

From: [Jeffrey Carter](#)
To: [cityclerk](#)
Cc: [Harris, Michael](#); [Dupont, Darin](#)
Subject: \$17 million FAA grand
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 6:04:35 PM

Merced City Council
Citizens of Merced

Someone needs to do a DOGE on the \$17 million FAA grant that was given to the city of Merced.
Or an investigation on what happened to it. A full accounting.
It sure as heck wasn't spent building a 5000 square-foot building at the airport. At the very most that building would've cost \$2.13 million. Where is the rest of the money? But you don't care. I have a good idea where it went. If you find out where the money went, please respond and share and provide documentation. You won't!

Thanks
Jeffrey Carter

4:18



The average cost of a single-story commercial structure is anywhere between **\$300 to \$400 per square foot**. As follows, for mid-rise commercial buildings, the average price is between **\$500 and \$600 per square foot**. Finally, the average cost of a high-rise building is typically always around **\$700 per square foot**.

headwatersbuilding.com

Also get rid of "consent items."

That's just a means to sneak stuff in with no public input.

Please return voicemails to three minutes to be played during the public comments time at the meetings. Also return to allowing people with disabilities to call in during the public comments time so their voice can be heard as well.. Don't shut us up Mr. Mayor. Despite your best efforts, we were glad to see emails to the City Council being posted online again for public review.

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of City of Merced -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless

you are sure the content is safe.]

From: [Smith, Shane](#)
To: [Levesque, Jennifer](#); [Medina, Alejandra](#)
Subject: Fw: City flag policy
Date: Monday, March 3, 2025 11:11:44 AM

From: Rick Wendling [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 9:59 AM
To: Serratto, Matthew <serrattom@cityofmerced.org>; Dupont, Darin <district1@cityofmerced.org>; De Anda, Ronnie <district2@cityofmerced.org>; Harris, Michael <district3@cityofmerced.org>; Smith, Shane <district4@cityofmerced.org>; Boyle, Sarah <district5@cityofmerced.org>; Xiong, Fue <district6@cityofmerced.org>
Cc: Flachman, Jennifer <flachmanj@cityofmerced.org>
Subject: City flag policy

Representatives:

May I suggest you take the advice written in the local paper and by others to display only the National, State and City flags in Bob Hart Square and ALL city property.

The divisiveness perpetuated by displaying “those two” is not healing and may encourage other squeaky wheels be oiled.

Respectfully,
Rick W

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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From: [Smith, Shane](#)
To: [Levesque, Jennifer](#); [Medina, Alejandra](#)
Subject: Fw: Flag policy for city of Merced
Date: Monday, March 3, 2025 11:11:03 AM

From: Mary Avila [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 9:11 AM
To: Smith, Shane <District4@cityofmerced.org>
Subject: Flag policy for city of Merced

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Shane

Only official government flags for city of Merced!!!

Thank you
Mary Avila
Sent from my iPhone

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From: [Smith, Shane](#)
To: [Levesque, Jennifer](#); [Medina, Alejandra](#)
Subject: Fw: FFRF Letter Regarding Resolution to Display Christian Flag on Public Property
Date: Monday, March 3, 2025 11:12:02 AM
Attachments: [City of Merced, CA.pdf](#)

From: Matt Langer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 3:15 PM
To: Serratto, Matthew <serrattom@cityofmerced.org>; Dupont, Darin <dupontd@cityofmerced.org>; De Anda, Ronnie <DeandaR@cityofmerced.org>; Harris, Michael <HarrisM@cityofmerced.org>; Smith, Shane <SmithS@cityofmerced.org>; Boyle, Sarah <BoyleS@cityofmerced.org>; Xiong, Fue <XiongF@cityofmerced.org>
Cc: Sammi Lawrence [REDACTED]
Subject: FFRF Letter Regarding Resolution to Display Christian Flag on Public Property

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Serratto and City Council Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, a nationwide nonprofit organization that works to protect the constitutional principle of separation of state and church. Please review the attached letter from Staff Attorney Samantha Lawrence (CC'ed). This letter was also sent via U.S. Mail.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Matt Langer
Legal Assistant
Freedom From Religion Foundation
P.O. Box 750
Madison, WI 53701-0750

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FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

P.O. BOX 750 • MADISON, WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900 • WWW.FFRF.ORG

February 24, 2025

SENT VIA EMAIL & U.S. MAIL:

**serrattom@cityofmerced.org; dupontd@cityofmerced.org; DeandaR@cityofmerced.org;
HarrisM@Cityofmerced.org; SmithS@cityofmerced.org; BoyleS@Cityofmerced.org;
XiongF@cityofmerced.org**

The Honorable Matthew Serratto
Mayor
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Merced City Council
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Re: Resolution to display Christian Flag on public property

Dear Mayor Serratto and City Council Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) regarding the City Council's resolution to display the Christian Flag on public property in April 2025. FFRF is a national nonprofit organization with over 41,000 members across the country, including more than 5,300 members and several local chapters in California. Our purposes are to protect the constitutional principle of separation between state and church, and to educate the public on matters relating to nontheism.

A concerned community member reported that the Council passed a resolution to fly the Christian Flag on public property in April 2025. It's our understanding that at the Council's February 3, 2025 meeting, it first approved a resolution to consider displaying "the Christian Flag in Bob Hart Square in Honor of Easter as Submitted by the Barn Church Beginning on April 11, 2025 Through May 9, 2025."¹ According to a local news source, the February 3rd action passed with a vote of 6-1. The lone dissenter, Council member Fue Xiong, stated that:

[H]e strongly opposes flying the flag "especially in the light of Trump's reelection, and the fear from our community."

"The Christian flag was flown during the January 6th insurrection," Xiong said. "It is a symbol used by white Christian nationalists and provides cover for white supremacy and racial subjugation with the call for an ethnostate."

He added, "Flying this flag undermines the separation of church and state, and in my opinion, this decision is based at the discretion of council, and so I disagree with us going forward."²

¹ February 3, 2025 City Council Meeting Agenda, <https://ffrf.us/4hTPFkQ>.

² *Leaders OK request to fly Christian Flag in Bob Hart Square*, Merced Cnty. Times (Feb. 6, 2025), <https://mercedcountytimes.com/leaders-ok-request-to-fly-christian-flag-in-bob-hart-square/>.

