

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

DECLARATION OF JEANNETTE MA

I, Jeannette Ma, hereby declare:

1. I am a teacher at the Bryant Elementary School in the San Francisco Unified School District. I make this declaration based upon my own personal knowledge and, if called as a witness, I could and would testify competently thereto.

2. The purpose of this declaration is to explain the conditions at Bryant Elementary School, including the lack of teaching materials, the lack of basic supplies such as pencils and erasers, extremely hot and cold temperatures in the classrooms, and noisy classrooms caused by lack of proper walls. These factors make it extremely difficult for students to obtain an adequate education.

3. This is my first year teaching at Bryant Elementary School, which is located in the Mission district of San Francisco near the Potrero Hill area of the city. I teach first grade. Bryant is a bilingual school, and I teach the only first grade class taught in English. It is an English language development class designed for non-native English speakers and native speakers with very limited proficiency.

Lack of Teaching Materials

4. Each year the school district determines the proper curriculum to be taught in each grade level. The district chooses particular materials that teachers are to use in order to teach students the skills deemed necessary for children to perform competently at their grade level.

5. The district has determined that first grade teachers are to use various materials "kits" to instruct the children. When complete, these kits include student books and/or readers, a teacher's manual, various other worksheets and exercises, and assessment materials used to evaluate the students' progress.

6. The school year is over two-thirds complete and I still do not have nearly half of the teaching materials that are required to teach my students the district mandated curriculum. The lack of materials has made it difficult for me to perform my job as a teacher and provide my students with the education that they deserve and that the district requires.

1 the room was far too cold. The children had to wear their coats inside and take them off to go
2 outside. Many children got sick, and they and their parents complained about the temperature.

3 14. After a climate control engineer came to diagnose the problem, the administration
4 simply had the air conditioner turned off. Since then the room has not been as cold, but it is still
5 uncomfortable. Without any air conditioning the room gets very stuffy. When I open the windows,
6 flies often come into the room. This distracts some of my students who try to chase the flies.

7 15. Shutting off the air conditioner has also made the classrooms in the sun far too hot
8 much of the time.

9 **Extremely Noisy Conditions**

10 16. The individual classrooms are not divided by actual walls. Instead, thin room dividers
11 are suspended from the ceiling. As a result, noise from other classrooms can often be heard in my
12 classroom. This noise undermines my students' ability to concentrate, making it difficult for them to
13 learn.

14 17. In addition, the lack of adequate sound barriers severely restricts the types of activities I
15 can conduct with my class. I must always be conscious of the noise level in my class in order to
16 minimize the disturbance to other classes. For instance, we cannot listen to music or engage in
17 performance arts because the noise from such activities would be too disruptive the surrounding
18 classes.

19 **Lack of Basic Supplies**

20 18. The school also suffers a shortage of basic school supplies and materials such as
21 pencils, erasers, and crayons. The school ran out of such supplies, and I had to purchase them
22 myself.

23 19. When the teachers are able to order replacement supplies, we have to wait several
24 weeks to receive them. In the interim, I have had to provide supplies myself.

25 **Potentially Unsafe Drinking Water**

26 20. Most children in my class bring bottled water to school to drink. Their parents don't
27 want them drinking the water from the water fountains because it is believed to be dirty or unsafe.

28


1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Conclusion

21. These conditions seriously hinder the students' ability to receive an adequate education and make my job as a teacher far more difficult. Despite my efforts, my students are not provided the atmosphere or tools necessary to fulfill their potential because of the conditions at Bryant Elementary School.

22. I have chosen not to tell my students' parents about my lack of materials and supplies because I have not wanted to upset them. I have done everything in my power to make up for the missing district mandated instruction materials, yet I believe that the children are being cheated by the lack of required materials. To avoid outraging the parents, however, I have not yet informed them of this disgraceful situation.

I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed by me this 1 day of May, 2000 at San Francisco, California.



Jeannette Ma