before You Go!" They also shared with us:

...a documented list of abuses that occur in rodeos. Many of these practices are reasons why several prominent animal protection organizations oppose rodeos. Additionally, several cities across the nation have moved to end rodeos and others have moved to abolish and/or restrict many of the most abusive practices against animals. Tucson has no such ordinances at this time, hence TUSD's honoring of the rodeo with a school break is something that warrants reconsideration.

If you would like to see the list of documented abuses, contact the Board.

### Rodeos: A Harmless Tradition or Spectacle of Animal Cruelty? Know Before You Go!

Historically rodeos have been billed as an indelible part of American western heritage, invoking romantic images of fiercely independent and ruggedly handsome cowboys and man's brute superiority over beasts. Rodeos have been heralded by many as a way to embrace the bygone days of America's Wild West and keep history alive. That is how Tucson's rodeo, held every year at the end of February, is billed to the public. Tucson's rodeo is honored with a parade, several local events, and a break in school for "rodeo days" for the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD). But what exactly is Tucson gaining, and perhaps more importantly, teaching its children by honoring a tradition which glorifies the abuse, torture, maiming, and traumatizing of defenseless horses, steer, and calves for days on end each year?

In a city where "Be Kind" has become the unofficial motto - isn't it time for us to extend this concept to ensure that all Tucsonans and those who come to visit us - human animal and non-human animal alike - are treated with kindness

and respect? One of the best places we can start this is by changing the way in which we approach the annual rodeo. The name "rodeo" itself evokes images of terrified baby calves body-slammed, roped, and dragged around pens, horses and bulls made "wild" through electric shocks, and countless injuries inflicted on animals who are stomped, beaten, and whipped throughout the days-long event. By giving TUSD students two days off at the end of each February to honor the rodeo, we are perpetuating this cycle of violence. By changing the name of "Rodeo Break" to "Old Pueblo Days", the TUSD has an opportunity to show its commitment to teaching its students that words do indeed matter. The proposed name change for the TUSD school break will allow the school district to move away from honoring the cruelty inherent in rodeos and instead move toward a reflection of the community we are striving to become.

BOARD POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

Policies A, K

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS:

For all Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs), Initiator of Agenda Item provides the name of the agency responsible for recording the Agreement after approval:

For amendments to current IGAs, Initiator provides original IGA recording number:

Legal Advisor Signature (if applicable)

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

\_\_\_\_\_ District Budget  
\_\_\_\_\_ State/Federal Funds  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other  
Budget Cost    Budget Code

Budget Certification (for use by Office of Financial Services only):  
  
Date  
I certify that funds for this expenditure in the amount of \$  
are available and may be:  
Authorized from current year budget  
Authorized with School Board approval  
Code:    Fund:

INITIATOR(S):

Rachael Sedgwick, Governing Board Member	8-13-18
Name	Title
	Date

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED/ ON FILE IN BOARD OFFICE:

<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>
<a href="#">Click to download</a>
No Attachments Available

