

Testimony to the Committee of Education and Workforce Development

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

ALFREDO ANDREWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2024-2025 School Year

“MAKE ALFREDO ANDREWS GOOD AGAIN!”

Dear Esteemed Committee Members,

I am Janice Jones, President of the Parent Teacher Organization, Alfredo Andrews Elementary School. As President, the parents of the organization want urgent issues affecting our children's education addressed.

Our dedicated teachers, support staff, and the very infrastructure of our school are confronting obstacles that hinder our mission to provide a quality learning experience. Immediate action is necessary to uphold the standards we've set for our community's future. V.I. Pride and fix our schools!

Alfredo Andrews Elementary School was once a great school. Alfredo Andrews Elementary School gave the foundation to produce doctors, lawyers, educators, politicians, administrators, senators, athletes and many other professionals too numerous to mention today. We believe it can continue to do so but we need the support of this body to bring about the changes in our school system, where our students can be proud to wear their uniform with pride.

The Shortage of classroom desks

We express our concern over the inadequate desks in our children's classrooms. The current state of the furniture, with rusted legs and unstable seats, is

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unacceptable for our children's daily use. It is crucial that we provide a safe and conducive learning environment. Therefore, we urge the board to prioritize this matter and improve the facilities to enrich our students' educational experience.

Build of Mold and Leaky Roof Issues

Another urgent concern is regarding the persistent roof leaks over our teachers' classrooms and certain school wings. Mainly, the 3rd and 6th wings. These leaks disrupt learning and, coupled with custodial staffing shortages, place undue burdens on our educators. The situation poses risks to both our school's infrastructure and the well-being of our staff and students. There's a build up of moldy tiles in classrooms and common meetup spaces.

The health risks associated with mold exposure, especially in young children, cannot be overstated. It is imperative that we take immediate action to rectify this situation to prevent any further harm to our students and staff. The integrity of our school's infrastructure is also at stake.

We urge the board to prioritize this matter and allocate the necessary resources to repair the leaks and replace the affected tiles as soon as possible. Our school community deserves a safe and healthy learning environment, and addressing this issue is a critical step in that direction.

Overheating Issues in Cafeteria and Auditorium

The parents want to express our urgent need for the repair or replacement of the air conditioning unit in our cafeteria and auditorium. Despite the school's closure over the Summer 2024, we have returned to find this critical issue unresolved. The absence of a functional AC system is severely affecting the comfort and well-being of our students and staff, particularly during assemblies, meal times, and promotional exercises.

The ongoing nature of this problem has been a continual source of frustration for our entire school community, including parents, teachers, and staff members. It is also hindering the effective use of this essential communal space. With the current

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temperatures, it is becoming increasingly difficult to conduct activities as planned.

The auditorium seats are unstable, causing children to fall or receive cuts from protruding parts of the seats, this presents a serious safety hazard. This is definitely a concern that needs to be addressed promptly to prevent injuries and potential harm. Replacement seats are a top priority for the body's that regularly access the facilities. for training, assemblies, meetings, shows and promotional exercises.

We request immediate attention to several pressing issues on our facility that pose safety risks and impede our educational mission.

Termite Infestation Alert

Another urgent concern regards a termite infestation within our educational facility. The presence of these pests poses a significant risk to the structural integrity of our school buildings and potentially to the health and safety of our students and staff. Termites are eating away at the building (presently this work is in progress)

Immediate action is imperative. We require written documentation detailing the onset of this issue, including how and when it was first addressed. According to the National Pest Management Association, signs of termite infestation include discarded wings, hollow-sounding wood, and mud tubes. These signs have been observed in and out our facility, indicating a potential compromise to our infrastructure.

Furthermore, as termites are known to cause extensive property damage, it is crucial that we understand the measures taken to mitigate this problem and prevent future occurrences. Please provide us with the treatment records, the methods employed, and any follow-up actions planned to ensure the complete eradication of the infestation.

We request immediate assistance with several urgent projects at our educational facility. We require comprehensive painting services for the entire school, both interior and exterior areas. Although this is a lingering problem for all public schools, we still need to mention it.

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Deplorable Conditions of School Restrooms

We are deeply disgusted regarding the current state of our school's restrooms. It has come to my attention that the conditions are deplorable, with brown water in the toilets and rust on the sink handles, which is not only unsightly but also poses a health risk to our students. As parents, we entrust our children to the school's care, expecting a safe and hygienic environment.

We are calling for a complete renovation of the restrooms. This should include the installation of new fixtures that are sturdy and vandal-resistant, as well as the provision of essential hygiene supplies like soap and paper towels. It is essential that we adhere to the recommended guidelines for school restroom safety and comfort.

The well-being of our children must be a top priority, and I believe that by addressing this issue promptly, we can ensure a healthier and more dignified environment for all students.

Enhancing Student Experience with New Playground and Sports Facilities

We are reaching out with this urgent need for the enhancement of our playground and sports facilities. The current lack of modern playground equipment is a notable deficiency in our educational infrastructure, impacting our children's holistic development. As research indicates, playgrounds play a pivotal role in fostering children's physical, social, and cognitive growth.

Moreover, the condition of our basketball courts is a concern that requires immediate attention. The worn-out surfaces pose safety risks, and the outdated hoops diminish the effectiveness of our sports programs. The addition of benches and seating areas is also essential for providing a comfortable space for rest during outdoor activities.

Ground Maintenance and Driveway Uprooted Required

We are urgently requesting immediate attention to two critical issues affecting our

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school's safety and aesthetics. Firstly, the metal grill at the front driveway exit has been uprooted, resulting in a dangerous pothole that poses a significant risk to our students, parents, and vehicles. This requires prompt repair to prevent any potential injuries or further damage to vehicles.

In addition, I would like to highlight the need for regular maintenance of our school grounds (inside and outside the fenced area). This includes grass manicuring, fencing repairs, and general upkeep to ensure a safe and inviting environment for our entire school community. The well-being of our students and staff is paramount, and a well-maintained campus is essential for fostering a positive learning atmosphere.

Urgent Collaboration Required

We urge the committee to consider these issues with the gravity they deserve and to collaborate with us in finding immediate and long-term solutions. Our children's education and safety are at stake, and together, we can ensure that Alfredo Andrews Elementary School remains a place where learning thrives.

We request your immediate attention to these urgent matters. Please inform us of the steps being taken to address these issues and the expected timeline for its resolution. We appreciate your prompt response to ensure a conducive learning and working environment for our school children and officials.

We look forward to your commitment to our school's future.

Included in this written report are pictures of school existing issues, see attached visual on jumpdrive.

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Sincerely,

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