Our complainant states that the Council passed this resolution at its February 18, 2025 meeting.³ Per the City's official Administrative Policies & Procedures, Policy C-7, Display of Flags at City Facilities:

The purpose of this Policy is to establish guidelines for the display of flags at City facilities. In adopting this Policy, the City Council declares that City flagpoles or other areas where flags may be displayed at City Facilities are not intended to and shall not serve as a forum for free expression by the public.

The display of flags at City Facilities is solely intended to serve as an expression of the City's speech and its official sentiments. This Policy applies to all City Facilities and employees, officers, and agents of the City.⁴

As Council member Xiong noted, the Christian flag, despite its benign origins, has unfortunately become heavily associated with white Christian nationalism and the January 6, 2021 insurrection. As a joint report by FFRF and the Baptist Joint Commission for Religious Liberty details, the Christian flag was among the symbols of Christian nationalism and white supremacy that insurrectionists displayed as they stormed the capitol.⁵

Our complainant explained that the Council's decision to fly the Christian flag "makes me feel marginalized in my own community, as the flag they chose to fly, the Christian flag, is often used to represent Christian nationalism," and Christian nationalist ideology negatively impacts their family and friends.

We write to request that the Council reconsider flying the Christian flag. While the Council surely seeks to use its flag policy as a way to be inclusive and welcoming, flying a flag that represents a single religion—and is increasingly seen as a Christian nationalist symbol—is needlessly divisive and exclusionary.

The First Amendment's Establishment Clause requires government neutrality between religion and religion, and between religion and nonreligion. *See generally, Wallace v. Jaffree*, 472 U.S. 38, 53 (1985); *Epperson v. Ark.*, 393 U.S. 97, 104 (1968); *Everson v. Bd. of Educ. of Ewing*, 330 U.S. 1, 15–16 (1947). It is thus unconstitutional for the government to favor religion over nonreligion, or one religion over others. By flying the Christian flag on public property, the Council is signalling official City favoritism toward religion over nonreligion, and specifically Christianity over all other faiths. The fact that Policy C-7 states that all flag displays are "government speech" makes clear the City has a constitutional obligation to comply with the Establishment Clause. Further, it's especially concerning that, per the City's Policy, the City's decision to fly a flag associated with Christian nationalism will represent the City's own "official sentiments."

The Council's policy and procedure differ significantly from the flag display policy at issue in *Shurtleff v. City of Boston*, where the Supreme Court held that Boston violated the First Amendment when it refused an organization's request to fly a Christian flag on public property. 596 U.S. 243 (2022). In *Shurtleff*, the

³ February 18, 2025 City Council Meeting Agenda, <https://ffrf.us/43cgBYO>.

⁴ Policy C-7 § 1, <https://www.cityofmerced.org/home/showpublisheddocument/15037/637649881212230000> (emphasis added).

⁵ Christian Nationalism and the January 6th, 2021 Insurrection, https://ffrf.org/uploads/legal/Christian_Nationalism_and_the_Jan6_Insurrection-2-9-22.pdf.

Court explicitly stated that “when the government speaks for itself, the First Amendment does not demand airtime for all views.” *Id.* at 247–48. Ultimately, the Court found that Boston’s flag policy constituted a public forum, explaining “Boston did not make the raising and flying of private groups’ flags a form of government speech,” and thus Boston’s refusal to fly the Christian flag was unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination. *Id.* at 248. In contrast to *Shurtleff*, the Council’s policy explicitly states that all flag displays are government speech. Therefore, the Council is “free to choose the flags it flies without the constraints of the First Amendment’s Free Speech Clause.” *Id.* at 248.

Additionally, displaying the Christian flag, a symbol that is increasingly synonymous with white Christian nationalism, on public property is exclusionary. Displaying this divisive symbol will needlessly marginalize all City of Merced community members, such as our complainant, who are non-Christians, including those who are nonreligious. Nearly 30 percent of adult Americans are religiously unaffiliated, and an additional six percent of Americans adhere to non-Christian faiths.⁶

We urge the City Council to reconsider its decision to fly the Christian flag at Bob Hart Square. While the City’s intentions behind its flag policy are surely admirable, it should avoid displaying flags that promote a single religion or that have become symbols of division and exclusion. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Samantha F. Lawrence". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Samantha" being more prominent and the last name "Lawrence" following in a similar style.

Samantha F. Lawrence
Staff Attorney
Freedom From Religion Foundation

⁶ Gregory A. Smith, *Religious ‘Nones’ in America: Who They Are and What They Believe*, Pew Research Center, Jan. 24, 2024, <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2024/01/24/religious-nones-in-america-who-they-are-and-what-they-believe/>.

From: [Caleb](#)
To: [cityclerk](#)
Cc: [Dupont, Darin](#); [Serratto, Matthew](#); [De Anda, Ronnie](#); [Harris, Michael](#); [Smith, Shane](#); [Boyle, Sarah](#)
Subject: Commemorative Flag Policy
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 9:24:02 AM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning City Council Members,

I want to thank you for your time last Tuesday night and for Council's approval to fly the Christian Flag. I desperately desire good for the City of Merced and deeply respect each of you and your service. After listening to the later discussion on the flag policy, I thought it may be helpful to share some thoughts. I firmly believe in ensuring the proper role of government and that it represents all of its constituents without bias.

First, I wanted to assure you that we had no contact with Hal Shurtleff (Shurtleff vs. Boston) until after the news hit the Merced County Times that our request had been approved for consideration by the Council. He reached out to us around the same time he sent you a message (not a coordinated thing). However, he has provided some good insight into the matter since.

In particular, it is unfortunate and not coincidentally that this effort to change the flag policy only became a hot action item *immediately after* the request for the Christian Flag to be flown, and not after other flags of controversy were brought to Council by the public (after years of not following its own policy). We also noted that multiple questions on technicality were brought up by members during Council discussion of the Christian flag on Feb 6th. Yet these same questions were not asked while considering each of the other commemorative flags (shortening length of time, date of submission/consideration) revealing a bias and unequal application. I appreciate the complexities of thinking through what could happen should a flag be requested that is extremely controversial, however, what is controversial is a subjective matter depending on one's constituency and worldview.

