

1 **DECLARATION OF SUSAN CARROLL BOYSAL**

2 I, Susan Carroll Boysal, hereby declare as follows:

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

5 2. I teach fifth grade at Gulf Avenue Elementary in the Los Angeles Unified School
6 District, where I have been teaching for ten years. I have taught for the Los Angeles Unified School
7 District for twenty years. I am listed in Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

8 3. I often do not have the materials I need to teach. On numerous occasions over the
9 years, I have not had the books I needed for my class. To off-set this, I've had to share books with
10 other teachers or borrow books from classes that were off track. Reading books are inadequate with
11 no comprehension questions or drill.

12 4. I did not have math books for my fifth grade class at the beginning of the previous
13 school year. School began July 1, 1999 and the books were ordered at that time. I did not receive
14 the books until November 1999. During the time that I had no books, I had to wing it - I knew the
15 skills that fifth graders were supposed to learn so we did drills and I used old math books. Not
16 having books hurt the kids though, because the new books use skills builders. The previous lesson
17 is reviewed before the kids go to the next lesson. Some of the kids I was teaching had problems
18 retaining information, and the new books would have given them a better chance of learning the
19 material they needed to know for the fifth grade.

20 5. I cannot teach my kids hands-on life science because I don't have the necessary
21 supplies such as petri dishes, tweezers, etc. The district doesn't provide them. Many teachers buy
22 the supplies themselves. However, I can't afford to do this.

23 6. One of the major problems at Gulf is unfilled teacher vacancies. When the district
24 cannot hire a permanent teacher for a class, the kids end up having a series of unlicensed, substitute
25 teachers in one school year. This is a problem because the class winds up getting a string of
26 substitute teachers who are winging it every day. The substitutes don't implement programs and they
27 are not committed to teaching the class because they aren't permanently assigned.

28 7. When I began teaching at Gulf, I was the fourth teacher for a class of fifth and sixth

1 graders. I could see that my students were essentially a year or more below grade level because they
2 didn't receive the proper curriculum during the year from the various teachers. Even if they caught
3 up on the missed material during the next school year, they would still be a year behind and most
4 likely they will never catch up. It has been my experience that if children do not have the essentials
5 by an early grade level, they are constantly trying to catch up. They become frustrated, and
6 eventually drop out of school altogether.

7 8. Although Gulf Avenue Elementary is the lowest performing school in the district as
8 far as standardized tests, school hours during which students should be learning are continuously and
9 routinely wasted and interrupted on other activities. During reading time, the students are required
10 to pick up trash around the school in rotating shifts for a week at a time for school beautification.
11 Not only is this a waste of learning time, it is dangerous to the children's health. I have seen children
12 pick up, without gloves, used condoms, dead animals, bullets, drugs, cigarette butts, beer cans and
13 broken glass.

14 9. Since we are a multi-track, year-round school, teachers have to rove which means we
15 move to a different a classroom every time we go off track which is two times a year. We are
16 constantly moving. We received a memo from the principal directing us to have the kids spend an
17 hour of each day during the week before we move helping us box up materials and cleaning out the
18 kids' desks. During the actual move, the students watch Disney movies while the teachers move.

19 10. B track students at Gulf did not receive the proper test preparation for the Stanford
20 9 examination last year. When B track students returned from being off track for eight weeks, they
21 took the Stanford 9 test the next day with no preparation. Teachers are routinely held accountable
22 for their test scores in the same way as children who had been in school preparing for the test for
23 weeks.

24 11. I have had problems with insects in my classroom. I see roaches every other day. I
25 have also had silver fish, centipedes and fruit flies in the room. It took a week for someone to come
26 out and take care of the problem. In the meantime, my class was disrupted because the children were
27 distracted by the insects.

28 12. Gulf's special education program is highly inadequate. Special education services

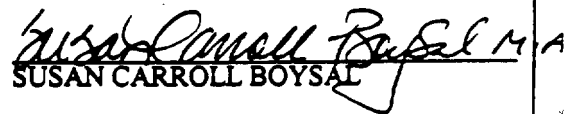
1 are provided through the school's Resource Specialist Program ("RSP"). However, some special
2 education students were not serviced at all for the entire past school year. The teacher who was
3 supposed to provide these services was pulled out of the RSP for a variety of reasons, including
4 covering classes for other teachers, acting as Assistant Principal for the day, or attending numerous
5 all day meetings, all sanctioned and approved by administration. When I complained that students
6 were not serviced, my complaints were ignored. The RSP teacher is called upon to be acting
7 administrator though he has no administration credential.

8 13. Usually, students who are referred by teachers to the RSP program are tested,
9 identified as needing special education services if necessary, and placed in the program immediately.
10 At the beginning of the previous school year, I referred one of my students to the special education
11 program to get tested. The student was not tested for 10 months, and therefore lost a whole year of
12 RSP, and will not get needed special education services until the student begins middle school.

13 14. In addition, I am aware of a student in speech therapy who was never serviced during
14 the past school year. When I was asked to sign a form indicating the student was serviced so that
15 she could graduate, I refused.

16 15. It is widely known that incompetent principals are routinely transferred from school
17 to school and not removed from leadership roles. For example, the principal at my school has not
18 taught for twenty years and never above grade 2. Our principal does not know how to operate a
19 computer. She does not speak Spanish and is unable to communicate to parents. She never visits
20 classrooms or interacts with students.

21 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of California that the foregoing
22 is true and correct. Executed this 27th day of July, 2000 at Long Beach, California.

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25 SUSAN CARROLL BOYSAL
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