

April 15, 2010

To the attention of Long Beach Unified School District:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Mrs. Linda Gant, my son Matthew Elias' Kindergarten teacher at Avalon Elementary School. Mrs. Gant is a wonderful teacher who provides a structured learning environment that supports the academic needs and ELL language needs of our children here in Avalon. She encourages parent involvement both inside and outside of the classroom, including inviting all parents, including myself, to participate in our child's learning experiences. Each week when I participate in Matthew's class I am able to assist in small groups, individualized projects, or perhaps reading a story to the class. Having taught as a Special Education Teacher in a Special Day Class prior to moving to Avalon, I have felt confident in Mrs. Gant's abilities, not only as a Kindergarten Teacher, but also with assisting the needs of our large ELL population on the island and communication with the parents.

My son Christopher had Mrs. Gant for Kindergarten two years ago, now my son Matthew has her, and I hope my daughter Emily will be able to experience Kindergarten with Mrs. Gant in 2 more years. She is a highly qualified teacher who meets the needs of our community here in Avalon. It would be a disservice to our community to lose Mrs. Gant at our school.

I also want to express my concerns of the additional cost and unreliability (due to cancelled boats) of sending a replacement teacher who would be commuting from the mainland daily to Avalon. The cost of boat tickets and taxi rides would be costly to our school district and take away funds that would be better used within the classroom. As a parent I am very upset about the recent notification of increasing the classroom size of students in our K-3 classrooms due to budget concerns. Spending these funds on a nonresident teacher when we have a highly qualified teacher in Avalon already just doesn't make sense.

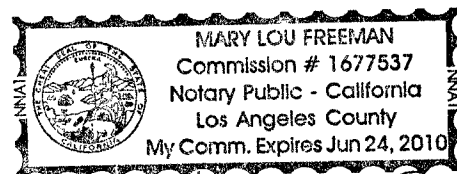
I hope you will reconsider terminating Mrs. Gant as our Kindergarten Teacher here at Avalon Elementary School. She is loved by her students dearly (speaking for both my boys) and is an effective teacher who provides an amazing learning experience for our children here in Avalon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Megan Sellers  
P.O. Box 1619  
Avalon, CA 90704



Mary Lou Freeman, Notary Public  
April 28, 2010