



St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

September 20th, 2013

Dear Members of the SRCS Board of Education:

It has been brought to our attention by concerned community members that the Salmon River Central School Board of Education is considering reversing the Board's February 20, 2008 decision to remove Mr. William L. Plante from his varsity hockey coach position and all future coaching positions with the Salmon River Central School district.

We, at the **Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe**, do not feel this is in the best interest of the students of the **Salmon River Central School District**. We feel that to re-instate Mr. Plante, would negate the school's mission statement of, "The Salmon River Central School District values academic achievement, cultural diversity, and celebrates individuality within a safe, supportive learning environment."

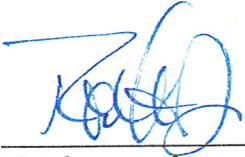
In coming to what must have been a difficult decision, in 2008, the Salmon River Central School District found that Mr. Plante had used demeaning and verbally-abusive language with his players and violated other school district regulations intended to protect the health and safety of the students who participate in the district's athletic programs.

We strongly believe that allowing Mr. Plante to resume involvement in the coaching of the student athletes of the Salmon River Central School district constitutes a complete disregard for the well-being of the children that he comes into contact with, as well as sending a message that the abusive language and behavior exhibited by Mr. Plante while a coach, found by the arbitrator in Mr. Plante's appeal to include calling children "moron" and "retard," is acceptable behavior on the part of an adult entrusted to be a role model for our children.

When defending his use of such language, Mr. Plante suggested that he didn't actually call the students in question those names. In response to this "defense", the arbitrator found that while "telling a student athlete that he is "playing like a fucking retard" is considerably better than calling him one"... "by no stretch of the imagination can this be called appropriate for a coach or a teacher." In addition, the arbitrator found that a recording of Mr. Plante showed "clear and incontrovertible evidence of at least racial stereotyping if not of outright racism." This pattern of behavior, coupled with previous numerous warnings, and negative evaluations of Mr. Plante's performance during the time period just prior to his being removed permanently as a coach, gives us serious doubt as to the basis of any reconsideration of the Board's 2008 decision and, indeed, any acknowledgement on the part of Mr. Plante that he behaved improperly.

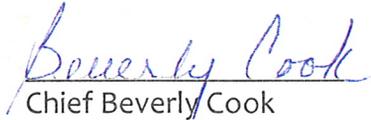
We strongly urge you to stand by the February 20, 2008 decision to remove Mr. William L. Plante from his varsity hockey coach position and all future coaching positions with the district. In closing, we hope that you will consider the effects your decision will have upon the future generations of students/players in both of our communities, in addition to the potential legal liability your decision to reinstate Mr. Plante as an athletic coach could place on the Salmon River Central School District.

Respectfully,



Chief Ron Lafrance Jr.

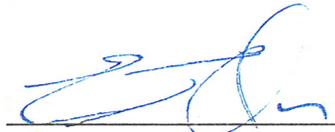
Chief Paul Thompson



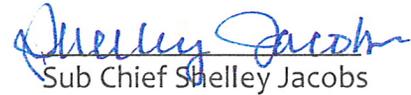
Chief Beverly Cook



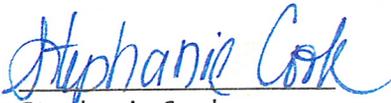
Sub Chief Michael Conners



Sub Chief Eric Thompson



Sub Chief Shelley Jacobs



Stephanie Cook

Executive Director of Education



Michele Mitchell

Legal Counsel