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21 Eliezer Williams, et al.

22 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
23 COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

24  
25 ELIEZER WILLIAMS, a minor, by Sweetie  
26 Williams, his guardian ad litem; et al., each  
27 individually and on behalf of all others similarly  
28 situated,  
Plaintiffs,

No. 312236  
[CLASS ACTION]  
DECLARATION OF SWEETIE  
WILLIAMS

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v.  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA; DELAINE EASTIN,  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction;  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION,  
  
Defendants.

I, SWEETIE WILLIAMS, hereby declare:

1. I am the parent of Eliezer Williams ("Eli"), who is a plaintiff in this action. 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:

2. My son Eli attended Luther Burbank Middle School last year, during the 1999-2000 school year, which was his seventh grade year. But this year, for the 2000-2001 school year, I have transferred Eli to Visitacion Valley Middle School because I do not want Eli to be a victim any longer of the conditions at Luther Burbank, which I describe below. I would prefer to send Eli to Luther Burbank Middle School, and I would return my son to the school if the conditions there were improved.

3. Eli did not have textbooks to bring home when he went to Luther Burbank Middle School last year. Without books, Eli's teachers had to create homework assignments. For example, Eli's social studies teacher asked his students to discuss current events with their families on a weekly basis. While this weekly assignment allowed for a small amount of parental involvement in Eli's education, I feel that this is not enough. If Eli had textbooks and homework, I would be able to work more closely with him. I believe that parental involvement is essential in a child's learning and I would like the opportunity to share in Eli's education.

4. The physical condition of Luther Burbank Middle School is dismal. If Luther Burbank were subject to the Occupational Safety and Housing Act ("OSHA"), in my opinion, several of the substandard conditions at Luther Burbank would violate provisions of OSHA. I am very familiar with the OSHA because of my work experience of more than 20 years' service in the United States Army as a technical inspector for helicopters. For one example of the OSHA-type violations at

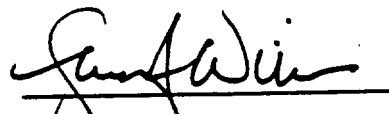
1 Luther Burbank, the basketball posts and the railings surrounding the playground are extremely rusty  
2 and dirty. If my son or any other student ran into the posts or the railings, he or she could be seriously  
3 injured. Additionally, the desks in the classrooms are bent and sometimes noticeably broken. This is  
4 a dangerous condition that could cause injury to my son or any other student.

5 5. Eli did not like to use the bathrooms at Luther Burbank because they smelled bad, the  
6 toilets were often clogged, and most of the stalls were missing doors. Most of the time the bathroom  
7 was not supplied with soap, toilet paper, or paper towels. Eli usually waited to use the bathroom until  
8 he came home from school.

9 6. Eli would not drink the water at school when he went to Luther Burbank last year  
10 because he said the water from the drinking fountains tasted funny. Eli needed to bring bottled water  
11 to school in order to have clean water to drink during the school day.

12 7. I worried that the conditions at Luther Burbank Middle School were interfering and  
13 would continue to interfere with my son's ability to obtain an adequate education. I want Eli to have  
14 the option to attend college and to arrive at college well prepared. Although his teachers at Luther  
15 Burbank were wonderful, the conditions there were unacceptable and were keeping my son from  
16 getting the education he needs and deserves. As a result, I have removed my son from the school and  
17 have sent him instead to another school. I wish he could have remained with his classmates at the  
18 school he had been attending, but I do not want to deprive Eli of his education by continuing to send  
19 him to Luther Burbank Middle School.

20  
21 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the State of  
22 California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 20 day of September, 2000, in San  
23 Francisco, California.

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27 Sweetie Williams  
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