

1 **Declaration of Darlene Taylor**

2 I, Darlene Taylor, 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 Dominique Monroe who attended Fremont High School in
6 Oakland during the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 school years. I have seen the conditions at the
7 school in person because I am an involved mother and have visited the school many times.

8 3. The bathrooms are disgusting at Fremont. The bathrooms are dirty and often there
9 is no toilet paper, soap, and paper towels. On top of this, the administration locks different
10 bathrooms on the campus on different days and does not tell the students which bathrooms will
11 be open so students have to search around for bathrooms that they can actually use. That is
12 degrading. The situation is so terrible with the bathrooms that often my daughter holds it all day
13 until she comes home at night. This is terrible for her health, uncomfortable for her, and it makes
14 it hard for her to concentrate in class.

15 4. Fremont reminds me of hell. The school is filthy. It was built for 1,500 students,
16 however, it has approximately 2,500 students on its campus. Students are packed in like
17 sardines. If a student wants to survive at Fremont they must fight just to get by. It is terrible.

18 5. Several of my daughters classes' during the 2000-2001 school year did not have
19 air conditioning, and I just don't understand how she is supposed to learn when she is sweating,
20 uncomfortable, and overheated.

21 6. In one of my daughter's classes, during the 2000-2001 school year, there were
22 more students than seats for several weeks at the beginning of the school year. As a result, my
23 daughter's teacher had to find seats from other rooms so that the students did not have to stand.

24 7. It really makes me angry that my daughter did not have a textbook in any of her
25 classes that she could bring home to study out of every day. During my daughter's entire ninth
26 grade year, during the 1999-2000 school year, my daughter did not have a textbook that she was
27 allowed to bring home on a regular basis in any of her classes. For at least three of my daughter's
28 classes during her two years at Fremont she did not have any books in class either – only

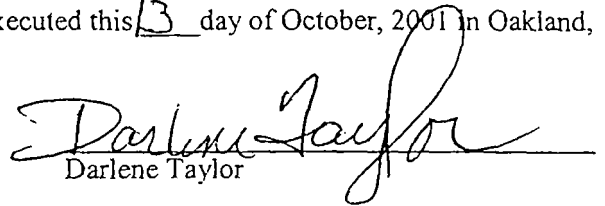
1 photocopies.

2 8. It is appalling that in the richest country in the world we cannot figure out how to
3 make schools function properly so that students have basic supplies and materials that they need
4 to learn. Fremont is truly a rathole. For the 2001-2002 school year I pulled my daughter out of
5 Fremont High School and helped to plan and create a public charter school in our neighborhood
6 so that she and about 250 other students from Fremont will have a chance at receiving a good
7 education.

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

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Darlene Taylor

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