It appeared from the discussion on Tuesday night that according to some members of Council, there were certain controversial flags (secular religion worldviews) that would be a "shoe in" under the upcoming policy; while, given Council's targeted immediate action following our request, the Christian Flag would likely not be considered in the future. This was concerning.

If indeed Council is considering any change to it's policy and indeed it is done in good faith, then we believe the policy would reflect the wise concerns that Council members Dupont, Boyle, and Mayor Serratto brought up and end flying commemorative flags altogether.

The City desperately needs Council's leadership in the arenas that are within its purview

that already have plenty of controversy. We suggest that Council should stay united and not get into the realm of deciding/arguing what worldviews they desire to virtue signal, promote, or deny. Failing to focus will only lead to division in the community and amongst yourselves which will restrict Council's ability to do the other vital work your constituents need Council to do (crime reduction, safe/clean parks for families, economic development/becoming the most business friendly city in CA). We have a terrible economic/business reputation as a city. That needs to change for the good of all. What if Council's vision/plan was to have the most business friendly city in California in order to bring forth jobs to help your constituents be able to afford better housing and a better lifestyle by the work of their own hands?

Every flag is a statement that endorses a worldview to the exclusion of those who don't. Unless you are going to allow the city flag poles to be public speech, Council should leave those debates for private citizens to exercise and express. Simply put, it should be any and all flags, or only the U.S. Flag, State Flag, and City Flag. Flags which represent every person that legally resides in the City of Merced and which reinforce the proper role of the government with no controversy and no division.

I desperately want good for the City of Merced and for it to be restored. This will take hard work, determination, and unity. We will pray for wisdom for you as Council considers this policy and as you work to restore and help Merced to become all it can be.

Thank you so much for your time.

Respectfully,

Caleb Medefind

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From: [Angela Lara](#)
To: [cityclerk](#)
Subject: please add to town council agenda 2/24/25- 3 pages
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 11:33:55 AM

Greeting,

The following pictures should help
finalize this 4th Grievance already Fulfilled Your Outrageous Command since first visit
4/18/2022 plus again
on Oct 24, 2024.

Worse part Superintendent was still in office when out of compliance having me
translate@three month visit so both grievances were share with parents.

Then she has always been in the audience all this time, that is CRUEL
and UNUSUAL UNCONSTITUTIONAL PREMEDITATED BIGOTTED BEHAVIORS.

Remember the very fact I have no representation now because she is the President
Elect@CRTA when never followed any rules is INHUMANE.

Hope Soon:

1. affidavit not @fault
- 2.highest "positive" recommendation possible
3. Sign the Finalize Odyssey 2 lesson case study Alumni partnership Mural society trust

Look forward to hearing from you
to change your failed GEOMETRIC FIGURE Lesson GRADE to a POLLINATING
POSITIVITY outcome.

Remember, I am the ex Union representative of your Teachers is on her own 50B hrs Human
Rights
Violations CASE, told no human rights.

For your information, I spoke on National radio@the Madera Forum on Voting about
disgraceful Trump administration as yours in this community.

This hostage situation you have me stuck in between Unions as if half pregnant is a violation
of human rights.

It's time Teresa Neil Saldivar-Morse
take responsibility for their actions.

They changed the SRT occupation code,
I have never been a desk Account Clerk; remember my last accident report was

Sacramento Dept Education forced fill front of 3rd grade team.

Where is Sacramento Dept Education going to find students to observe from the desk of an Account Clerk ?

Very sad retirement now go fight your self out of a Twilight Zone bag with no objective.

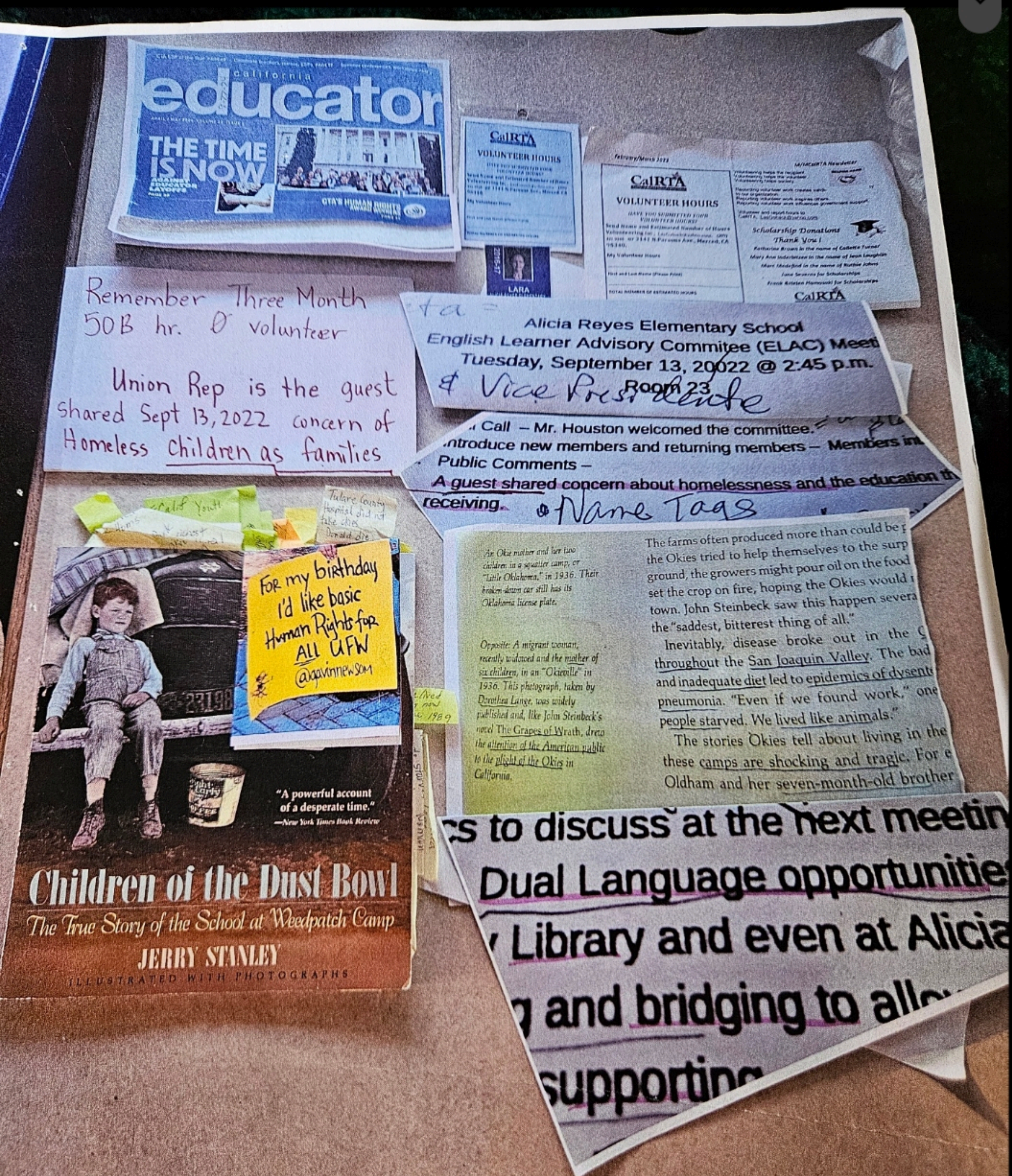
This Adminstration forgot that
our Alicia Reyes Elementary School
Soars and that we each determine
our future !

