



1 Balboa High. As department chair, I have fought very hard to get textbooks and trade books for  
2 our students. I worked with Assistant Principals Ted Barone and Gilbert Chung to find money  
3 for books for our students. Gilbert Chung was able to get State monies to purchase a sufficient  
4 quantity of textbooks for all grade levels. At first however Ted Barone could not find trade book  
5 money in the school budget or the district's, so we finally used the Comprehensive School  
6 Reform Demonstration (CSR D) Program grant. Through that CSR D grant, I obtained close to  
7 \$100,000 for books for Balboa, and now we have begun to purchase trade books for the English  
8 department -- despite some petty school politics that impeded this progress -- if we are truly  
9 indeed going to compete with genuinely academic high schools in the State (like Lowell).

10         5.       I find it much easier to teach this year now that we have a better quantity of books  
11 -- albeit not absolutely sufficient -- for the students. The books allow me to give the kids some  
12 dignity. It is clear to me from watching my students that kids experience a difference between  
13 having books and having only photocopies of books. I see that the kids take their education a  
14 little bit more seriously when they work from books rather than from photocopies. The kids  
15 phrase it as more "ghetto" to have photocopies than to have books; I can think of at least a dozen  
16 kids who've used the word "ghetto" to describe using photocopies of books. The books also help  
17 me pedagogically: I can go to a teacher's edition of a book and readily find material to help me  
18 teach, without having to go to sources such as the library or my old college notes or the internet  
19 to find material explaining what a particular passage in *Canterbury Tales* means or supporting an  
20 interpretation of a footnote in a text.

21         6.       Balboa has had extremely high teacher turnover during the six years I've been  
22 teaching there, and also before I came. I started teaching at Balboa the year the school went  
23 through district "reconstitution," which means that almost all of the teachers and administrators  
24 who had been teaching at the school were required to leave and I and other new teachers and new  
25 administrators came to the campus to replace them. During that first year, we had an almost  
26 entirely new staff at the school. We had no sense of experience and we had literally no tenured  
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1 teachers on staff. For every year since that year, we have turned over about a third or more of the  
2 teachers at the school. That high teacher turnover rate has a horrific impact on kids because of  
3 the disruption in continuity. As a result of the teacher turnover and school reconstitution, I am  
4 considered a veteran teacher at the school, even though I only have six years of experience  
5 teaching. It is my opinion that reconstitution poorly served the kids because all kids deserve at  
6 least a core of trained and experienced teachers at their school.

7           7. I stay teaching at Balboa because I am part of the community now and because  
8 these kids are great kids. Many of them are brilliant, but they have so many odds against them. I  
9 grew up poor myself and I believe it is time for me to give something back, so I stay. But I need  
10 more money, and I know all teachers in San Francisco do. I have to hold a second job, on top of  
11 my teaching job, just to make ends meet. The most important thing that would keep teachers at  
12 schools longer is better pay. In addition to money, schools that had adequate supplies – like  
13 books, computers, etc. – and offered professional respect would convince teachers to stay.

14           8. We have mice at Balboa. I regularly see a mouse and mice droppings in my  
15 classroom, including several times during this school year, and I have complained for years  
16 without success to try to rid my classroom of the mouse. The building and grounds staff person  
17 at the school tells me that they put down traps, but I have not seen them. He also tells me he  
18 cannot put down poison because city constituents are sensitive about that. But we need a long-  
19 term solution to the problem because kids don't need to see vermin and their droppings in school.

20           9. For three years, I have complained to the building and grounds person about the  
21 holes in my floor, and they were only fixed this year after this lawsuit was filed.

22           10. The school bathrooms are terrible; they constitute the eyesore of the school. The  
23 student and faculty bathrooms stink and are nearly constantly unclean. Since this lawsuit was  
24 filed, we have less of a problem of toilet paper and paper towels running out than we used to  
25 have, which is a big improvement. But the tiles in the ceilings are still broken, and the walls still  
26 have holes in them. Also the bathrooms are not always open, so students sometimes have to get

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1 security guards to let them into bathrooms.

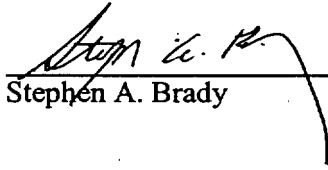
2 11. My classroom and many others can become unbearably hot because of the way  
3 the building is situated with the sun coming in. Students in classrooms on the sunny side of the  
4 building just bake, and the temperature is almost inhuman for kids who have asthma. Even in the  
5 winter, when I close the windows because it is cold, then the sun bakes the classroom. We just  
6 have a greenhouse effect inside because the building doesn't breathe very well and we have no  
7 fans and no air conditioning.

8 12. I do not charge my students any fees for classes because I think a basic tenet of  
9 public education is that it is supposed to be free. There was a teacher who no longer teaches at  
10 Balboa who advised me to charge kids for books and then refund their money to them at the end  
11 of the year if they returned the books. I was appalled. I think people who think even \$5 is not  
12 significant to charge kids should go to Hunter's Point and see what \$5 is worth to kids in food.  
13 Public education should be free to all kids.

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15 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United  
16 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed by me this 9th day of June, 2001 in San  
17 Francisco, California.

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Stephen A. Brady

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