

1 **Declaration of Michael R. Dunlap**

2 I, Michael R. Dunlap, 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 teach history at Oakland Technical High School in Oakland, California. I have
6 taught at Oakland Tech for six years and taught in the Oakland Unified School District for ten
7 years.

8 3. During September, October, the latter half of May, and June the weather makes
9 the classroom extremely unpleasant because there is very little air conditioning in the school.
10 Since I do not have air conditioning in my classroom, I have had to buy fans with my own money
11 so that the room is bearable. However, the heat makes it very difficult to teach and for the
12 students to learn. At times the students must sit next to the window in order to pay attention.
13 Many students have asthma and have difficulty breathing.

14 4. During the winter it gets very cold in my classroom. Students are forced to wear
15 their winter coats in class to keep from shivering. They are warm enough to do their work but
16 imagine trying to write or take notes with a big winter jacket on while sitting at a small desk. I
17 know from my work on the Heat Committee of the Oakland Education Association that the heat
18 does not work in some of the rooms at Tech because the district has only hired five steam fitters -
19 people who can fix the heaters in the district. With over 100 school sites, all the steam fitters can
20 do is fix the heating systems when they break. They do not have time to perform regular
21 maintenance that would keep the heaters from breaking as much as they do.

22 5. Lack of maintenance also creates some respiratory problems for students,
23 especially those with asthma. The heating vents are not cleaned on a regular basis so they give
24 off a lot of dust.

25 6. We have a serious rodent infestation at Tech. Beginning last winter when the
26 rainy season began during the 2000-2001 school year and continuing until the end of the school
27 year in June, mice appeared in my room. I swept the classroom several times each day and didn't
28 allow the students to eat snacks during class, but the problem persisted. I reported the problem

1 but I never saw any evidence that exterminators came out to Tech, and the problem continued
2 unabated. I purchased and set mouse traps from February on and killed approximately 20 mice.
3 When mice appeared during class, pandemonium would break out with students running to the
4 far side of the room and getting out of their seats. It is an awful disruption to learning to have
5 rodents in your classroom.

6 7. My classroom itself is also in disrepair. During the 2000-2001 school year the
7 clock fell off the wall and just missed a student. The clock was not fixed or put back on the wall
8 until the start of the 2001-2002 school year. It takes a very long time to get my clock repaired or
9 even reset. Additionally, our elevators break down frequently which imposes hardships on both
10 disabled faculty and handicapped students. Also, one of my venetian blinds fell down early last
11 year nearly hitting a student on the head.

12 8. In order to provide my students a complete history education I am forced, due to
13 the lack of supplies, to buy \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 worth of materials each year. These materials
14 range from pens and pencils to fans to videos. Everything I buy is essential to the lessons that I
15 want my students to learn. For example, I buy fans because the students cannot focus on their
16 work or my lecture if it is too hot. A teacher should not have to spend this much money to
17 provide an education for his or her students.

18 9. The state of the school has a demoralizing effect on teachers. It is hard enough to
19 teach the students let alone trying to do it at a school with these conditions. In addition, the
20 teachers begin to feel like nobody really cares about what they are doing. It is difficult to
21 persevere and stay motivated to help the students. In fact, I am contemplating early retirement
22 because of how demoralizing Oakland Tech is.

23 10. The students feel this demoralizing effect too. The conditions of Tech coupled
24 with the unmotivated attitude of some teachers subvert the idea that school is a serious activity
25 and replace it with the thought that school is just for show.

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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 28 day of Sept, 2001 in Oakland, California.

Michael R. Dunlap
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