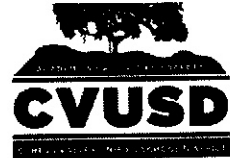


CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**UNIFORM COMPLAINT FORM**



In accordance with Board Policy 1312.3, the district shall investigate and seek to resolve any complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, bullying, requiring fees or other charges for participation in educational activities, failure to develop or adopt a school safety plan, and failure to comply with state or federal laws in adult education programs, consolidated categorical aid programs, migrant education, career technical education and training programs, child care programs, child nutrition programs, and special education programs. Persons wishing to lodge a formal Uniform Complaint are asked to complete the following and submit it to the Office of the Deputy Superintendent, Conejo Valley Unified School District, 1400 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, California 91362.

**Complaint Submitted By:**

Name: Christina Abbott

Address: [REDACTED] City: Newbury Park Zip: 91320

Cell: (213) [REDACTED] Home/Work: (805) [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Date this complaint was submitted: May 27, 2016

Date the event occurred: May 2016

Name of school or office, or name of employee and job location, against whom complaint is directed:

Earth's Magnet School, Teacher Mrs. Lisa LaMontagne, Principle Jeff Rickert

Charge or complaint (attach additional page if necessary): See Attached Letter to CVUSD Board of Education.

Who is the employee, principal, or supervisor that you discussed the complaint with? When?

Name, Title: Mrs. LaMontagne Date: 12 May 2016

Name, Title: Mr. Jeff Rickerd Date: 12 May 2016

Name, Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

What was the result of the discussion? See attached letter to CVUSD Board of Education.

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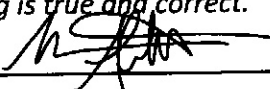
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*I (we) understand that the Governing Board may request from me (us) further information about this matter, and if such information is available to me (us), I (we) shall present it upon request. I (we) certify under penalty of perjury that the forgoing is true and correct.*

Complainant's Signature:  Date: 05/27/2016

Complainant's Signature: Christine Abbott Date: 05/27/2016

Distribution: White: Deputy Superintendent   Yellow: Site Administrator   Pink: Complainant Retains

**Mark & Christina Abbott**

**[REDACTED], Newbury Park, CA 91320**

May 27, 2016

CVUSD Board of Education  
1400 E. Janss Road  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Dear CVUSD Board of Education; Superintendent Mrs. Bonitatibus; Deputy Superintendent Mr. Iezza; Principle Mr. Rickert; and Educator Mrs. LaMontagne:

While attending EARTH's Magnet School, my daughter has been inculcated with several New Age and Eastern religious beliefs and practices, including those of a spiritual author and philosopher named Mr. Emoto.

I informed my daughter's teacher, Mrs. LaMontagne, of my disagreement of the teachings of Mr. Emoto and class experiment based on Mr. Emoto's philosophy. I voiced my concern that Mr. Emoto and his experiments are controversial and not accepted in the scientific community. My concerns about the validity of the Mr. Emoto's experiment were met with argument and defensiveness.

I informed the principle, Mr. Rickert, that my daughter was being taught the rituals described by the spiritual author Mr. Emoto to summon the positive and negative energy of water and subsequently being given daily assignments to perform the rituals and document the progress towards the truth of how water can be manipulated to control peace and harmony. After being reassured by Mr. Rickert that the experiment and the spiritual teachings would stop, my daughter was then shown the full-length spiritual documentary "The Secret of Water". This documentary reinforced the teachings of Mr. Emoto that Mrs. LaMontagne had been providing lessons on. Some of the ideas that were presented as fact, (in both the video and by Mrs. LaMontagne's teachings) have been described by my daughter as:

- Water is living
- It can be manipulated by prayer, positivity and negativity
- It can take the forms of the things it touches
- You will die at an early age if you drink dead water
- You can purify water with positive thoughts

There have been five requests to administration to put a stop to the religious lessons and pseudoscience with no resolution. We have kept her home from school and allowed her to return

because we were told the lessons had stopped and the experiment removed, when they actually still have not stopped.

