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CLINTON, BURSCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS LEARN, PERFORM » PAGE 5A

The Bulletin

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Special trustee clarifies CCCD Board duties

Board will alternate with other groups to sit on the dais during CCCD meetings

By Cheryl Scott
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—Special Trustee Thomas Henry surprised Compton Community College Board of Trustees members with an email announcement removing them from

the dais at the district's meetings. The board has returned to the dais after initially being removed by both the California Education Code and AB 318, the legislation that opened the door for the partnership agreement between the CCCD and El Camino Community

College District. On Sept. 26 he informed the board that it has no legal authority to preside over the district's public meetings, including participation in closed session meetings. The move was an effort to bring the district back into compliance

with AB 318, which specifically prohibited the board from participating in actions regarding the CCCD. As outlined in AB 318, the authority of the CCCD board of trustees is suspended and assumed by the state chancellor and dele-

gated to the special trustee, rendering the board without any authority to formally participate in the governance of the district. "The legislation refers to any actions the board may take, including making, approving or denying motions made at the meetings," Henry told The Bulletin. At a meeting on Sept. 27 he

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Hub City stages Back to School Extravaganza



Photo by Shon Smith of D'Angelo's Photos

Kids of all ages had a blast at the recent Back to School Extravaganza. Below: This student shows off her artistic skills. » More photos on Page 4A.

By Cheryl Scott
Bulletin Staff Writer

The city of Compton, corporate partners and Bishop Adrian and Mrs. Goodlow joined forces to provide school supplies for students returning to school recently at Tucker Park. "Because of our budget deficit we would have been unable to hold this event without the help of donations," Arceneaux told The Bulletin. "We received numerous donations that helped us pay for security, school supplies

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City Council fires Norfleet

City manager ousted amid complaints about budget

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The Compton City Council terminated City Manager Willie Norfleet by a 3 to 2 vote at its meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 27. Councilors Willie Jones, Yvonne Arceneaux and Janna Zurita voted in favor of the dismissal. Mayor Eric J. Perrodin and Councilwoman Lillie Dobson voted to retain Norfleet.

The decision came after months of complaints by Jones, Arceneaux and Zurita about the city manager's lack of transparency regarding budget items. Zurita has also protested the amount of time it took to get the recent signature of authority resolution placed on the Council agenda. The resolution reduces the amount the city manager can spend without Council approval from \$25,000 to \$5,000. It passed by a 3 to 2 vote on Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Norfleet was appointed to the position in September 2010, succeeding Charles Evans, who held the position from June 2007.

Throughout the controversy, Perrodin has stood in support of Norfleet, telling the Council on repeated occasions that the current budget crisis is the work of Evans.

City Attorney Craig Cornwell reported out of closed session that Compton Fire Department Deputy Chief Bryan Batiste was ap-

The Council voted 3 to 1 to appoint Philip Lamont Ewell, a former Compton firefighter, as interim city manager.

proved on a 3 to 1 vote to act as city manager until Oct. 3.

"I look forward to keeping the city moving forward with the cooperation of all employees," said Batiste after the meeting.

The Council voted 3 to 1 to appoint Philip Lamont Ewell, a former Compton firefighter, as the interim city manager. He took over the position on Oct. 4.

Ewell has served as city manager of Santa Monica, San Diego and Durham, N.C. He

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Meter usage fee mystery is solved

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—Compton's meter usage fee has rankled city residents since it was doubled two years ago, but now the city has finally revealed where that money is going.

Speaking at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 27, Compton Municipal Water Department Director Kambiz Shoghi revealed that the fee pays for department expenses.

This issue has been the subject of speculation by both residents and council members. "Frustration about our water bills is one of

the reasons I ran for City Council," Councilwoman Janna Zurita told The Bulletin. "The meter maintenance fee has doubled in the last two years. No one has ever explained what that fee is for. The water department is not maintaining my meter."

Water Department net assets have decreased by \$1.6 million during fiscal year 2010, because of a cost increase. The 2010 audit report said the revenue from the rate increase was not enough to cover the total expense.

