

1 **Declaration of Ana Araya**

2 I, ANA ARAYA, 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 am the mother of Angelica Araya, who graduated in 2001 from Luther Burbank
6 Middle School in San Francisco. Angelica went to Luther Burbank for sixth through eighth
7 grade.

8 3. I am very concerned about the conditions at the school. The appearance of the
9 school is dingy and it feels depressing -- like people don't care. I wouldn't want to have to go
10 to this school. When I would visit the school to work with my daughter or help out, the
11 classrooms seemed very dark and gloomy, not lit up like the nice schools you see in the movies
12 or on television. There were not enough light fixtures and some of the fixtures were hanging
13 from the ceiling. This really isn't safe for the children. Many of the lockers are banged in or
14 they don't have doors. Even just passing by the bathrooms, you could smell the pungent odor
15 coming from them. Also, many of the windows are broken. The desks are old, and many of them
16 are shaky, because they are falling apart.

17 4. The last time I was at the school before my daughter's graduation was for the open
18 house in eighth grade, which was in late October, 2000. They had painted some of the walls, but
19 many of the fixtures were still hanging from the walls. When I visited the gym, I could tell that
20 the floor had not been fixed and some of the walls had graffiti on them. From the sixth grade to
21 the eighth grade I saw a slight improvement in the conditions, but not very much.

22 5. I am really concerned about the high rate of teacher turnover at the school. In
23 several of my daughter's classes teachers left during the middle of the school year and many of
24 the teachers my daughter had in sixth or seventh grade are no longer there. The children lose a
25 lot of learning time during the teacher turnover. I know that when a new teacher comes in they
26 have to get up to speed, and so there are periods of time where the children are not learning
27 anything, and they fall behind. Also, there is always downtime between teachers. In seventh
28 grade, after one of my daughter's teacher's left, she had a different substitute every three or four


1 days until they found a replacement. In one of her classes, she had rotating substitutes -- a
 2 different one every three to four weeks. I just don't understand how she is going to learn if every
 3 few weeks she gets a new teacher. It really worries me.

4 6. I also think it is terrible that the teachers have to put their own money into
 5 supplying the children with the things they need to learn and succeed. I know that my daughter's
 6 teachers would try to supply the classroom with basic things whenever they could, but they
 7 should not have to do that. They make very little money as it is.

8 7. I think it is wrong for the children not to have the supplies they need, like basic
 9 textbooks, to help them do well. My daughter's sixth grade teachers, [REDACTED]
 10 many times would write the assignments on the board and have the children transfer them to
 11 pieces of paper, or they would send home xerox copies, because the children could not bring
 12 their books home with them. Many times parts of the xeroxed assignment would be cut off or
 13 you couldn't read it because the quality was so bad. We would have to call another student to see
 14 if the other students had a better quality assignment so that my daughter could understand the
 15 missing portions of her assignment. Additionally, because the children can't bring home their
 16 books, it was hard to keep track of Angelica's homework.

17 8. I want to see my children and the other children at Luther Burbank have the basic
 18 things they need to learn, including textbooks to take home, paper, or writing supplies. We also
 19 need to provide teachers with the tools they need to have the class function well. They also need
 20 some kind of support and training system from the administrators so that they want to stay and
 21 have the energy and ability to want to make a difference in the children's lives.

22
 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 20 day of August, 2001 in San
 25 Francisco, California.

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 27 Ana Ayaya

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