



September 3, 2021

This week, a social media post reported a Clinton Public Schools elementary student had his hair forcefully cut by two older students without his consent. While this would be concerning in any situation, it was especially so in this case because hair is sacred and of great significance in the student's Native American culture.

This afternoon, Clinton Public Schools, the student's family, Governor Wassana and other leaders of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes had a very productive meeting to discuss the facts that have been determined so far. **While some details remain disputed, Clinton Public Schools and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal leadership agree that the initial report that the student was held down by two older students while his hair was cut is inaccurate and did not occur.** The video evidence uncovered in the investigation clearly shows that the student entered and exited the restroom by himself and was never in the restroom with two older students. The investigation will continue to better understand what did occur and what actions will be appropriate at that time.

As a school district, Clinton Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment where all students feel welcome, valued and respected. Racism and intolerance in any form are unacceptable.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and Clinton Public Schools maintain a strong relationship that both entities hope to grow stronger in the future. We will continue to work together regarding this situation, as well as other collaborations that support the well-being of our students and community. Our mutual goal is to provide educational opportunities and cultural experiences that benefit all students.

Sincerely,

*Governor Reggie Wassana*  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

*Tyler Bridges*  
Superintendent