



Cupertino Union School District NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Written Communication Can Be Forwarded To: Jeremy Nishihara, Communications Manager or Andy Mortensen, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, 10301 Vista Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014

November 30, 2004 – Cupertino, CA.— The federal lawsuit filed by Stephen Williams against representatives of the Cupertino Union School District has raised a number of questions about District curriculum. The Cupertino Union School District will continue to educate its fifth grade students about America’s founding era leaders and the political, religious, social and economic ideas and beliefs that led to the birth of our great nation. The Declaration of Independence, sections of the United States Constitution, and other historical documents are re-printed in our textbooks, displayed in some of our school buildings, and taught in our social studies curriculum and lessons. There has been no ban of such documents or their underlying principles in the Cupertino Union School District.

The Constitution requires the District to uphold the First Amendment which mandates the separation between Church and State. Courts have repeatedly held that public schools have the right and the duty to review instructional materials to ensure compliance with this constitutional obligation. The District’s conduct in this matter has been consistent with its obligations.

The Cupertino Union School District’s principals and other instructional leaders play a crucial role in working with teachers to ensure that constitutional mandates are met, and that all instructional materials are appropriate and consistent with the State framework and applicable State curriculum standards. The District will continue to act in accordance with its legal obligations and educational objectives.

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