

## DECLARATION OF EMMANUEL MEDINA

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2 I, EMMANUEL MEDINA, hereby declare:

3 1. I have taught math for three years at Balboa High School in San Francisco.

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

6 3. During the school year that just ended, we were short on advanced algebra books.  
7 We had maybe five more books than a class set, so the kids couldn't take the books home for  
8 homework. I made a lot of copies for homework assignments, but the copy machines at the school  
9 were often broken. When I couldn't make copies, I used the overhead projector and the kids had to  
10 copy down problems for their homework. Without a template for procedure, it's hard to learn,  
11 especially at home, so it's better for kids to have books.

12 4. Other math classes at the school were also missing books. Other teachers had to  
13 resort to older editions of the books because they didn't have enough current editions to use in class,  
14 much less to give the kids to take home for homework.

15 5. The teaching staff at Balboa is extremely young, especially in the math department.  
16 In the math department, the average teaching experience among the teachers is less than five years.  
17 Of nine math teachers, only two have completed their teaching credentials. The rest of the  
18 departments in the school also have a high number of uncredentialed teachers. Because they're  
19 taught by so many uncredentialed teachers, Balboa students aren't getting experts in front of them.  
20 Their teachers are energetic, but not experienced. That absence of experience is a huge disadvantage  
21 for the kids. Their teachers are just in what we call survival mode, just teaching day to day.

22 6. I don't have my teaching credential, and I can't afford to enroll in a teacher  
23 credentialing program because I'm underpaid. I think it costs around \$500 or \$600 per four-unit class  
24 in the teacher credentialing program at San Francisco State, and you need something like 60 units  
25 to get the teaching credential.

26 7. Some of the classes at Balboa have no permanent teacher at all. For example, a  
27 Spanish teacher left Balboa in the fall, and no permanent teacher was hired for the rest of the school  
28 year. Substitutes just rotated into the classroom, so the students learned essentially no Spanish all

1 year because they didn't have a teacher.

2 8. I interviewed eight juniors in May of this year to ask them to name the teachers who'd  
3 left Balboa during their time there. They listed 57 teachers, but the actual number of teachers who  
4 have left during those three years is 75 (I got the number from the principal). The kids told me they  
5 feel rejected when so many teachers leave the school. The teacher turnover makes the kids feel like  
6 they go to a bad school.

7 9. A lot of classes at the school watch movies instead of learning. The math class next  
8 door to mine saw a lot of noneducational movies this year. That class's teacher was also the tech  
9 coordinator for the school, so he was doing two jobs. Sometimes he would step out of the classroom  
10 to do tech work, and he would put on movies like Antz or some other movie for the class to watch.  
11 He had to step out to do tech work maybe three times a month, and then he'd show a movie, so no  
12 learning was going on in the class.

13 10. The school bathrooms are just gross. They're wholly unsanitary. A lot of the drains  
14 are clogged, the walls are splattered with paint and graffiti, many of the faucets are broken or have  
15 no handles, and stall doors are broken or nonexistent. Also, there aren't enough bathrooms for all  
16 the students. The kids complain about the bathrooms a lot, and a lot of them tell me they just don't  
17 go to the bathroom at school.

18 11. I don't think the chemistry class did an experiment this year. They just weren't  
19 stocked with supplies, so they couldn't do experiments.

20 12. I buy supplies for my class, spending about \$350 of my own money. I bought rulers,  
21 protractors, paper, colored chalk, batteries for calculators, extra books, and a lot of copies at Kinko's.  
22 I bought those supplies because otherwise my students wouldn't have them.

23 13. Because of budget cuts, the school has changed its course scheduling in a way that  
24 hurts the students. The year before last and for the three years before it, we had a block schedule that  
25 allowed students to take eight classes per year. They took four 90-minute classes for half the year  
26 and then four new classes for the second half the year. Each of the semester classes counted as a full  
27 year of academic instruction, so, for example, the kids could take a full year of foreign language  
28 instruction in a single semester. But we had to go down to six classes per year for the academic year

1 that just ended, and we'll also have only six classes per year next year as well, although we'll have  
2 a slightly modified schedule. With the eight-class block schedule, kids had the opportunity to take  
3 32 classes in their four years of high school, but now with the six-class schedule, kids can only take  
4 24 classes over four years. The change in opportunity to take classes will make it hard for some of  
5 the current students to take all the courses they need for college preparation and for graduation. The  
6 new course schedule also leaves the students no room for failure.

7 14. The school administration has only visited my classroom one time in the past three  
8 years to review my teaching. It would help me a lot to be visited and then reviewed afterward on my  
9 teaching. Without the review, there's no quality control at the school. Also, a young teaching staff  
10 burns out more quickly in the absence of support and review. The quality of teaching at the school  
11 then suffers therefore.

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13 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the State of  
14 California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on 9/1/2000, 2000 at San  
15 Francisco, California.

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18 Emmanuel Medina