AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF WISCONSIN)

SS: 496-62-4094

COUNTY OF SAWYER)

I, Mary Hemes, do state and aver to the following:

1. The attached letter is a true and accurate description of the hardships my family and I have faced since the announced closing of Conserve School's four year college preparatory school.

2. The closing of the school at the end of this school year creates an immediate and irreparable harm on my family and child.

Signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me and in my presence this 23 day of February, 2009.

Notary Public

Allison Young

expires 8/15/2011

NOTARY PUBLIC ALISON YOUNG STATE OF WISCONSIN

We have two children, John Lee Hermes (freshman at Conserve) and Bineshii Hermes Roach (prospective student). Bineshii has not been accepted to any other high schools and cannot attend Hayward High School since they both of children have experienced damage to their self-esteem as enrolled tribal members in this school system. As bright Native Americans, they are odds with many entrenched practices, and are faced with a system which is segregated in many ways. It is ironic and will cause a premature shift in our family to send them to a school far away, where travel costs will prevent us from seeing them very often. However, that is a better alternative than allowing them to be shaped in a racist environment. As native children, both of their families of origins have inherited a myriad of social-emotional problems. We have survived trauma before, our immediate family strong, but our extended families are rife with additions and alcoholism. We had hoped Conserve would be the extended family and stability we alone cannot provide. We were expecting them to be the surrogate aunts and uncles they need at this time in life.

During the past 20 days, since we received this news, we have sent in 9 applications for and with the children. This adds up to countless financial aid forms, this year's tax returns (10 copies), 20 requests for recommendation letters, school releases and transcripts, and 9 essays and applications written by the children. The dollar costs are around $600, and since my husband is self-employed and took time from his work to do this, 3 weeks of pay ($2,700). John Lee is visiting a school in New York and we will take a family trip to Colorado to visit schools in March.

A decision like this is akin to a family decision to move or take a job over 1,000 miles away from the other family members. Since it effects 2 of our children, you can imagine, this is a major decision. We took over a year to decide to let John Lee apply and attend Conserve, and this school is only 120 miles away.

We are an extremely close knit family, and now our only option is to send our children 1,000 miles away. In order to see them even three times per school year, this will cost an additional $4000, over and above tuition and other expenses. We have not even had time to decide if this is realistic or financial feasible and yet due to the time pressure of receiving this news after school's application deadlines, we will need to decide in the matter of a couple weeks.

2/23/09

expires: 8/15/2011