

Declaration of Jesstine Washington

I, Jesstine Washington, 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 parent representative for Dorsey High School in the Los Angeles Unified School District. I am employed by the school district to represent the parents and students of Dorsey High School. I sit on a number of committees at Dorsey including the Title I council, the Local Leadership Council, the Governor's Council, the budget committee, and the committee that interviews teachers and principals.

3. I have had rats in my parent representative room at Dorsey this year. There are about eight holes in the walls, and these huge wood rats came into my room, gnawed the back of my chair off, and nested in my furniture. An exterminator came into my room, placed traps, and put mesh wiring over the holes in the walls so the rats can no longer enter the room. The contractor working for the district to install the technology system bored holes in the wall, but failed to cover them after completing the job. Subsequently, the rats came in through these holes and into my room. However, now that the holes have been covered they are no longer entering the room.

4. Dorsey has recently acquired a class set of textbooks for most of the classes at the school, however, there are still not enough books in the classes with a class set for the students to take the books home with them. I know this because I am the parent representative at Dorsey, and I spend a lot of time at the school. Additionally, I serve on a number of committees where I interact with teachers. It makes me angry that we don't have enough books for the students to be able to take the materials home with them. I just don't understand how they expect the children to study, review for tests, and get all of the information they really need to learn the subject. Sometimes in class a student may write down the notes wrong, or the class notes don't give the students all the information they need to do an assignment, and then what are they supposed to do if they don't have a book to review or study with? For most of this school year we did not have AP books for many of the AP classes, but most of the books arrived at the end of this year.

1 Again, I know this because I sit on a number of the committees at the school, and I am the parent
2 representative. Some of the books are also outdated, and, thus, not providing the children with
3 the most informative and current information about subjects like science and history where things
4 change. Dorsey lacks textbooks for a variety of reasons, including teachers' unwillingness to
5 meet after school hours to decide on what books they need, lack of funds, and general
6 bureaucracy that makes it difficult for books to be ordered without a lot of paperwork.

7 5. Approximately 38% of the teachers at Dorsey are uncredentialed. These teachers
8 only really receive minimal classroom training, and so their methods may not fit the class they
9 are teaching and it may be difficult from them to control the classroom and conduct the lessons.
10 In general, both new and old teachers need to receive ongoing training throughout their careers in
11 order to be effective.

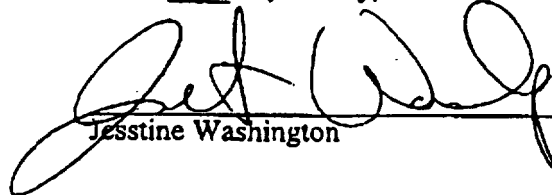
12 6. We don't have enough computers at Dorsey. Starting in the new school year the
13 principal has informed me that there will be four computers in every classroom, but this is not
14 enough because there are many more students than there are computers. We have three computer
15 labs, but this is not enough for such a large student population. Approximately 2,000 students
16 are enrolled at Dorsey. Additionally, the classrooms are not Internet ready because the
17 contractors working to wire the school did not finish the job they started. We also need technical
18 support services to maintain these computers so that they are not always breaking down.

19 7. My son graduated from Dorsey in 1997, and the school failed to teach him what
20 he needed to succeed. Before he arrived at Dorsey he had dreams and plans. He wanted to be a
21 lawyer. Somehow along the way they failed to educate my son completely in mind, body, and
22 soul. That is why I am still fighting for better conditions at Dorsey. We need more resources at
23 our schools for our youth. We need programs to inspire them, mental health counselors to work
24 with them, teachers who will stay at the school and who are really trained to work with the
25 students, fine arts classes, and vocational classes like auto repair to teach the youth skills that
26 they can use to make money. The schools need to address the whole child.

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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 6 day of July, 2001 in Los
3 Angeles, California.

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