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CRA claims no criminal activity in HUD report

FULL STORY » PAGE 5A



Should Kobe Bryant play basketball in Italy? Locals sound off ...

SEE THEIR ANSWERS » PAGE 2A

TRUSTEE

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reiterated the Compton District’s focus on supporting the educational mission to provide academic excellence and support student success through the partnership with El Camino College; achieving fiscal stability for the Compton District; and readying the district for its responsibilities relative to eligibility for accreditation in the future.

“An important goal of the special trustee is to assist with creating a strong and effective organization that fulfills its educational mission, and provides an excellent education to students,” Henry said. “I will also work to move the process in a direction that will bring an elected board back to the dais and restore its full authority, consistent with the requirements outlined in AB 318.”

AB 318 also requires that a community advisory committee be established by the special trustee. Henry will begin that process immediately.

On Sept. 30 Henry revised his plans for removing the board from the dais, saying he plans to rotate who sits at the dais.

“The important issue right now is the effort toward accreditation,” he said. “The ACCJC (Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges) is focused on the El Camino Community College board as the entity that is pursuing accreditation of the Compton Center.”

Henry said his goal is to broaden the input received from the community regarding the Center’s operation. “For the next meeting I plan to have the student leadership sit at the dais,” he said. “I’ve spoken to many of them, and they have great ideas and asked well-thought-out questions. In future weeks I would like to put the Concerned Citizens of Compton on the dais. These are community activists who have been involved with the welfare of the college since its accreditation was revoked in 2006.”

However, there has been a misconception within the CCCD and the Compton community about the responsibilities the board has in the accreditation process as stated in AB 318.

“The bill and the agreement between the two districts do specify certain actions and responsibilities of the board in gaining accreditation,” Henry said. “But those provisions will come into play once we are closer to accreditation. At that time, the board will have to be involved in the process through which El Camino Compton Center will be returned to local control. But that’s still a long way down the continuum. The board is understandably concerned about local control, but at this point we need to concentrate on the accomplishments that have taken place under the El Camino Community College District.”

Previous Special Trustee Genethia Hudley-Hayes was removed from the post last month after El Camino President Dr. Thomas Fallo informed Chancellor of Education Jack Scott that El Camino would pull out of the partnership be-

“An important goal of the special trustee is to assist with creating a strong and effective organization that fulfills its educational mission, and provides an excellent education to students.”

Special Trustee Thomas Henry

cause he could not approve the budget submitted by Hudley-Hayes.

According to the terms of the partnership agreement between the Compton and El Camino Community College districts and the Department of Education, if El Camino’s CEO and the Compton district cannot agree on a budget, El Camino would withdraw from the partnership.

Hudley-Hayes had also stated that no progress had been made toward accreditation and that former CEO Dr. Lawrence Cox’s claims to the contrary were not backed up by documentation in the CCCD business office. She subsequently bought out Cox’s contract.

Henry said he was “elated” by the changes he saw at the Center when he returned. “When I left in 2008, student enrollment was so low that most classes only had five or six students in attendance,” he said. “I toured the campus when I first arrived, and I was pleasantly surprised to find that every class I looked into was full.”

He also commended the operations and maintenance staff for the condition of the campus. “I can see that they have worked very hard to improve the condition of the campus, from rest rooms to the upkeep of the grounds,” he said.

While campus improvements and high student enrollment are visible signs of the changes made at the Center, the ACCJC will rely on regular reports issued by the Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team in its evaluation for accreditation.

FCMAT scores were extremely low in all categories in 2006, but they have improved steadily since then.

“The scores are matched with a self-assessment done by the faculty and staff of the college, the people who are responsible for all operations,” said Henry. “If there is a significant difference between totals, a meeting is held with those employees and FCMAT to discover the reasons for the difference. Each side is called on to submit evidence supporting the figures.”

The scores in the most recent FICMAT report show significant improvements, but the Center has not yet submitted an application for eligibility to apply for accreditation, the first step in the process.

METER

Continued from Page 1A

“Every new meter comes with a 15-year warranty,” Shoghi said. “The department replaces malfunctioning meters at no charge.”