Best regards,

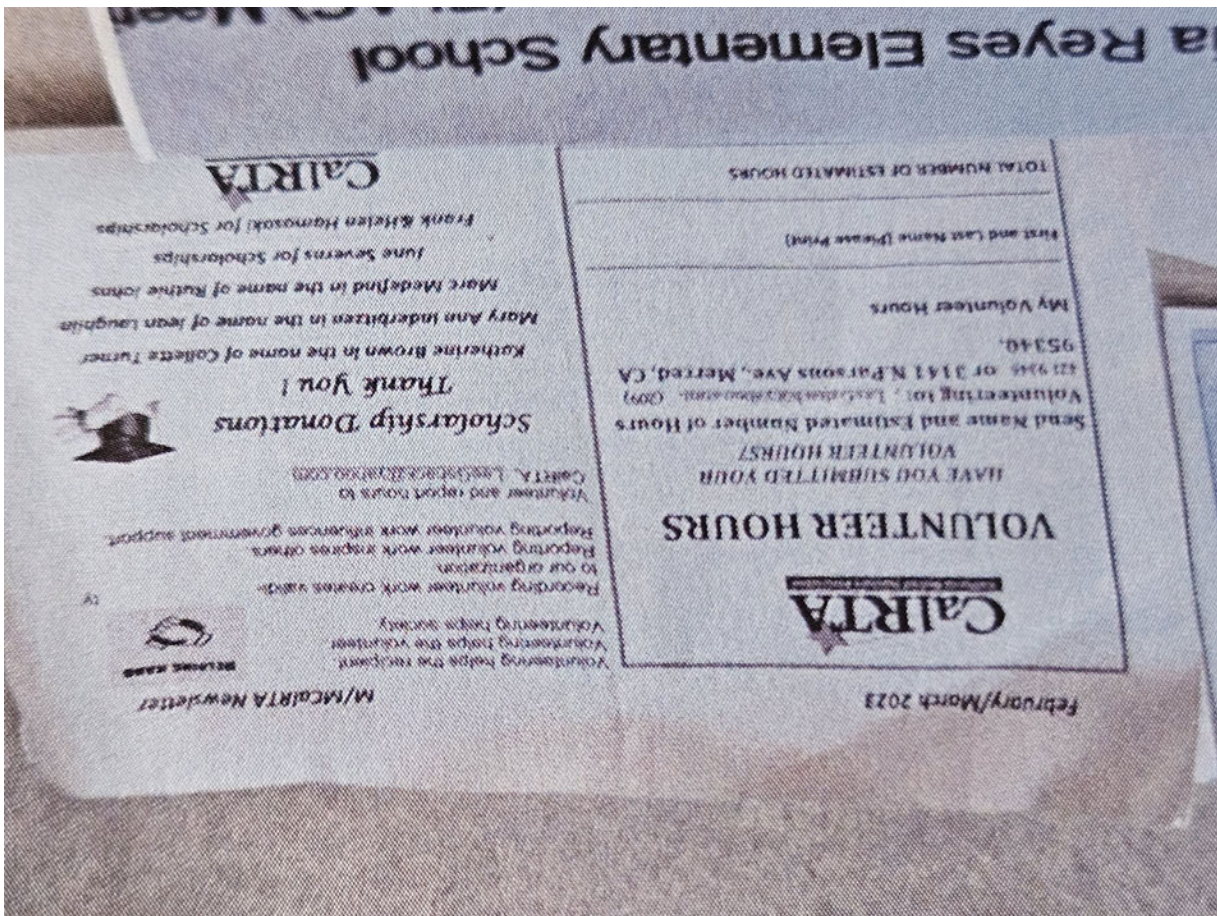
Mrs. Angela W. Lara

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223%



From: [Angela Lara](#)
To: [cityclerk](#)
Subject: 4th griev 3
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 12:22:18 PM



