

1 **Declaration of Barbara Pope**

2 I, Barbara Pope, 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 have been a teacher at Luther Burbank Middle School in San Francisco since
6 1998. I teach English, social studies, and reading to sixth grade students. Between 1998 and the
7 end of the 2000-2001 school year, I also taught Physical Education and I was in charge of the
8 girls gymnasium and locker room. My students are almost all immigrants and people of color
9 from extremely poor families. Many of them live in the public housing projects that surround the
10 school.

11 3. The bathrooms at Luther Burbank are filthy. There are rarely stocked with toilet
12 paper, paper towels, and soap. During the 2000-2001 school year, I went into the girls bathroom
13 on the third floor at least twice a month, and I never saw any toilet paper, paper towels, or soap.
14 At the beginning of the 2001-2002 school year, I started using the girls bathroom on the third
15 floor every day so that I could monitor how bad the conditions were. Between August 2001 and
16 September 2001, I know that there were doors missing from some of the stalls, and there was a
17 period of at least three weeks during which there was no toilet paper in the bathroom. Because
18 there is hardly ever any toilet paper in the bathroom, I spend about \$20 per month of my own
19 money buying toilet paper and toiletries for myself and my students to use. I keep a roll of toilet
20 paper on my desk in my classroom, and students ask to use it every day.

21 4. The gymnasium and locker room at Luther Burbank are so grimy that families of
22 rats have made their homes there. I saw rats in the locker room about twice a week during the
23 2000-2001 school year. I complained to the school administration about the filth and the rats at
24 least twice a month during the 2000-2001 school year, but nothing was ever done to remedy the
25 problem.

26 5. Teachers and staff have left Luther Burbank in droves since I began teaching there
27 because the school administration fails to treat the faculty with respect and decency, and it fails to
28 provide teachers with the materials and support they need to be successful in the classroom.

1 During the 2000-2001 school year, 17 teachers left the school, and one teacher committed
2 suicide. During the 1999-2000 school year, 14 teachers left the school. Most of the teachers that
3 have been hired to replace those teachers are inexperienced and uncredentialed. 21 of the 33 full-
4 time teachers at Luther Burbank have less than a year of teaching experience, and many of them
5 have no teaching experience at all.

6 6. My students do not have enough books to use in class. I have only one class set of
7 20 English textbooks, and one set of 26 social studies textbooks to share among all of my
8 students throughout the day. I have 28 students in my first class alone, so some students in that
9 class have to share books. Because there are not enough textbooks for each of my students to
10 have one, I can not let my students take them home for homework. I have no workbooks or
11 other instructional materials to send home with my students. In order to assign homework I have
12 to write spelling lists or composition topics on the board and have my students copy the
13 assignments into their notebooks. I would like to make photocopies of the assignments from the
14 textbooks that I have, but teachers are not permitted to use the copy machine at Luther Burbank.
15 In order to have copies made, I would have to submit a request 24 hours in advance.

16 7. I have no maps in my classroom to use with my sixth grade social studies class, so
17 it is impossible to teach a meaningful geography lesson. I try to teach my students world
18 geography using the small world maps that are printed on the back of their school notebooks, but
19 it is difficult to teach without a large map that everyone can see.

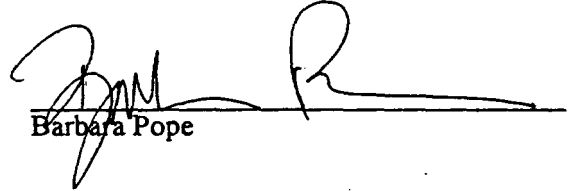
20 8. I have had to spend hundreds of dollars of my own money getting basic school
21 supplies for my students. Last year, I spent over \$500.00 on textbooks, workbooks, colored
22 pencils, number 2 pencils, rulers, tracing paper, hole punchers, and other supplies, and I was never
23 reimbursed. This year, the school gave each teacher \$150 to spend on school supplies, but that is
24 not nearly enough to pay for the supplies that my students need for the year.

25 9. The current principal at Luther Burbank has burned or thrown away thousands of
26 books and instructional materials that my students and other students at the school need in order
27 to learn. Between the months of April and August, 2001, the principal burned almost all the
28 books and materials in the supply room on campus. Among the materials I know the principal

1 sent to be destroyed were Prentice-Hall social studies books Across the Centuries, pamphlets
2 describing the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, cartoons of "Read 180" software, and
3 essential STAR-9 test preparation materials. Many teachers, including myself, salvaged some of
4 the materials from the dumpster so that we could use them for our classes. I made written
5 complaints to the district superintendent, Arlene Ackerman, on August 13th, 2001 and August
6 29th, 2001, but as far as I know, the district has taken no steps to investigate the book-burning or
7 discipline the principal.

8 10. The library at Luther Burbank has never been open during the four years I have
9 taught at the school. Students are not allowed to access books or use library space during the day
10 or after school. Without access to the library, students have no way of learning to do library
11 research, which is essential to their success in college.

12 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United
13 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 10 day of October, 2001 in San
14 Francisco, California.

15 
16 Barbara Pope

17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28