Affidavit

State of Wisconsin)

County of Sawyer)

I, Mary Hermes, state under oath the following:

1. I am the mother of John Lee Hermes and Bineshii Hermes Roach. John Lee is currently a freshman at Conserve School and Bineshii applied to Conserve School this fall.

2. I have a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. I am an Associate Professor of Education at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

3. On January 30, 2009 I received the attached email from Conserve School announcing the school closing.

4. I attended a meeting with approximately a dozen parents on February 1, 2009 to discuss this announcement with Stefan Anderson (Headmaster), Ron Kazmar (Trustee) and John Calhoun (Trustee.)

5. At this meeting Ron Kazmar admitted that there is a conflict of interest built into the trust, but that it was clear that their first responsibilities were to Central Steel and Wire, second to the Trust and third to Conserve School.

6. At that same meeting Mr. Kazmar was asked when they first started thinking about closing Conserve School. Mr. Kazmar said they were keeping a keen eye on the financial situation this fall and on September 15, when Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy, they became seriously concerned. He said as the downturn worsened, they became concerned how or if they would continue the school.

7. As a professional educator, the lack of planning was appalling. Previously, I had an opportunity in the early fall to review curriculum documents, speak to the Academic Dean about curriculum planning and observe classes. This careful planning stands in stark contrast to the so called "transition plan" which is only a skeleton of ideas hastily thrown together and with little or no apparent input from the teachers. In short, they seem to be muddling their way through this with no apparent educational plan.

8. I have spoken with many teachers since the decision to close the school was announced and they have all described varying degrees of chaos. One teacher specifically described the students as being in crisis. For example, at this time last semester they had one student failing their class and currently this teacher has 7 failing. They also described that many students have stopped doing work or have given up.

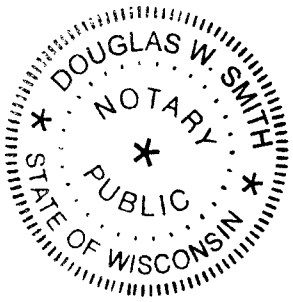
9. A teacher told me that "students are swarming the health center. My classes have 3-6 absences on many days. I find out latter that students have spent the day with the nurse and have taken a "mental health day."

10. A few teacher have described writing so many recommendations that their classroom preparation time has suffered significantly.

11. During the February 20th parent, Trustee, and administrator's meeting the parents requested outside mental health professionals be brought in to care for students. Parents felt students were traumatized and were worried about a potential psychological emergency.

Signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me and in my presence this 25 day of February, 2009.



Notary Public

Expires 9-11-11