

received
2-22-93

2-19-93

Dearest Chief Mankiller,

I know you probably have people to read your mail but I hope you can take the time to read this personally. I don't know if you can help me or not but here's my story anyway.

I have two daughters in Bell Elementary School in Stilwell, Ok. Our school is about 80% Cherokee Indian students. We have a GREAT Indian Principal, Jim Henson. He has also chose to coach our 7th and 8th grade girls all Indian Basketball team. He is qualified to do both.

Before Mr. Henson became our principal our school was for three years "low performing". Two years after he came our school was "at risk". The motivation, Love and Great teaching skills from our principal and Teachers have taught our children well. Our childrens test scores have doubled. Everyone has done their job well and are to be congratulated. BUT we have two "white women" on our school board that has tried and is trying to destroy our principal and children. Our girls basketball team has been Ranked 3rd in the district due to Mr. Henson's Coaching Abilities. But now our "two white women" has said Mr. Henson can no longer coach our girls. They have stripped away pride and Confidence from them and they feel humiliated and discriminated against. Mr. Henson has the Love and admiration from Bell children on every grade level. They look up to him. We are afraid for our school. Mr. Henson has brought our children along

-H.P.-