

DECLARATION OF ALONDRA SHARAE JONES

I, ALONDRA SHARAE JONES, hereby declare:

1. I am one of the plaintiffs in this action. I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and, if called to testify as a witness, I could and would do so competently as follows:

2. I am a student at Balboa High School in San Francisco, where I will be a senior in the fall.

3. We did not have books to take home for homework in my Spanish 1 class last year. We could use books in class, but we had to copy down on paper work for us to take home because the school did not have enough books for all the Spanish 1 students in all the classes to take home. The Spanish textbook has a glossary in the back, and it would have been easier to do homework if I'd had a glossary to use to look words up. Without the glossary, I sometimes didn't know what Spanish words meant when I was trying to do my homework.

4. Before I took Spanish, I had taken Japanese 1 and Japanese 2. I wanted to keep going with my Japanese, but the school cut the Japanese program after my sophomore year. I had satisfied the high school graduation language requirement by taking two years of a foreign language, but colleges want you to take three years of the same foreign language. I only had two years left of high school, so I was stuck. I'm going to have to take Japanese at night next year at the City College of San Francisco because I want to go to college, so I need that third year of Japanese.

5. When I took Japanese during my sophomore year at Balboa, we didn't have any books at all. The teacher brought in some of her Japanese-English dictionaries from her home, so we could use those dictionaries in class. But we didn't have any Japanese textbooks to use in class or to take home for homework.

6. If some of the students are absent in my math class this year, then we have enough textbooks to use in class without sharing. But if all the students come to class, then we have to share books in class because we don't even have a full class set. Obviously, we can't take the math books home for homework.

7. For a week at the beginning of the school year this last year, we had 53 students in

1 my algebra class, and we didn't have enough seats for all those people to sit down. We would rush
2 to come early to school like you do for a concert to get seats. The people who didn't arrive early to
3 class, including the people who just came on time, had to stand, or sit on the overhead projector or
4 on file cabinets or on the floor. After the first week, the class went down to 40 students, but we still
5 didn't have enough seats for all those people. After about the first month, we had about 25 students
6 in the class, and we finally had enough seats.

7 8. During my two years at Balboa, I've had several classes that had no permanent
8 teacher. For example, when I took Modern World my tenth grade year, my teacher got sick with
9 something wrong with her throat, so she left school in the fall and we had a bunch of substitutes
10 instead. Sometimes the substitutes would just stay for one day, and sometimes they would stay for
11 one week. Different substitutes would give us different work assignments, and sometimes we'd get
12 a new assignment from a new substitute teacher before we'd even finished working on a project from
13 a substitute teacher we'd had before the new one came. We had so many teachers that year that the
14 report card didn't list a teacher's name—it just listed teacher F. Other classes with a lot of substitutes
15 had teacher A or teacher B or teacher with another letter listed.

16 9. This last school year, when I was in 11th grade, my Spanish teacher left school in the
17 fall. We had a different substitute every day for the whole rest of the first semester, right up until
18 finals time. We mostly watched movies in class, and the movies weren't in Spanish or related to our
19 Spanish class. We saw Rush Hour, Entrapment, Amistad, Liar Liar, and Halloween and other
20 movies in that class. People would just bring movies from their houses and we watched them in
21 class. One girl who'd transferred to our school from another school tried to teach class sometimes
22 because she'd learned some things at her other school before she transferred. But she's not a teacher
23 and she didn't really know much more Spanish than we did, so it's not her fault that we didn't learn
24 Spanish that semester.

25 10. We still had to take a final exam at the end of the semester in Spanish class even
26 though we hadn't had a teacher or learned any Spanish all first semester. Everybody failed the final
27 because we didn't learn anything all semester without a teacher and without even any Spanish
28 lessons. I asked the assistant principal how I could get a grade after all we had was substitutes and

1 after we didn't do anything other than watch movies in class. I told the assistant principal it would
2 be OK if they tested us on the movies we watched in class, but that they shouldn't have tested us on
3 the Spanish we didn't learn. The assistant principal just told me they had to give us a test. That
4 seems really unfair to me.

5 11. I really want to go to Howard University for college, but I don't think I'm going to
6 get in because of the grades I got in Spanish and Modern World when I didn't have permanent
7 teachers. I got Ds in Modern World and in Spanish, but it's not my fault. When I retok Modern
8 World over the summer I got a B. I just couldn't learn with all the changing teachers and with no
9 lessons and just movies in class. Most kids got Fs in those classes, so I was lucky.

10 12. The school knows how to hire teachers but doesn't know how to keep them. Our
11 teachers leave the school all the time. Teachers tell me they leave to teach at other schools because
12 they get no support from the administration and because they're not paid enough to live in San
13 Francisco. The school has a lot of emergency credentialed teachers now because they can't get
14 anyone else. It wouldn't be that way if the school had its act together.

15 13. The school doesn't have enough bathrooms for us all to use. We have two bathrooms
16 for girls, one on the second floor and one on the third floor. The second floor bathroom has been
17 out of service with yellow caution tape at the door since the end of my tenth grade year. The third
18 floor bathroom, which has been the only bathroom open for girls for more than a year, almost never
19 has soap and is usually dirty and has a lot of graffiti. The third floor bathroom has four stalls, but
20 all the girls know not to use the stall at the end. Behind the toilet bowl in that stall is a soiled pad
21 and an old It's It ice cream bar that's been sitting there mildewing since the beginning of my 11th
22 grade year.

23 14. We always have to wait on line to get into the bathroom because we only have three
24 stalls for all the girls in the school to use. We have a five-minute passing period, and you can't use
25 the bathroom in that time because the line is too long. Security guards will come to the bathroom
26 after the bell rings and make you leave because you're late for class.

27 15. I see mice in the gym all the time, and I see mice in the classes about once every three
28 months. Mostly I see mice droppings by the heaters.

1 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing
2 is true and correct. Executed on August 14, 2000 at San Francisco, California.

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4 *Alondra Sharae Jones*
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