



GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

SACATON, AZ 85247

RESOLUTION GR-08-09

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION GR-153-79, WHICH SUPPORTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OFFICIAL ORTHOGRAPHY, AND APPROVING THE METHOD OF TEACHING THE AKIMEL O'OTHAM (PIMA) AND PEE POSH (MARICOPA) LANGUAGES

WHEREAS, the Gila River Indian Community Council (the "Community Council") is the governing body of the Gila River Indian Community (the "Community"); and

WHEREAS, the Community Council is empowered, under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community, Article XV, Section 1(a)(9) to promote and protect the health, peace, morals, education, and general welfare of the Community and its members; and

WHEREAS the School Boards, Staff, Elders, the Cultural Resources and the Education Standing Committee recognize the need to amend Resolution GR-153-79; and

WHEREAS, the Community recognizes that the Akimel O'otham (Pima) and Pee Posh (Maricopa) languages are endangered, and that many Community members have become limited in speaking the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh languages at home; and

WHEREAS, the Community recognizes that substantial work has been done updating the orthography to cultivate a curriculum that can be utilized by both adult Community Members and their children; and

WHEREAS, the Community has initiated a program for revitalization and restoration of the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh languages as demonstrated by the:

- 1) Collection of information on the current vitality of the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh languages;
 - 2) Development of long-range goals, established and affirmed by the Community, for preserving and revitalizing its traditional languages;
 - 3) Design and implementation of teacher training programs in order to build an internal language teaching capacity;
 - 4) Development and implementation of a community-based language program;
- and

WHEREAS, the United States of America, in the Native American Languages Act of 1990, P.L. 101-477 (October 30, 1990), recognized that traditional languages of Native Americans in the United States are an integral part of their cultures and identities, and adopted a federal policy to protect, preserve and promote the rights and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice and develop their languages; to encourage and support the use of Native American languages as an instructional medium as a right of Indian tribes; to recognize the rights of Indian tribes to give official status to their languages; and to encourage all institutions of elementary, secondary and higher education to include Native American languages in their curriculum; and

WHEREAS, the Community Council has determined that it is in the best interests of the Community to actively support efforts to increase the teaching of the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh languages.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Council hereby amends Resolution GR-153-79, and adopts the attached updated alphabet and materials that have been shared with the School Boards, Staff, Elders, the Cultural Resources and Education Standing Committees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Community Council affirms the teaching of the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh languages by:

- 1) Supporting the provision of instruction of the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh children in the Community school settings, and to Community members who desire to learn;
- 2) Requesting that culturally sensitive issues involving the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh be appropriately addressed at the direction of Community Elders and Community members knowledgeable about the culture of the Akimel O'otham and/or Pee Posh;
- 3) Supporting the teaching of a second language methods, techniques, and strategies, such as dual language, immersion, total physical response (TPR) and other appropriate techniques to teach fluency in the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh languages;
- 4) Supporting immersion programs that will assist in the fluency of our Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh children and adults; and
- 5) Supporting increased funding, for the teaching of the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh languages.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Governor, or in his absence, the Lieutenant Governor, is hereby authorized to sign any other documents or take any other actions necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to authority contained in Article XV, Section 1, (a) (7), (9), (18), and Section 4 of the amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community, ratified by the Tribe January 22, 1960, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on March 17, 1960, the foregoing Resolution was adopted on the 7th of January 2009, at a regular Community Council Meeting held in District 3, Sacaton, Arizona at which a quorum of 15 Members were present by a vote of: 15 FOR; 0 OPPOSE; 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT; 0 VACANCIES.