11:58 100%

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Edit Post

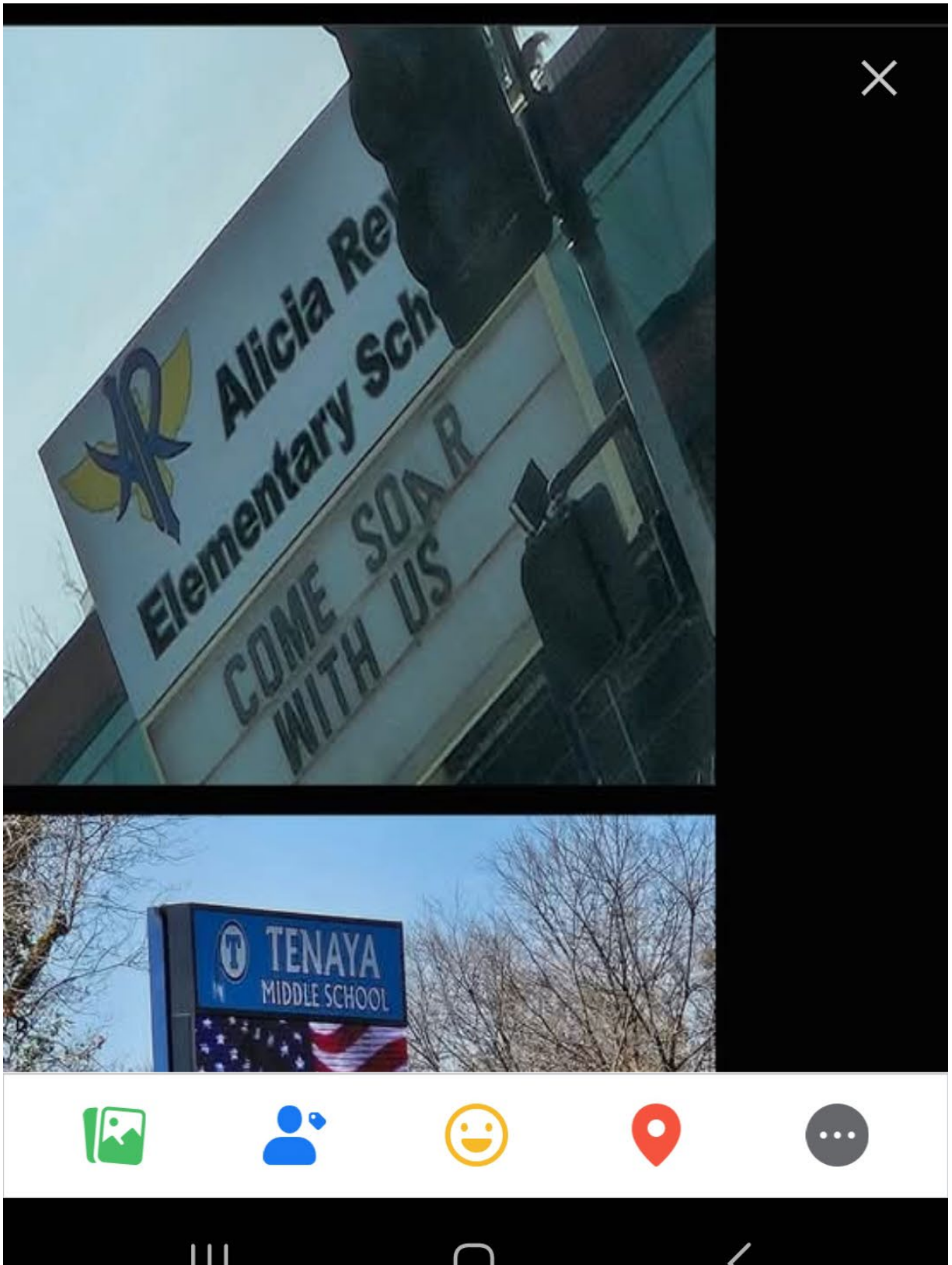
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GEOMETRIC FIGURE LESSON

SECRETARY ROCKE LOOKS

WAKE UP TIME AMERICA 🇺🇸




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 Edit Post

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 Retired 2023 Ter...



Teresa Saldivar-Morse

Merced City School District

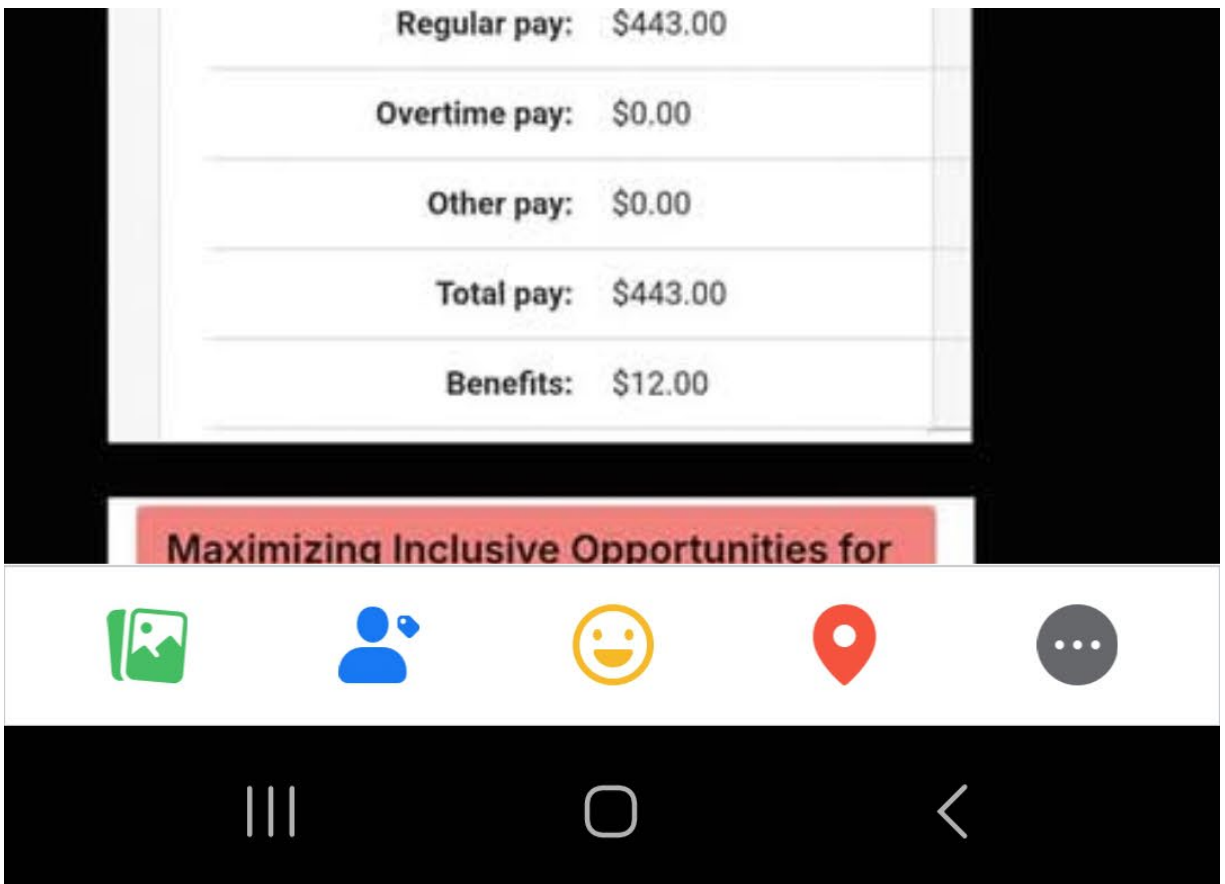
Director, Special Education

2) How do I prevent litigation around issues of behavior, LRE and the use of evidence based

2017 Every Child Counts Symposium

Teresa M Saldivar-Morse

Retired Admin (2023)



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Five Merced County administrators recognized by association

270%

Jan 14, 2016 — Teresa Saldivar-Morse, director of special education for Merced City School District, was named special education administrator of the...

