

Declaration of John Mullens

I, John Mullens, 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 teach Life Skills For the 21st Century on the A track at Fremont High School in Los Angeles, where I have been teaching for 26 years. Life Skills is a required course for graduation at Fremont.

3. I do not have a permanent classroom to teach in, so I must rove from classroom to classroom for four different periods every day. I teach my fifth and sixth period classes in the same room, but I travel to different classrooms for every other period in the school day. When this school year began, I had my own classroom, but my department chair told me that a brand-new teacher in our department was going to have to rove for each of the five periods she teaches and he asked me if I would allow her to use my classroom for one period so she could travel less often. I agreed to rove for one period so she could use my classroom for two periods (my prep period and the period when I roved to another classroom). Later, our union pressured the school to keep new teachers from having to travel, so my department chair gave the brand-new teacher my classroom and I now have to travel instead. I know several other teachers were also traveling among classrooms at the beginning of this school year, and I know at least one other teacher also still does not have a permanent classroom to teach in for the full school day. Some new bungalows did arrive on campus to alleviate the teacher traveling problem after the school year began, but there were not enough new bungalows for all the teachers to have their own classrooms.

4. Fremont is terribly overcrowded, with thousands of kids just piled into the school. During the last intersession period, which lasted from the beginning of July to the end of September, the impact of overcrowding on my class was really mind blowing. Intersession consists of two periods, which last for two hours each, for a total of four hours. I had to travel to four different classrooms every day because there wasn't enough classroom space to house the intersession. I had to use the rooms of various teachers during their conference (preparation)

1 periods. For the first hour of my period one intersession class, my students and I had to meet in
2 the cafeteria because there were absolutely no classrooms available. Another class was present in
3 the cafeteria at the same time. It was very hard to teach in the cafeteria with another class in
4 there because it was hard to be heard and to concentrate. Period two of the intersession also
5 lasted for two hours and was also very crowded, but less so than period one. We again had to
6 move to different rooms at the end of each hour of period two. During the second hour of period
7 one, there were nowhere near enough seats in the classroom for all 60 students, so about 15 to 20
8 students had to sit on counters on the periphery of the room every day for the entire intersession.
9 It was really horrible. How could anybody learn anything in such crowded conditions?

10 5. All but one of my current classes are really big, with 37, 38, and 39 students in the
11 classes. My fourth period class is huge, with 39 students in the class. The administration tells
12 me I have 37 students in that class, but I've counted 39 in my room. Sometimes, when all the
13 students are present, the students have to sit in chairs without desks because we do not have
14 enough desks for all the students in the class.

15 6. I have taught at Fremont since before we went onto the multitrack, year-round
16 calendar, and it is clear to me that the Concept 6 multitrack calendar is terrible for the kids. The
17 courses must rush too fast on the compressed schedule, the kids are in school for too long during
18 the days. It's just educationally terrible for school to be rushed, rushed, rushed the way it is on
19 the Concept 6 multitrack schedule.

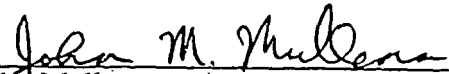
20 7. Fremont has only one photocopier available for teachers to use, and a lot of times
21 that copier, which is located in the school library, is broken down. About four years ago, I
22 purchased a photocopier to keep at my home because the school photocopier breaks down so
23 often. I just got sick of trying to rely on the school copier, so I bought one for my house. The
24 smartest thing I have ever done was to buy that copier, even though it is expensive to keep it
25 running and to buy toner cartridges for it (and to buy it in the first place). At least now I don't
26 have to worry about whether I will have materials for my students to use. I'm not aware of any
27 textbook that's been written for the class I teach, so I must make photocopied packets for my
28 students to have any instructional materials. It was just terribly frustrating to have to try to rely

1 on the one school photocopier that was so frequently broken.

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3 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United
4 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this ~~4th~~ 5th day of December, 2001 in
5 Riverside, California.

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John Mullens

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