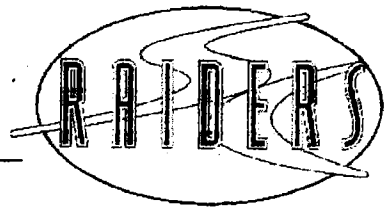


# SILVER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL



3434 SILVER CREEK ROAD  
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95121  
PHONE 408/347-5600 FAX 408/347-5615

**Thelma Boac, Principal**

May 24, 2011

To The Powers That Be:

For the twenty-three years I've been an educator at Silver Creek High School in the East Side Union High School District, I've always taught with a special heart for at-risk youth, probably because my four sons were in this population and I saw the potential and resourcefulness of the students from the citizen side. For nine years I chaired The Electronics Academy which targeted at-risk, socio-economically challenged students interested in business, and I've been the facilitator the last two years for the Opportunity Class, 180 Degrees One Degree At A Time, the sponsor out of Oregon for under motivated youngsters.

In other words, I know what I'm talking about when I say that Pastor Sonny's The Firehouse is the most eye-opening, effective program I've seen for a strategic sector of at-risk youth: the ones who could easily end up in the judicial system without a powerful steering away from the mean streets. The Opportunity Class allowed two hours a day just to motivate kids with guest speakers, food, lessons, weekly community service at a local elementary school, videos, and fieldtrips. We had a dozen guest speakers from community, Planned Parenthood, police, gang task force, social services and vocational schools.

The one guest program the students was most influenced and inspired by, bar none, was Pastor Sonny and The Firehouse. His slides and talk, the young men in his service, the multiple class visits, Pastor's Sonny's character and concern, jobs he got for students, time to talk, all these made students love and respect him, listen, and change their lives.

Please allow Pastor Sonny and The Firehouse to continue doing their great work for a precious resource in our area: the often disenfranchised at-risk youth who become such great citizens when kept out of the system. Pastor Sonny does that. We cannot afford to lose his gift to us all. Please: do whatever you can to keep Pastor Sonny and The Firehouse in our schools.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ruth Mason McElvain". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ruth Mason McElvain

**ADOLFO LAGUNA**  
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

**EAST SIDE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**TAMMY MADDOX**  
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

**BOB NUNEZ, SUPERINTENDENT**