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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

MAE M., through her guardian ad litem
Anthony M., SUSAN C., through her
guardian ad litem Sabrina C., GWEN S.,
through their guardian ad litem Ramona S.,
CARSON L., through his guardian ad litem
Nancy L., DAVID P., through his guardian
ad litem RACHEL P., VIOLET B., through
her guardian ad litem INEZ B., STELLA B.,
through her guardian ad litem INEZ B.,
TEMECULA VALLEY EDUCATORS
ASSOCIATION, AMY EYCHISON,
KATRINA MILES, JENNIFER SCHARF,
and DAWN SIBBY,

Plaintiffs,

v.

JOSEPH KOMROSKY, JENNIFER
WIERSMA, DANNY GONZALEZ,
ALLISON BARCLAY, and STEVEN
SCHWARTZ, in their official capacities as
members of TEMECULA VALLEY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF
TRUSTEES, TEMECULA VALLEY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, and DOES
1 – 100,

Defendants.

Case No.: CVSW2306224

**DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF
KATRINA MILES**

Judge: Honorable Irma Poole Asberry

Dept.: 5

DECLARATION OF KATRINA MILES

I, Katrina Miles, declare and state as follows:

1. I have personal knowledge of the facts in this declaration. If called upon to testify, I could and would testify competently to the following facts.

2. I am a sixth grade English and Drama teacher at Temecula Middle School. I have a Master’s degree in English, and I have taught in the Temecula Valley Unified School District for 20 years. I currently serve as the teacher advisor for Temecula Middle School’s Black Student Union.

3. I am the sole Black educator at my school.

4. My son is currently an eighth grade student in the District. The Board’s decisions will affect him for the next five years. As the Board’s restrictions continue and teachers continue to censor their curriculum and instruction, I will have to fill in important details for my son so that his education is not incomplete.

5. I attended Christopher Arend’s “training” on Resolution 21 in the hope of understanding whether any of my teaching techniques could potentially fall within the Resolution’s broad language. Not only did Arend fail to clarify the Resolution, but his repeated assertion that racism is no longer significant also baffled me. As a Black woman, I know the emotional and psychological toll that both systemic and individual racism inflict on people of color, and I know it remains prevalent for my students and me.

6. The Board’s actions have already impacted the information available to students at my school. Every year for the past six years, I and my sixth grade teacher colleagues have taught *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. But since the Resolution, I am the only teacher that kept the book in the curriculum. Having personally experienced racial segregation, I know how important it is for students to understand that racial inequities are not confined to the distant past and to develop compassion for people whose backgrounds are different from their own. Even though I still taught the book, I took pains to change the way I presented it. I avoided using group terms like “white,” and I strictly adhered to the text of the book to avoid making any suggestions or sharing any of my own perspectives with the students. I made these changes

1 because I do not want to be misquoted or face the consequences of being reported to the highly
2 partisan Board members.

3 7. I constantly wonder how the Board's actions will impact my son and my
4 increasingly diverse student body. My school has indicated that books in teachers' personal
5 libraries "may not be approved for classroom use." More recently, Board member Wiersma
6 came to my school seeking the removal of a Banned Books Week display, which included
7 *Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowling, *Captain Underpants* by Dav Pilkey, *Bridge to Terabithia* by
8 Katherine Paterson, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, and *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins.
9 After talking to our staff, my school took down the display and books. Such behavior only adds
10 to the uncertainty of what teachers are permitted to do in the classroom.

11 8. I grew up in southeast Texas shortly after desegregation had started. My mother
12 worked as a server in a white social club that did not allow Black members. My family
13 eventually moved to San Diego, and upon reaching high school, I was bussed daily to a
14 predominantly white school. I have first-hand experience with America's dark and racist past.

15 9. Supporters of the Resolution, including Arend and school board members, have
16 frequently referred to Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Yet, here
17 we are almost 60 years later still having this conversation: Who gets to speak? Who must be
18 silenced? What topics must remain in the closet? We are having this conversation despite the
19 fact that young people have access to swaths of information at their fingertips. I see this often in
20 the classroom and on the school campus. They are aware of the events taking place outside our
21 four walls. But, I cannot talk about these issues with them. I cannot help them understand our
22 complex society. I cannot provide them with new, diverse viewpoints from my own lived
23 experiences.

24 10. The Board has forced me and other teachers to keep portions of our American
25 history hidden. However, as a Black parent, I know that we have not had the privilege of
26 keeping the ugliest parts of our history hidden. We lived through them, and they continue to
27 impact us and our children today. Even in old age, many of us live with the trauma of
28 America's past.

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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on November 28, 2023.

Katrina Miles

Katrina Miles
Declarant