

Declaration of Dori E. Miles

I, Dori E. Miles, 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. I am a United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) staff member, and I have spent a lot of time during the last four months working with students, parents, and teachers at Locke High School in Los Angeles to try to ensure that students and teachers at the school are learning and working under conditions that are not substandard.

3. Locke High School has a serious shortage of desks. On Thursday, August 30, 2001, I went to Locke High School for a UTLA-sponsored event for Locke's faculty. At that meeting, several teachers informed me that their classrooms had no desks or chairs even though school was scheduled to begin on Tuesday. They were concerned, as was I, because Friday and Monday were holidays. At least one teacher told me that last year he had wasted the entire first week of school literally "hunting down" desks and chairs for his students to sit in. One of the teachers who had reported not having any desks or chairs told me that he would furnish his room himself before school started because he knew where several desks were stored. While he was confident that he would be able to furnish his room, this teacher was concerned that other teachers would be unable to do the same.

4. I too was very concerned that many students would not have a place to sit when they arrived for class on the first day of school and so on that same day I called Andreda Pruitt, District I Director of High School Services to tell her about the lack of desks. Ms. Pruitt left me a voicemail at 5:08pm on September 4th stating that "all rooms will be fully furnished on Tuesday morning ... all of the students assigned to [any particular teacher] will have a place to sit." However, on Tuesday, September 4, 2001 (the first day of school), I went to Locke at 12:15pm to meet with the school's chapter chair during his duty-free lunch period. The chapter chair informed me that he had given 6 or 7 of his desks and chairs to the teacher in the adjacent room that morning because she had not had enough for her students. After giving some of his desks away the chapter chair was now 10 desks short for at least one of his classes. When I visited the

1 classroom I saw that the chapter chair had only 25 desks and 35 students on his class roster. The
2 chapter chair is also missing the fire extinguisher that used to be in his room, as well as a small
3 table he used to use for student or parent/student conference. Also on September 4th, I went to
4 another teacher's classroom and she had 30 desks in her room and 40 students listed on the roster
5 for her 6th period class. I can't imagine how can students learn under these conditions. At the
6 very least we should provide students with a place to sit during class.

7 5. On September 4th, before I met with the UTLA chapter chair at Locke High
8 School I asked to use the restroom and was given the key to women's faculty restroom. This
9 bathroom had no toilet paper or paper for drying one's hands. I had to use the paper toilet bowl
10 liners instead.

11 6. On my way to the chapter chair's bungalow at Locke on September 4th, 2001, I
12 spoke briefly with a teacher who informed me that the morning had been extremely confusing
13 and disorganized because many students did not yet have their schedules. As I looked around the
14 school I noticed that many students were walking about aimlessly even though class was in
15 session. The teacher who spoke with me has taught in at least one other high school in the
16 LAUSD and he stated that the level of confusion and disorganization that was present at Locke
17 on Tuesday morning is not what is customary in other high schools even on the first day of
18 school. I also spoke with a student at the school who told me he had not yet seen a counselor and
19 did not know whether he was properly programmed for the classes he would need to complete in
20 order to graduate.

21 7. Unfortunately, the problems at Locke go way beyond furniture, bathrooms, and
22 schedules. In my capacity as a UTLA representative I have worked with students and teachers at
23 the school who are trying to improve the horrible conditions that persist at Locke. It cannot be
24 too much to ask that students have class schedules, desks to sit at, books in their classrooms,
25 teachers to teach them, and clean bathrooms that are properly stocked.

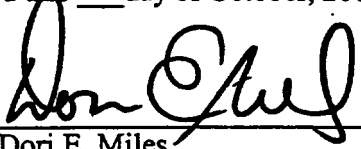
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I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this ^{9th} day of October, 2001 in Los Angeles, California.


Dori E. Miles