

1 Declaration of Randy Rau

2 I, Randy Rau, hereby declare:

3 1. I am a teacher at Wendell Helms Middle School in San Pablo  
4 California and if called to testify could and would do so  
5 competently as follows:

6 2. I am in my seventh year at Helms and have been a teacher  
7 for a total of 15 years. I have my teaching credential in  
8 California and have also earned my credential in Ohio and Florida.  
9 I teach Physical Education at Helms, although I also taught Health  
10 Science until a few years ago.

11 3. The Gymnasium at Helms is in bad shape. The roof leaks  
12 when it rains, and rain water comes right down onto the hardwood  
13 floor. There are somewhere between five and ten different places  
14 where the roof leaks.

15 4. The leaky roof creates hazardous conditions. A wet floor  
16 is slippery and students can fall and hurt themselves. When it  
17 rains, I have to put buckets out to catch the rain. I also have to  
18 wipe the floor constantly with towels to try to keep the floor dry.

19 5. About once or twice a year, I have to cancel whatever  
20 Physical Education the students are doing because the floor is  
21 simply too wet for it to be safe to exercise. The roof has leaked  
22 all seven years I've been at Helms.

23 6. The roof also leaks into the locker room. The water gets  
24 on top of the lockers and then into the lockers themselves. That  
25 causes students' clothes to get wet. Then they have to go back to  
26 class with wet. The water on the floor is unsafe because kids so  
27 often run around in the locker room and they end up slipping and  
28 falling.

7. Because of the leaks, the locker room stinks from mold,

1 Mold spores are also growing on the ceiling of the coaches'  
2 offices.

3 8. The lockers in the locker room are in bad shape. Many of  
4 them have broken doors or locks that don't work. Kids have to use  
5 the broken lockers because we do not have enough good ones.  
6 Sometimes things get stolen out of the lockers where the locks do  
7 not work. School officials have discussed fixing them for about  
8 three years, but it has not happened.

9 9. The gym is not the only part of the school that is  
10 inadequate. Helms has only one classroom that is set up to be a  
11 lab. As a former science teacher, I know that lab work is an  
12 important part of a student's science education. Students do not  
13 get nearly enough lab time in their science classes because there  
14 is only one lab.

15 10. In my fifteen years of teaching, I have worked primarily  
16 in inner city schools. But the inner city schools in the other  
17 states I have worked in are in better condition and have better  
18 athletic programs than Helms does.

19 11. There does not seem to be nearly enough maintenance and  
20 repair done here. Nor is the money wisely spent. Last year, part  
21 of the outside yard area was blacktopped. Instead of blacktopping  
22 the area where kids play and basketball courts are, they  
23 blacktopped part of the yard that is close to a bunch of  
24 classrooms. No one plays there, because it is too close to the  
25 classrooms. Instead of fixing the area that gets used most, and  
26 where the risk of injury is greatest, the money was pretty much  
27 wasted.

28 12. It is a real shame that students have to go to school in

1 conditions like we have at Helms.

2 I swear under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of  
3 California and the United States that the foregoing is true and  
4 correct. Executed by me this 12 day of May, 2000 in San Francisco,  
5 California.

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8 Randy Rau

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