



**RESOLUTION OF THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION**

**(Request to the Whiteriver Unified School District Not to Renew its Contract with Earl Pettit,
and that the Arizona Superintendent for Schools Conduct an Independent
Investigation into Certain Allegations)**

- WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, *inter alia*, the Tribal Council has the authority to represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council did this day hear numerous complaints and allegations from parents of pupils attending Whiteriver School concerning the administration of the Superintendent, Earl Pettit; and
- WHEREAS**, the parents advised the Tribal Council that they had repeatedly tried to bring their concerns to the Whiteriver Unified School District Board on four separate occasions, but had been repeatedly denied a hearing; and
- WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council has received a letter from the Assistant Principal, and understands that the School Board is interested whether Mr. Pettit's contract should be renewed, and that the Tribal Council should notify the School Board by August 2, 2007, at 12 noon; and
- WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council further understands that a petition has been circulated seeking that Mr. Pettit's contract not be renewed, and that the petition has received 237 signatures, and will be shortly delivered to the School Board or its agents; and
- WHEREAS**, parents did submit their concerns to the Tribal Council in writing, as attached and incorporated by this reference, which include serious allegations concerning Mr. Pettit's conduct and management of the school; and
- WHEREAS**, pursuant to Arizona law, any personnel action regarding Mr. Pettit remains the responsibility of the School Board for the Whiteriver Unified School District; and
- WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council concurs with the parents concerns as expressed this day, and finds that Mr. Pettit's contract should not be renewed by the School Board; and
- WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council further finds that the concerns and allegations are serious and reflect poorly on the administration and management of Whiteriver Unified School District by Mr. Pettit, and thus should be independently investigated by the Superintendent of Schools for the Arizona Department of Education, Tom Horne; and
- WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council further finds that given the seriousness of the charges against Mr. Pettit, especially his alleged cultural insensitivity, the School Board should immediately

direct Mr. Pettit not to enter onto the premises of the Whiteriver Unified School District or the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that:

1. The Superintendent for the State of Arizona is hereby requested to undertake an independent investigation of (1) the management and administration of the Whiteriver Unified School District; and (2) Mr. Pettit's conduct as alleged herein.
2. The School Board is hereby requested to immediately place Mr. Earl Pettit on administrative leave and that he should be instructed not to enter onto the property of the School District or the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.
3. The School Board is further requested not to renew Mr. Pettit's contract, and to take whatever actions that may be appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice Chairwoman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on August 1, 2007 duly adopted by a vote of TEN for and ZERO against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to the authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (s), (t), and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).



Chairman of the Tribal Council



Secretary of the Tribal Council

SUMMARY OF CONCERNS

Submitted by Parents of Children Attending Whiteriver School
To the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe
August 1, 2007

1. Whether the food service meets Arizona food guidelines.
2. Whether Arizona Open Meeting laws have been violated by the School Board's preventing a hearing of parental concerns during meetings of the School Board.
3. Hostile treatment of tribal members and children by Southwest Food Service.
4. Mr. Pettit's insensitivity to Apache culture and traditions.
5. Mr. Pettit's abusive behavior toward children.
6. Inappropriate termination and discipline of teachers who have a long and successful history of teaching.
7. Inappropriate transfers or forced retirements of popular and effective teachers.
8. Twenty teachers have left the School District from January to May, 2007.
9. A tribal member applicant for the position of teacher, Dr. Rea Goklish, was turned down and told to apply elsewhere, despite her credentials.
10. Another Apache teacher, recently certified, resigned, and, unlike other foreign recruits, the School District made no effort to assist her with certification, nor were efforts made to retain her.
11. Why the school could not prevent 100 students from dropping out during the 2006-2007 school year, and what measures are being instituted to prevent further dropouts.
12. Why the school's overall enrollment has dropped, losing \$2 million in state funds.
13. Why school officials cannot meet with community members past 5 p.m.
14. Why children who cannot pay for lunch are sent away, and why Mr. Petit took food away from students who had a delinquent account during their lunch.
15. Whether school funds were appropriately used to fund trips to China, the Philippines and London, among other destinations, or whether there were more appropriate uses.
16. New teacher recruits from other countries cannot communicate effectively with children, and this has compromised their instruction.
17. Why recruits from other countries receive certain certification benefits (tutors, exam fees, administrative leave, board and per diem), while others do not.
18. Whether there has been recruitment of Native American teachers from other tribes, including recent graduates from tribal or other colleges.
19. Bus routes and stops have inconvenient and dangerous locations, which require children to travel miles from the stops to their homes and expose them to areas with high crime rates, as well as drug and alcohol abuse.
20. The Day Care Center does not appear to be licensed and was intended for the children of students; however, it has become a center for the children of employees.
21. Given the poor management of Mr. Petit, his contract should not be renewed.
22. The administration and management of Whiteriver Unified School District should be independently investigated by the Superintendent of Schools for the Arizona Department of Education, Tom Horne.