I am trying to re-teach my daughter about the real scientific properties of water and I have had to tell her that what she had learned was not true. My daughter is confused and frustrated about trusting conflicting information that comes from her parents and her teacher. So trying to un-ring this bell is proving to be difficult. However, what concerns me most are both the depth of spiritual indoctrination that we have since discovered elsewhere in Mrs. LaMontagne's teachings, and the interference this has caused in our family's plan of religious development for our daughter. Both of which could have been prevented with proper oversight of the classroom curriculum, and the immediate halt of the lessons before my daughter was subjected to viewing the spiritual documentary.

On a daily basis my daughter is required to meditate for eleven minutes in Mrs. LaMontagne's class.

She has been taught seven yoga poses over the course of the school year and is required to perform them at each PE time.

The documentary, Mr. Emoto's rituals, the meditations and yoga are all derivatives of fundamental doctrines that have descended from several Eastern religions and have been commonly shared by many New Age Spiritual religious sects and organizations. Such doctrine is contradictory of my family's religion.

Unfortunately Mrs. LaMontagne has crossed the line through her continued teachings of some specific subject matters, her emphasis on a specific prominent spiritual leader and his writings, and her use of specific materials. These actions combined with the yoga teachings, and the daily meditation rituals, have altogether served to promote and successfully inculcate her students with philosophical, spiritual, and religious doctrine disguised as science, music, and breathing exercises. This indoctrination has interfered with the religious development of my child to a degree of damage that I cannot yet ascertain or quantify.

I am relieved that the summer break is upon us in a few weeks. The harm that has occurred to our family will need to be resolved. In the meantime I would like ~~XXXXXX~~ to be able to return to school for the rest of the year in a safe environment. By safe environment, I mean the immediate removal of any and all traces of the Emoto experiment. No further lessons using his spiritual books or videos about his theory's and ideas. No more New Age indoctrination. This includes the presence of any spiritual music, spiritual books or spiritual symbols that may be in the classroom that are not relevant to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum approved by the Board of Educators. The daily practice of meditation also needs to stop immediately. The bottom line is that this is a serious matter:

1)

Mrs. LaMontagne failed to respect each student's individual right to freedom of religious practice by practicing religious indoctrination, which is clearly forbidden in the public schools. The reason religious indoctrination is forbidden in the public schools is because the Public

School Teacher is considered to be an arm of the Government and such a practice by the Government is a violation of the Establishment Clause of the United States Constitution. Which is a Civil Rights Violation that occurred not only to my daughter, but also to her classmates.

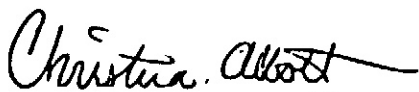
2)

Upon notification of the violation, Mr. Rickert failed to immediately enforce CVUSD Board policy and Educational Code to the extent that my daughter was further harmed when she was shown the "The Secrets of Water" documentary that is based on the spiritual books written by Mr. Emoto. Furthermore (and prior to any notification), Mr. Rickert failed to provide adequate oversight of the teacher's classroom curriculum, as well as the so-called "quiet time/meditations" to insure that such daily practices were conducted in a manner so as not to be spiritual in practice. Mr. Rickert conveyed to us that other parents in the past have expressed to him that they have a problem with the daily meditation, (even though it is not supposed to have included spiritual elements). With that in mind Mr. Rickert should have maintained careful oversight of the teacher's daily meditation practice to ensure daily compliance with Board Policy, State Educational Code, and the Protection of Student's Civil Rights.

3)

CVUSD Administration and Board of Education are also culpable as they failed to provide oversight of the teacher's classroom curriculum and enforcement of Board Policy, California State Educational Code, and the Protection of Student's Civil Rights.

Thank you,



Christina Abbott

Mark & Christina Abbott