

DECLARATION OF TERESA PALACIOS

I, Teresa Palacios, hereby declare:

1. 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:

1. I am the mother of Brissa Palacios, age 13, and Klarissa Palacios, age 11, who attend Eastmont Intermediate School which is located in the Montebello School District. I have another daughter, Lissa Palacios, who attends Joseph E. Gascon Elementary School, also in the Montebello School District.

Eastmont:

2. Eastmont has almost no books for the children to take home. In some classes, the children only have a class set. In fact, my daughter Brissa's social studies class has to share books with another social studies class because there are not enough books. My daughter Klarissa brought home only one book, a workbook in reading that she could write in, the entire school year. Brissa had two reading books she could write in. For homework in other classes, they had no books to use. Instead, they had photocopied pages to work from. I believe it's better for children to have books to use at home because they can go back to the book if they have questions. Often I can't help them because I'm not in class with my children so I don't know what the teacher told them, and they don't have a book that I can refer to. Other parents and I complained about the book shortage at a school meeting in May or June 2000.

3. The computer lab at Eastmont is not adequate. There is only one lab with thirty computers for the whole school, which has more than 1,000 students. The computers don't even allow internet access. Some teachers put the homework on the internet for kids who have access to the internet at home but not everybody has access to the internet. Brissa's teacher put homework on the internet, but had to do so from home because there is no access to the internet at school.

Gascon Elementary:

4. Gascon Elementary, where my daughter Lissa attends school does not have enough textbooks. In fact, my daughter Lissa did not have a science book last year. In her science class, they watched movies and did work on photocopied papers. The only books Lissa had were reading

1 books and math books.

2 5. Gascon, is very overcrowded. Four years ago, teachers had to hold four classes in one
3 classroom. Last year, two classes were in one classroom, separated by a divider. It was very noisy
4 and the children could not hear the teacher.

5 6. The bathrooms at Gascon are very dirty. There are only two custodians, one who
6 comes in the morning and one who comes in the afternoon. These custodians are overworked and
7 cannot complete all the work they need to do.

8 7. There is no toilet paper in the bathrooms. The kids constantly have to go to the office
9 and ask for paper and soap. There also are not enough bathrooms for the 1,100 students that attend
10 Gascon. The kids have to wait in long lines to get in to the bathrooms.

11 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing
12 is true and correct. Executed this 7th day of August 2000 at Los Angeles, California.

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15 TERESA PALACIOS
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