

1 this while working on the library automation project. The result of the frequent teacher turnover was
2 that there was no organization in the class. The new teachers would never know what material the
3 other teachers had covered. The students were unruly because they needed a consistent set of rules
4 and familiarity with their teacher.

5 5. The chairs in the classrooms are cracked, chipping and falling to pieces. My daughter
6 Angel came home several times with splinters, and as a concerned parent, I requested a new chair for
7 her. When nothing happened, I bought a new chair with my own money. As part of my role on the
8 ^{PTA}~~Strategic Planning Committee~~ at Parent, I inventoried the chairs and there were 223 chairs in a
9 cracked and broken condition similar to Angel's. Since I can't buy replacements for all these chairs,
10 some concerned teachers have brought in towels to cover the splintered chairs to protect students.

11 6. The temperature in the classrooms gets so hot my daughters can't concentrate on
12 schoolwork. The portable classrooms have air conditioning, but the rooms in the building don't.
13 Angel and Ashley have been told by their teachers to bring in frozen water bottles so that they can
14 drink the water to keep cool in the afternoon on hot days. This barely helps, of course, and my
15 children are forced to sweat all afternoon while attempting to learn.

16 7. The bathrooms are dirty and disgusting. I have seen sanitary napkins and other paper
17 on the floor, and sometimes there is no toilet paper or paper towels. Toilet seat covers do not exist
18 at Parent. Often there is no soap. The school has only two bathrooms open to students. One is for
19 the older kids and one is for the younger kids. If the young kids use the older kids' bathroom they
20 are frequently harassed, so my children really have only three stalls in one crowded bathroom to use
21 at the school.

22 8. There is a lack of classroom space. When I worked on the library automation project,
23 I saw that there was a Kindergarten class meeting in the library on a regular basis. This class of
24 students would get thrown out of the room two or three times per week when another class of
25 students needed to use the library. I do not know where the class met on the days they couldn't use
26 the library.

27 9. I have also seen classes meeting on the stage of the multi-purpose room throughout
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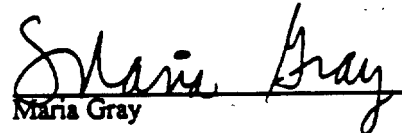
1 the year. This room is not meant for classroom learning. There are way too many students with only
2 one adult teaching the class. There are no supplies such as reference materials, or chalkboards.
3 There is inadequate lighting, uncomfortable seating and the location of the room is next to the
4 playground where the noise from children at play make it impossible to concentrate.

5 10. The drinking fountains at school are too rusty and dirty to use. Many are turned off
6 or the spout is broken. As a result, there is not a place for children to get a drink of water.

7 11. Our school has problems with outdated books and books in poor conditions. The
8 dictionary in one of my daughter's classroom is copyrighted in 1971. A history book is copyrighted
9 in 1964. Her social studies textbook is copyrighted in 1991. Many of the older books are falling
10 apart. While doing the book inventory, I learned that many other grades have similar problems with
11 outdated books.

12 12. Even worse is the cost that my children are going through. There is definitely a self-
13 esteem effect on my daughters when they see how their school system forgets about them. The
14 constant changing of teachers has hurt them emotionally. The hot temperatures make concentrating
15 on school work impossible. But there is little to learn anyway for Angel, since her uncredentialed,
16 inexperienced teacher only has outdated books to teach with.

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18 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing
19 is true and correct. Executed on ~~July~~^{August} 15, 2000 at Inglewood, California.

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22 Maria Gray

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