The local charter of the Association of California School Administrators has honored five administrators in Merced County with key awards.

Brian Meisenheimer, the Merced charter’s president, noted each recipient’s experience and dedication to their careers.

“Their expertise is exceptional,” Meisenheimer said in a prepared statement. “They are all extremely dedicated professionals who serve students in the community.”

Teresa Saldivar-Morse, director of special education for Merced City School District, was named special education administrator of the year for the Merced charter. Jennifer

☆to homelessness
solve their problem





2/22/25 4th ...



SECTION 80338

DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED

A certificated person shall not, without good cause, in the course and scope of his or her certificated employment and solely because of race, color, creed, gender, national origin, handicapping condition or sexual orientation, refuse or fail to perform certificated services for any person.

Authority Cited: Education Code Sections 44225(b), 44339

Reference: Education Code Sections 44345, 44420, 44421

This regulation provides notice that discrimination by certificated personnel will be deemed to be unprofessional and sanctioned where it results in the denial of educational services authorized to be performed by a credential holder.

These regulations became effective February 3, 1989.

127%

SECTION 80337

HARASSMENT AND
RETALIATION PROHIBITED

No certificated person shall directly or indirectly use or threaten to use any official authority or influence in any manner whatsoever which tends to discourage, restrain, interfere with, coerce, or discriminate against any subordinate or any certificated person who in good faith reports, discloses, divulges, or otherwise brings to the attention of the governing board of a school district, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing or any other public agency authorized to take remedial action, any facts or information relative to actual or suspected violation of any law regulating the duties of persons serving in the public school system, including but not limited to these rules of professional conduct.

Authority Cited: Education Code Sections 44225(b), 44339

Reference: Education Code Sections 44345, 44420, 44421

This regulation defines as unprofessional and forbids harassment and retaliation against certificated persons who have made good faith complaints concerning suspected misconduct.

employment without good cause constitutes unprofessional conduct and is cause for disciplinary action.

SECTION 80334

UNAUTHORIZED PRIVATE GAIN
OR ADVANTAGE

A certificated person shall not:

- (a) Use for his/her own private gain or advantage or to prejudice the rights or benefits of another person any confidential information relating to students or fellow



