

1 **Declaration of Melissa Pelaez**

2 I, Melissa Pelaez, hereby declare:

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

5 2. I just finished the seventh grade at Hosler Middle School, in Lynwood, California,
6 in June of 2001. I completed the sixth grade at Hosler as well. I will begin the eighth grade at
7 Hosler Middle School in the fall of 2001.

8 3. For the entire sixth grade, in the 1999-2000 school year, I had no regular teacher
9 or permanent substitute. At Hosler, sixth-grade students are supposed to have a single teacher
10 who teaches the core subjects. The teacher I was supposed to have didn't come. The school did
11 not give us a permanent substitute. Instead, we had many different substitutes. Once, we had
12 one substitute who stayed for four weeks, but the rest of the time the substitutes stayed for only a
13 day or a few days. Sometimes, the substitute would not even stay for the whole day, and instead
14 we would get several different substitutes in a single day, who would each stay for a few hours or
15 half the day. Sometimes, no substitute at all would come for part of the day. The students would
16 wait in the hallway outside the classroom for an adult to come, and finally the security would
17 open the door for us. We would sit there until the substitute arrived. If no substitute came, the
18 security guard would be our substitute. The substitutes did not teach us what we were supposed
19 to learn. They did not have any lesson plans. I got grades at the end of the year, but I have no
20 idea how the grades were chosen. I only had two tests in the whole year, and those were science
21 quizzes. I never had any kind of test or quiz in any other subject. I almost never had homework.
22 My mother would ask me why I didn't have any homework, but my substitutes almost never gave
23 us any. I feel that my whole year was wasted. I feel bad about it because I spent an entire year
24 going to class and not learning anything.

25 4. I have had classes where there were not enough books for all of the students to be
26 able to take them home. In my seventh grade math class, during the 2000-2001 school year, there
27 were not enough books for each student to take one home for homework. My teacher only had
28 enough for one class to use, so we had to keep them in the classroom for the next class of math

1 students to work from. In order to do our homework, we had to copy the problems from the
2 book. Sometimes, when I was running out of time, I would have to copy down the problems
3 really fast, and then when I got home it would be hard to read and remember what I was
4 supposed to do. I wish I could have had a book to take home, because copying all of the
5 problems out of the book is a waste of time. At the beginning of my seventh grade science class,
6 we had enough books, but then halfway through, we switched books, and then there weren't
7 enough. I think this was because my teacher knew that we did not have a teacher in the sixth
8 grade, and so we hadn't learned any sixth grade science, so at first we were learning out of a sixth
9 grade textbook to catch up, and there were enough of those. When we switched books halfway
10 through the year, I think we switched to a seventh grade book, and there weren't enough seventh
11 grade books. So after that, there was only a class set of science books. We did not get to take
12 our books home anymore, and we could only look at them in class.

13 5. In the sixth grade during the 1999-2000 school year, I also did not have enough
14 books for some subjects. We did not have enough books for health. We were six books short.
15 Sometimes our substitutes would borrow books from other teachers so that we could each have
16 one. Other substitutes did not do this, and then some of the students had to share two to a book.
17 For sixth grade English, we only had a spelling book. We did not have any literature books, so
18 we did not get to read very much in school.

19 6. Some of the classrooms do not have working air conditioners. My seventh grade
20 science and social studies classrooms, during the 2000-2001 school year, were not air
21 conditioned. It got extremely hot in those classes, especially in science, because that class was
22 right after lunchtime. In my sixth grade classroom, there was no air conditioning. Also, the
23 windows would not open, because they were broken, and the substitutes often would not let us
24 open the doors because it was so noisy outside. This made it extremely hot in the classroom
25 during September, and in April, May and June. It was so hot that we would be sweating in class,
26 and get dehydrated. It was hard to concentrate. The substitutes would tell us to go and have our
27 parents complain to the district so that they would fix our air conditioner and windows, but the
28 school never fixed it.

1 7. The school is in bad condition. This summer, the summer of 2001, I am taking
2 cosmetology in summer school. It is in room 25. There are constantly water drops falling from
3 the ceiling, even though it is not raining.

4 8. My school has a computer lab, but only sixth graders are allowed to use it. I was
5 allowed to use the computer lab twice during the sixth grade. Usually it is kept locked. The
6 seventh and eighth graders are not allowed to use the computer lab, and I don't know why.

7 9. There are not enough bathrooms in the school. The school opens only one
8 bathroom with three stalls for all of the girls in the seventh and eighth grades. This is not
9 enough. At lunch time there is an extremely long line for the bathroom. The bathrooms are in
10 bad condition. They are messy, and sometimes there is no toilet paper. One of the bathroom
11 stalls has a door that doesn't close. I have to ask someone else to hold the door for me while I use
12 it.

13 10. In my seventh grade year, during the 2000-2001 school year, several friends of
14 mine had cinema class, and they would always have to rush to class early to get a seat, because
15 there were not enough desks for all of the students. The students who got there last would have
16 to stand up in the back.

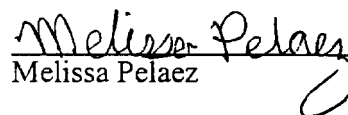
17 11. The lines at my school lunch are so long they go all the way outside the cafeteria.
18 Sometimes, if I don't get into line early, there is no food by the time I get to the front of the line.
19 This has happened four times. When this happens, I ask my friends to share their food with me,
20 or I buy a bag of chips and eat that for my lunch.

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23 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United
24 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 2 day of August, 2001 in
25 Lynwood, California.

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Melissa Pelaez

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