

Declaration of Nancy Donaldson

I, Nancy Donaldson, hereby declare:

1. I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and if called to testify I could and would do so competently as follows:

2. I am the mother of Jasmine Donaldson. Jasmine is a ninth grade student at Crenshaw High School in Los Angeles. Before attending Crenshaw, my daughter was a student at John Muir Middle School.

3. This year I asked my daughter why she wasn't bringing home any books from Crenshaw to study or to do her homework. She told me that in some of her classes she didn't have any books at all. In other classes there weren't enough, and so she was not allowed to take them home. I just don't understand how the students are supposed to complete their homework assignments accurately and completely or study for their exams if they aren't allowed to bring their materials home with them to review.

4. The overcrowding at Crenshaw is a real problem. This year Jasmine could not take a ninth grade class, Education and Career Planning (ECP), that she is required to take in order to graduate, because the class was too overcrowded. Instead of taking ECP, the counselor placed my daughter in a sewing class – a class that will not help her to go to college. Now my daughter has to go to summer school to take ECP, a class she should have been able to take during the school year. When students cannot complete their required courses during the school year, they fall behind. I want my daughter to go to college, and she should not be kept from fulfilling her requirements because of school overcrowding.

5. Many times, my daughter will literally go running to the bathroom when she comes home from school. The bathrooms are so disgusting at Crenshaw that my daughter has to hold her bodily functions all day. When I went for parents' night in the spring, and I walked by the bathroom I could smell the urine. I don't think it is healthy for my daughter to have to hold it for so long, and it must make it difficult for her to concentrate at school if she is unable to go to the bathroom when she needs to.

6. The students need computers in their classroom that are usable and up to date.

1 When I went to parents' night during the spring of this year (2001), I did not see any computers in
2 the classrooms except for the computers that the teachers use. The students need access to
3 computers. Everyone uses computers in the workplace today. The majority of jobs require basic
4 computer skills. High school should prepare children for the workplace. I am very concerned
5 that the students at Crenshaw will not be prepared for work in today's economy where almost
6 every job you do requires knowledge of the computer.

7 7. At John Muir Middle School, it was also very overcrowded. My daughter was
8 unable to take her African-American history course, because the class was just too overcrowded.
9 Jasmine told me that one of her friends' classes had to be held in the auditorium because there
10 was not enough classroom space.

11 8. The bathrooms at John Muir were also disgusting. I went into one of the
12 bathrooms during my daughter's eighth grade year, and I was appalled. The toilets were broken
13 apart, there was urine, wet paper towels, and trash all over the floor, and no toilet paper or paper
14 towels for the students to use. The bathroom was basically unusable. I spoke to the Dean about
15 these conditions and he said that he just didn't have enough supplies or staff to keep the
16 bathrooms in good condition. I think that this is wrong.

17 9. At John Muir, Jasmine did not have enough books or any books in many of her
18 classes. She was very lucky if the class had enough books that she could actually bring them
19 home from school. I just don't understand why there aren't enough books for the students to take
20 home to use for homework or for use in the classroom. This is very basic. Every child should
21 have instructional materials they can take home and study with.

22 10. Also, if the students have books, many times they are out of date. For example,
23 my daughter's eighth grade history book was from around 1989, and so the last president in the
24 book was President George Bush Senior.

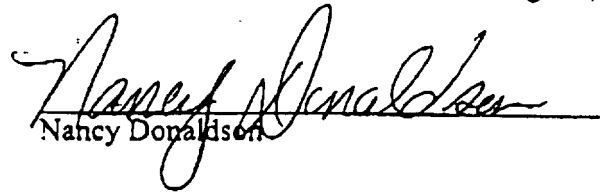
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1 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United
2 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 28 day of June, 2001 in Los Angeles,
3 California.

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