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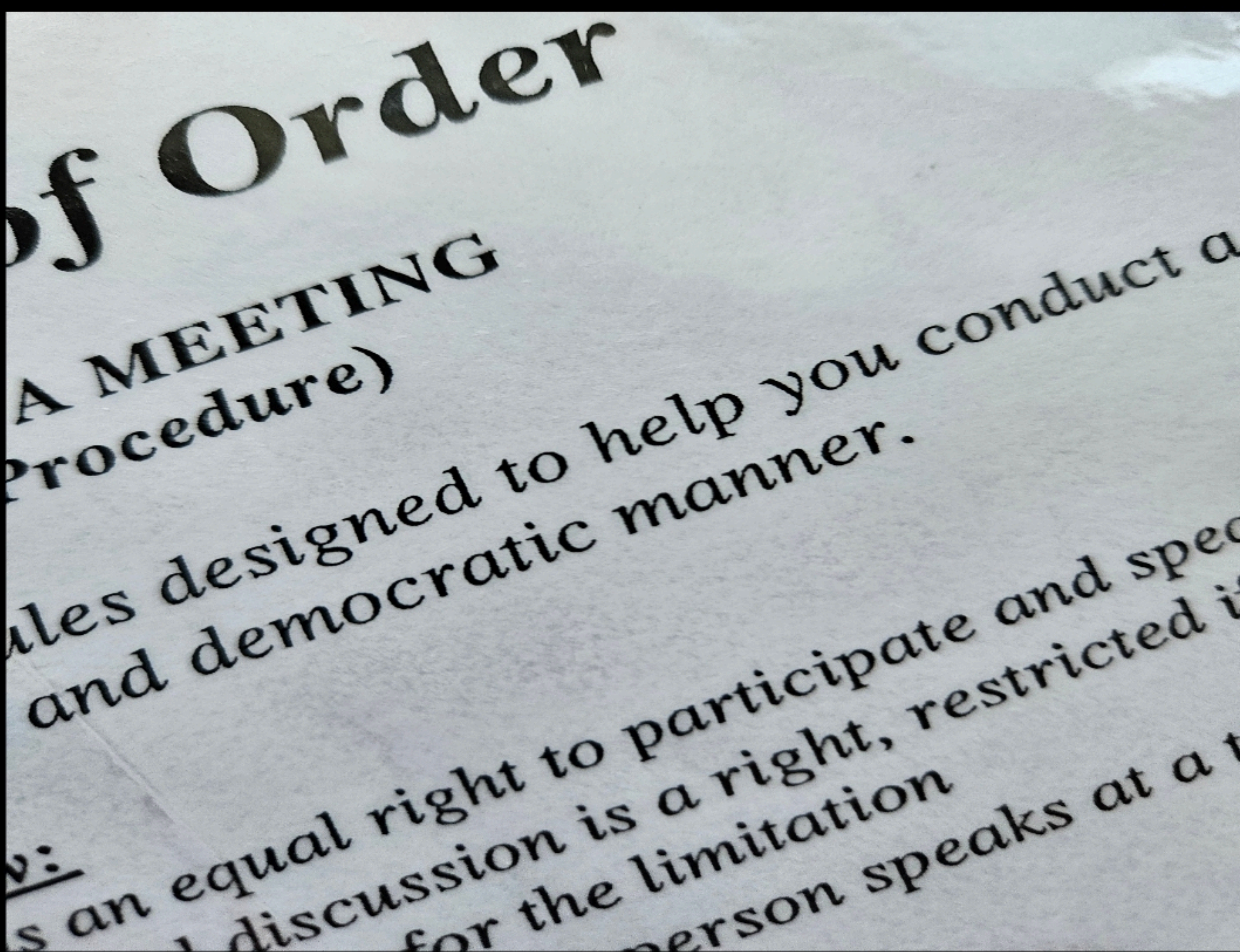
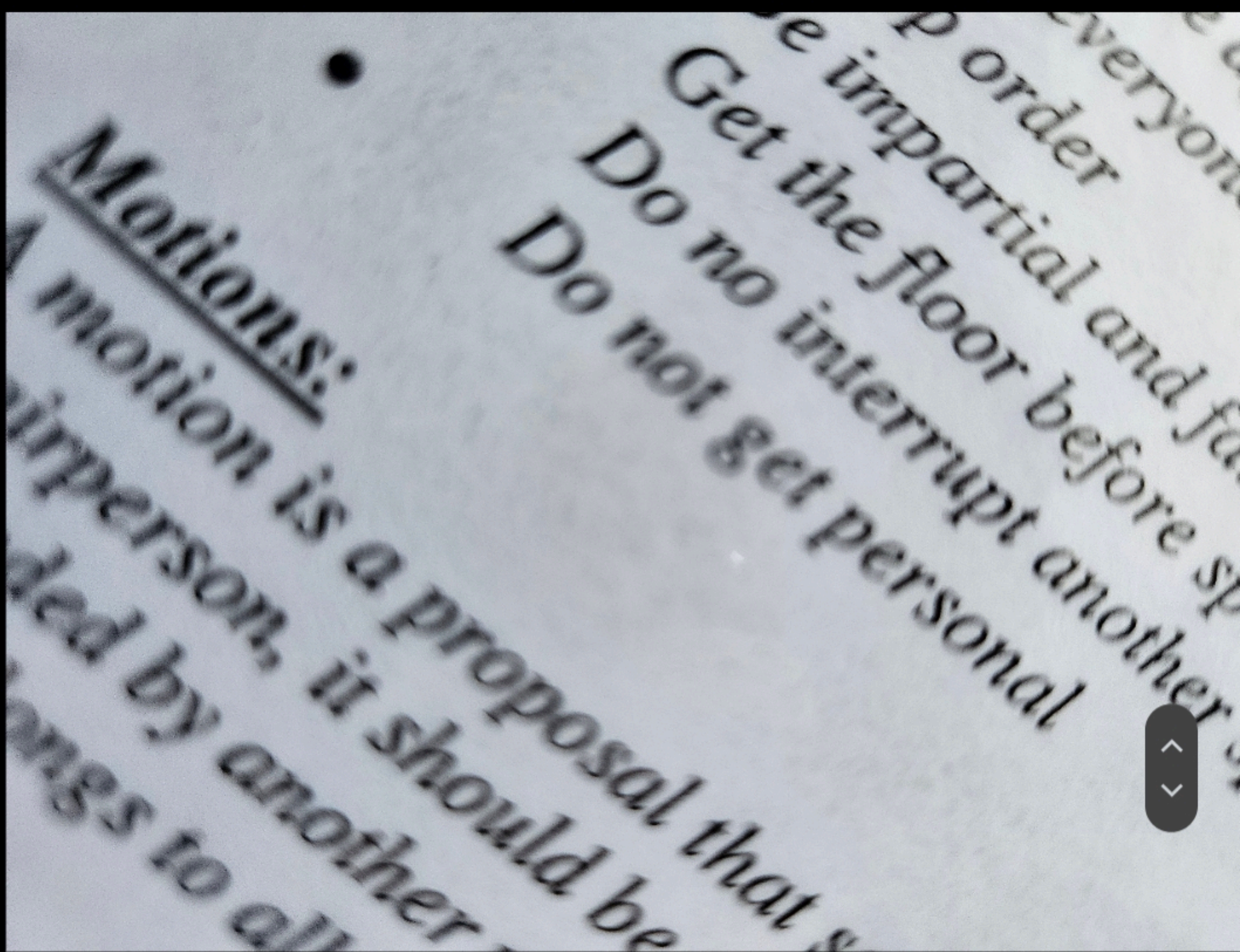




