

1 **Declaration of Selena Wilson**

2 I, Selena Wilson, 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 a junior at Castlemont High School in Oakland. I have attended Castlemont  
6 during the 1999-2000, 2000-2001, and 2001-2002 school years.

7 3. At Castlemont we have had three different principals in three years. It makes me  
8 really sad that principals don't stay at our school and it is difficult for the students because there  
9 are different rules every year. I really feel like there is no one who has been here throughout my  
10 time at Castlemont that I can go to if I am having problems. Who knows if the principal this year  
11 will actually stay with us.

12 4. Thus far during the 2001-2002 school year things have been extremely  
13 disorganized and chaotic. The administration did not begin to give out books until about two or  
14 three weeks into the school year. For the first few weeks I had no books and was given handouts  
15 in all of my classes except for chemistry. In my chemistry class the teacher is really proactive  
16 and had a class set of books for us on the first day. It was wonderful because we actually read on  
17 the first day and in the first month of school we have already covered several chapters of  
18 material. The situation in my chemistry class should be replicated in all of my other classes.  
19 Unfortunately in my other classes we really only got started with our work about two or three  
20 weeks into the school year. I feel like the first few weeks have been a real waste of learning time  
21 because so many students did not and still do not have books, teachers have had to make copies  
22 or different lessons for us, and students are sharing materials in class. I don't understand why  
23 we do not begin the school year on the first day of school with all of the materials we need to  
24 learn.

25 5. During the 2001-2002 school year, I was given a schedule on the first day of  
26 school that did not have a fourth period and so I had no idea where I was supposed to go during  
27 that hour when I was supposed to be in a classroom. The school administration made  
28 announcements over the loud speaker telling all of the students who did not have enough classes

1 to go to the cafeteria. When I went into the cafeteria I saw fifty or so students who had schedules  
2 with missing periods. I went to the counseling office and it was also overflowing with students.  
3 What an incredible waste for so many students to just be walking around the school or sitting in  
4 the cafeteria when they could be in class.

5         6.       In my advanced algebra/trigonometry class during the 2001-2002 school year, my  
6 book is falling apart, the cover is coming off, and there is writing on many of the pages. It makes  
7 me feel like the administration does not care about us when they give us books in such terrible  
8 condition.

9         7.       My Spanish II class during the 2001-2002 school year was and is still extremely  
10 overcrowded. It is so overcrowded that students are sitting in chairs between rows of desks.

11         8.       During the 2000-2001 school year, my biology class lacked basic materials.  
12 When we did experiments in that class my teacher had to pay for the materials. For example, the  
13 teacher bought one cow eye for all his classes with his own money and we all crowded around to  
14 watch him dissect it. I know that he bought the cow eye with his own money because he told the  
15 class he had. This teacher also told us to be extremely careful because it was the only one he had  
16 for all the periods of biology. In my physical science class during the 1999-2000 school year, we  
17 did not do any experiments during the school year, only book work.

18         9.       In my art class during the 1999-2000 school year, my teacher was 5 - 20 minutes  
19 late for class at least two days per week. I spoke to one of the school administrators about this  
20 and he said that there was nothing he could do about it. I don't think it is right for students to  
21 have to miss so much time out of their class period because the teacher does not show up at the  
22 time class is supposed to start.

23         10.      I am on the Castlemont track team. During the 1999-2000 school year I received  
24 credit for my participation in track in an advanced sports class. During the 2000-2001 and 2001-  
25 2002 school years I have participated in track as an extracurricular activity. The track team lacks  
26 even the most basic supplies that one would expect a track team to have. We do not have hurdles  
27 or a pit. The shot putter and discus thrower had to buy her own shot put and disc, and our coach  
28 has basically had to buy all of the other materials and some of the materials, such as our ladders,

1 several members of our team helped the coach to assemble. Our hurdler actually only learned  
2 how to jump hurdles because she practiced on hurdles at the other richer schools we go to for  
3 track meets. Not having even basic materials to use makes me feel disadvantaged compared to  
4 other schools.

5 11. The counseling situation at Castlemont is horrible. There are not enough  
6 counselors at Castlemont and this affects your ability to get classes you need to graduate and to  
7 go to college. It is extremely difficult to get a counseling appointment and this year I have had  
8 many problems with my schedule. It has taken a week or two just for me to change out of classes  
9 I was not supposed to be in. During the 2001-2002 school year, I was placed in a Spanish II class  
10 for about a week and a half before I was able to transfer back into a Spanish I class, the class I  
11 was supposed to be in. I also had no fourth period for about four days and so during the time I  
12 was supposed to be in class I just went into another teacher's class and hung out. It was a  
13 complete waste. Another problem on my schedule this year was that I was placed in a regular  
14 English class even though my teacher had requested that I be placed in an AP English class. The  
15 first English class that the counselors placed me in was held in an extremely crowded portable  
16 and I was only transferred to an AP class two weeks later. I am still playing catch-up in the AP  
17 class because I missed a lot. This AP class is still not on my schedule even though I have now  
18 been attending the class for about three weeks.

19 12. There are not enough computers at Castlemont. Our English teachers often ask  
20 the students in their classes to type their papers. Unfortunately, the school does not have  
21 computers that are accessible to students and many students do not have computers at home. So  
22 most students will just hand write their papers and take a lower grade because they have no other  
23 choice.

24 13. At Castlemont we are not receiving the same education as other students in the  
25 state and when we get out into the real world we are going to have to compete with these students  
26 and that is just not fair. The students at Castlemont are being set up to fail.

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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 25 day of October, 2001 in Oakland, California.

  
Selena Wilson