

**Rita Walker
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Started teaching in 1979, at age 21 as a special education teacher in Woodland for 29 years.

I resigned to gain work experience in a severe autistic life skills program which was the highlight of my special education teaching career.

I was told that burn out as a sped teacher is 5 years so this shows me my credibility teaching for 30 years.

I left on a Woodland Primary School on Friday teacher work day with school starting after the 4 day Labor Day weekend on Tuesday.

I have been on committees preparing get together s for other staff retiring or have left Woodland some with as little as 3 to 5 years in the district.

I always felt that was an important to the administrators to acknowledge staff for their time spent educating their students.

As I resigned, not that I needed or wanted recognition, I never did get any verbal, card, district letter or certificate thanking me for my service of 29 dedicated years to Woodland.

I was surprised and its sad to know even leaving at the spur of the moment, I was not respected or worthy of any acknowledgement even with my years of superb evaluations all those years.

I have been informed by staff as well as community members that as I left, they did not hire a certificated special ed. teacher to take my place for that classroom in during the 2007-2008 school year.

Apparently they brought over a couple more instructional assistants and those assistants ran the classroom.

When students Individual Education Plans expired through out the year that other sped staff retested students and wrote a new plan for the assistants to follow.

I emailed Mr. Green, Superintendent about 2 months ago and asked if he could tell me who the certified was during that year he responded he did not have that knowledge and I could ask the Debbie Kernen the director of special services.

I noticed he also sent a copy of my request with his response to Ms. Kernen so I figured she got my question surely she would contact me with a response.

If I heard about this in error from staff and community members, my apology for bringing it up, however I did so as I did not get a response from Ms. Kernen, Special Services Director.

If this in fact is true, then I question the legality that Woodland allowed this to happen at the expense of the special education students not being taught with a certified special education teacher.