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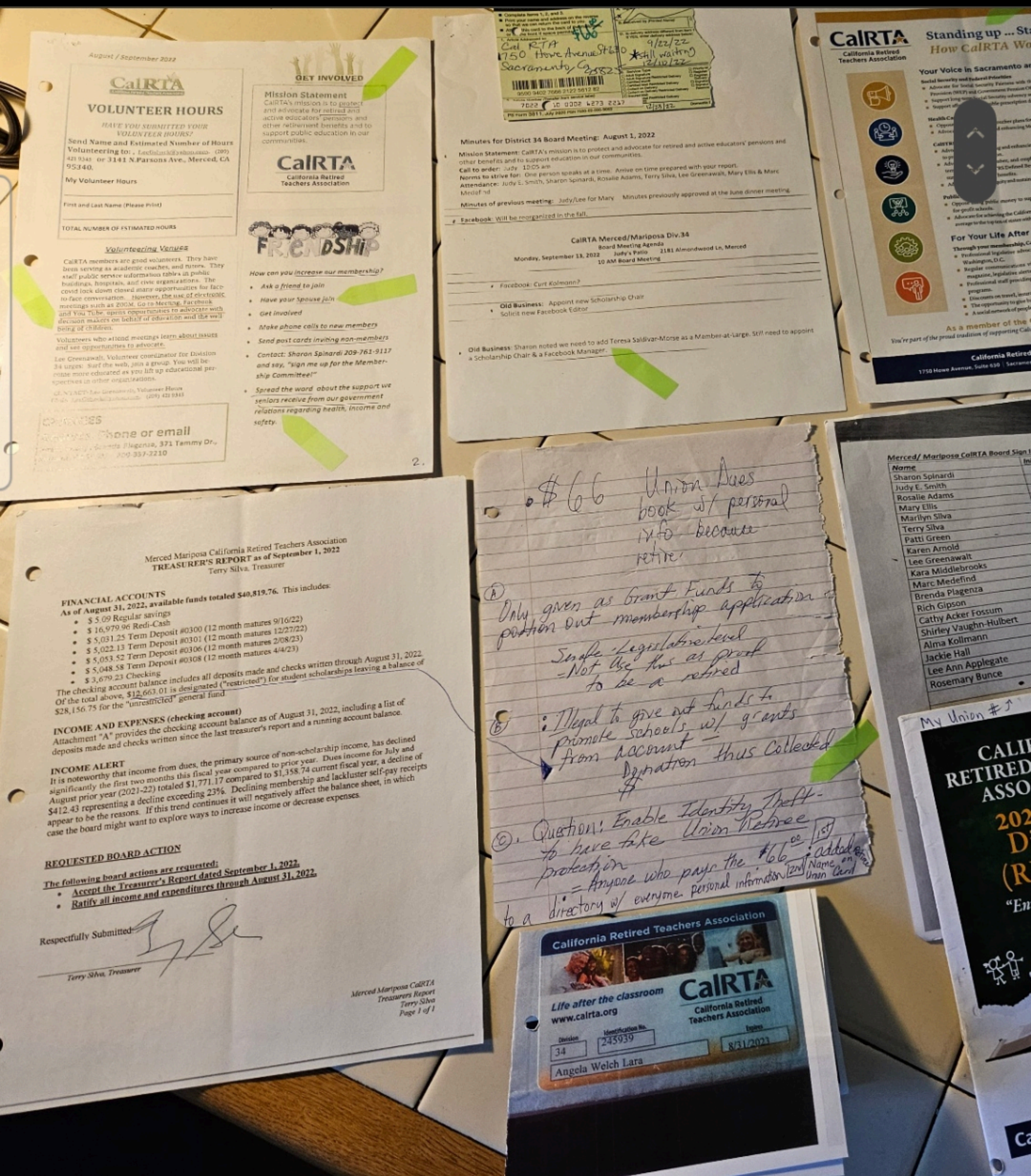
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CTA Retired Proof



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Treasurers Report
Terry Silva
Page 1 of 1

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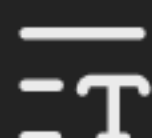


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www.calrta.org

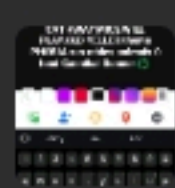
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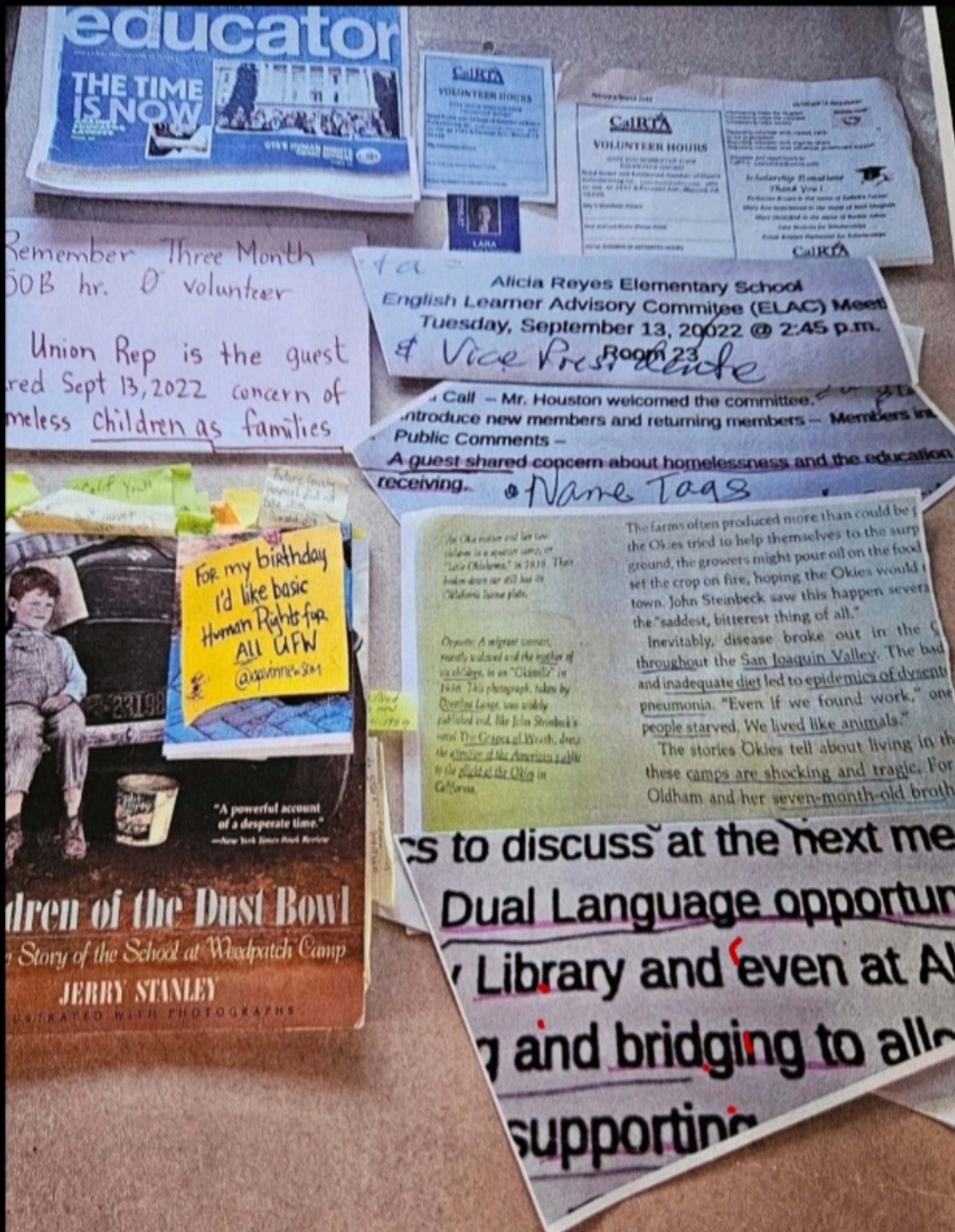
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English (US)

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Greatest Superintendent
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2024 VP@ CRTA 2nd highest