

## DECLARATION OF CHANDRA ELLINGTON-EVANS

I, CHANDRA ELLINGTON-EVANS, hereby declare:

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

2. My son Jamell Evans is in seventh grade at Lynwood Middle School.

3. It bothers me that Jamell was mistakenly assigned to two science classes from September through November. If there had not been so many substitute teachers in the science class, that he was not suppose to be in, it would have been discovered much sooner that he did not belong in that class. His name never appeared on the computerized roll sheet given to the teacher. The substitute teachers simply aren't keeping track of the students. In late September or November, I received calls from the school on two separate occasions saying Jamell was absent all the time. The first time, I went to straighten things out and it turned out that because Jamell's name wasn't on the roll sheet the substitutes hadn't recognized him in class and had not marked him down as being there. The second time, my husband went to straighten things out and it finally came out that Jamell was not suppose to even be in that class. The substitutes' failure to question my son's presence in the classroom shows me that they can't really be monitoring the class and teaching the way a permanent teacher would.

4. I don't understand how a course can operate without one teacher who knows how the class has progressed and where kids are academically. I'm concerned that Jamell won't learn a sufficient amount of material to pass the state tests, or that he'll have to retake a class because he didn't learn what he should have learned.

5. It concerns me that Lynwood Middle School has so many new teachers without full credentials. You need a certain amount of training, including psychology training, to know how to deal with difficult students. Teachers need to have had that training before teaching class. Without a core of trained teachers, new teachers have no one to go to for guidance.

6. The fact that the school doesn't have enough books to distribute to each student is another problem. I spoke to Jamell's social studies teacher back in September or October to find out why he didn't have a book and the teacher told me they were working on getting books. I would much rather that Jamell had a book to read in order to refresh his memory of what was learned in

PLTF 01776

1 class, as opposed to trying to review some incomplete handwritten notes.

2 7. I went inside the girls' bathroom at Lynwood Middle School one morning during the  
3 fall. I decided to go check it out to see if it was similar to how the kids describe the boys' bathroom.  
4 What I saw was unbelievable. The bathroom smelled like urine and there was sprinkles of white  
5 paint on the toilet seat. It wasn't clean and I wouldn't want to use it. Also, there wasn't sufficient  
6 lighting, so the bathroom was really dim. And it was impossible to see in the mirror because it was  
7 dull and had drawings on it.

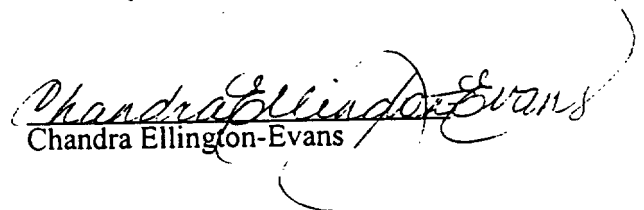
8 8. I want my children to be exposed to the same material that children in middle class  
9 communities are exposed to, and at the same pace. I believe all children in this state should have  
10 the same access to education, regardless of where they live. Right now, though, because Lynwood  
11 Middle School, Mark Twain Elementary School and Agnes Elementary School lack so many basics,  
12 I worry that my children are going to grow up and shy away from college because they feel  
13 intimidated and unprepared.

14

15 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing  
16 is true and correct. Executed on April 30, 2001 at Lynwood, California.

17

18

  
Chandra Ellington-Evans

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28