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY


GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


COMMUNITY COUNCIL SECRETARY

O'otham Orthography

Alphabet		O'otham Sound	English Sound
1	A, a	<u>a</u> sh - laugh	was
2	B, b	<u>b</u> an - coyote	<u>b</u> ear
3	Ch, ch	<u>ch</u> uchul - chicken	<u>ch</u> icken
4	D, d	jud <u>d</u> om - bear	<u>d</u> eer
5	<u>D</u> , <u>d</u>	ma <u>d</u> - mother's child	stopped
6	E, e	<u>e</u> sh - chin	<i>Distinct O'otham sound</i>
7	G, g	<u>g</u> a:th - gun	<u>g</u> un
8	H, h	<u>h</u> u:ñ - corn	<u>h</u> orse
9	I, i	ipu <u>d</u> - dress	<u>f</u> ish
10	J, j	<u>J</u> u:kam - Mexican/Hispanic	<u>j</u> uice
11	K, k	<u>k</u> e:k - standing	<u>k</u> ite
12	L, l	<u>l</u> u:lsi - candy	<i>Spanish (r)</i>
13	M, m	<u>m</u> u:val - fly/bee	<u>m</u> oney
14	N, n	<u>n</u> a:k - ear	<u>n</u> achos
15	<u>Ñ</u> , <u>ñ</u>	<u>ñ</u> e:ñ - tongue	<u>piñ</u> ion
16	O, o	<u>o</u> :g - father	<u>s</u> aw
17	P, p	<u>p</u> a:n - bread	<u>p</u> ottery
18	S, s	<u>s</u> -he:pith - cold	<u>s</u> oup
19	Sh, sh	<u>sh</u> u: <u>sh</u> k - shoe	<i>Tongue touches roof of mouth</i>
20	Th, th	<u>th</u> othoñ - ant	<u>th</u> row
21	U, u	<u>u</u> 'us - sticks	<u>M</u> oon
22	V, v	<u>v</u> onam - hat	<u>v</u> ote
23	W, w	<u>w</u> ippo - eyelashes	<u>w</u> ater
24	Y, y	<u>y</u> a:v - key	<u>y</u> ellow

O'otham Vowels

	Vowels	O'otham Sound	English Sound
1	A, a	<u>a</u> sh - laugh	F <u>a</u> ther
		a:li - baby añilo - ring asuga - sugar auppa - cottonwood	
2	E, e	<u>e</u> sh - chin	Own distinct O'otham sound
		e'es - plants e:kthag - shadow elthag - skin esh - chin	
3	I, i	<u>i</u> puḍ - dress	F <u>i</u> sh
		i'iks shu:shk - tennis shoe i'ispul - spurs ipuḍ - dress i:vak - spinach	
4	O, o	<u>o</u> :g - father	S <u>a</u> w
		on - salt o:o - bone(s) o'hon - letter, book, magazine o:og - tears	
5	U, u	<u>u</u> 'us - sticks	M <u>oo</u> n
		uv - girl u:k hi'himtham - airplane u'u - bullet uvig/uhig- bird	

Diphthongs

Combination sounds / Go:k Eve:m Kaithag

	Go:k Eve:m Kaithag	<u>O'othamach</u>	O'otham Words	Milganach
1	ai	(sounds like 'eye') hai	hai bai kai	break cooked/ripe seed
2	ei	(sounds like '____') bei <i>O'otham unique sound</i>	bei ei kei	to get to plant to stand
3	ia	(sounds like 'yeah') mia	mia bia ñia	near to get helping/spoon food to wake
4	io	(sounds like 'ee yaw') hiosik	hiosik tha:pio u:pio	to bloom/flower to iron skunk
5	iu	(sounds like 'ee you') svegium	svegium giumtham biuk	pink match hungry (plural)
6	oi	(sounds like 'boy') koi	koi voi shoig	to sleep to lay/lie poor
7	ua	(sounds like 'wa') kua	kua hua suam	forehead basket brown, tan, yellow or orange
8	ui	(sounds like 'we') kui	kui wui kuinth	tree across from count

Diacritics

Symbol	Description of sound	O'otham	Milgan sound
 colon	A vowel before  , is elongated or lengthened.	ke:k - stand vo:g - road ko:sh - asleep vo:k - stomach	
 apostrophe	 Breaks word, short break (glottal stop) between letters.	a'al - children u'u - bullets je'e - mother e'es - plants	Button
 tilde	() on top n makes the ny sound.	ñe'e - singing ñui - buzzard ñe:ñ - tongue ñeithakuḍ - mirror	Canyon Pinion
 period	() under the d makes the t sound.	hujḍ - lizard thaikuḍ - chair amjiḍ - from jevedḍ - land/earth	But
 dash	() after an S , (s-) is used to make the h sound, or when followed by ch (s-ch).	s-h	s-ch
		S-hekig - happy S-hotham - hurry S-hassig - to be difficult S-havk - to be light S-he:pith - cold S-ho:hith - like	S-chuk - black color S-che:thag - green/blue color S-chu:gam - dark (cannot see) S-cho:dag - rough (skin) S-chu' - night S-chuk'chu - black person
 breve	The silent (i) is an aspiration* with a breve (˘) placed on top of the (i). This silent (i) <u>will not be used</u> as it's considered confusing to learners.	thobĩ thob thothonĩ thothon svegĩ sveg	

*Pronunciation accompanied by breathing/wind escaping from mouth