The Compton Bulletin verified through a public records request that the city has not installed or upgraded any residential meters since before Jan. 1, 2010.

Water Department representative Michael Harvey dispelled the misconception that the meter fee is new. The newest version of water department software categorizes the charges, so they can be identified.

The \$6.95 charge for a residential meter in 2008, he said, is now approximately \$24.

“We have 156 miles of pipeline in Compton,” Shoghi said. “We need to replace 99 miles of those pipes. The cost to do this is \$300 per linear foot.”

Shoghi said that the bonds sold to do the project will not cover the total cost of replacement.

“Nothing has been done for 30 years,” he said. “The people who are complaining now

should have said something back then.”

Arceneaux expressed concern for the seniors of Compton, and asked Shoghi to explore ways to provide a discount.

“The equal protection clause of the United States Constitution forbids giving preference to one group of people,” Mayor Eric J. Perrodin said. “Everybody on the Council would love to give discounts to seniors and low-income residents. But if we do, we will not get any more federal money.”

City Attorney Craig Cornwell said he will redistribute his legal opinion to council members.

“The city manager’s office, city attorney’s office and my office are trying to resolve this problem,” Shoghi said. “Sometimes I want to cry because I cannot do anything for them.”

Compton seniors can apply for the users’ tax exemption program, which offers qualifying residents with a combined income of less than \$27,750 a discount on their water, gas and cable bills.

For more information on this program call 310-605-5515.

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

also served as the fire chief and assistant city manager in Oakland.

Dobson, who did not return from closed session, did not vote on Batiste or Ewell.

“It is my opinion that the City Council is in violation of municipal code section 2-2.9 and city charter section 703,” Perrodin said. “In my opinion, once a council person is elected, the city manager cannot be reviewed until 90 days have passed.” According to Perrodin’s calculations, the 90-day review period didn’t end until Oct. 1, four days after the vote.

Cornwell disagreed with Perrodin, and said the 90-day period began at the conclusion of the general election.

Perrodin publicly thanked Norfleet for his efforts and said he had been placed in a terribly difficult situation.

“It is unfortunate when someone loses his

job,” Perrodin said. “I had issues with Norfleet as well, but they concerned his time as city controller. He informed us about the deficit, but he did not stress the urgency of the situation.”

He expressed disappointment with the Council for not allowing Norfleet the opportunity to succeed in the job.

“The previous city manager and his predecessors created a \$25 million deficit,” Perrodin said. “Those of us on the Council during that time have to share the responsibility for that situation.”

“The previous city manager also approved a trip to China for members of the Council under the auspices of bringing business to Compton. That produced no results.”

Arceneaux, Zurita and Jones offered no comments about the termination of Norfleet.

Perrodin said he will work with anyone who can help the city.

Norfleet was not available for comment.

MILLIONS

Continued from Page 8A

Is this the best America can do? Is this the reflection of our values as a nation? These child poverty statistics are morally and economically indefensible. The toxic cocktail of poverty, family joblessness and stress, food insecurity, lost homes, and growing hopelessness are a national human disaster requiring the most urgent response from our political and business leaders in every party and place. Children

deserve more than intransigent political grandstanding. They need shoes to protect exposed toes from the cold and food to soothe their growling stomachs. Shame on those who seek to rip out more threads from our rich nation’s tattered safety net while protecting tax cuts for millionaires. Skyler, Zachery, and Jordan McKee and the millions of children like them deserve more from our country.

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children’s Defense Fund.

Calif-based trucking firm sued for discrimination

From staff reports

LOS ANGELES—A California-based trucking firm operating in 11 Western states is being sued for discrimination and harassment of nonwhite employees, mostly drivers.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a Los Angeles federal court lawsuit on Sept. 39 that says management at Fontana-based Scully Distribution Services and its Miami parent Ryder System Inc. frequently use racial epithets when referring to black, Hispanic and East Indian employees.

The suit also says non-white drivers are treated less favorably than white drivers and workers who complain are fired in retaliation.

Scully operates in 11 Western states. A voicemail messages seeking comment from Ryder spokesman David Bruce and spokeswoman Cindy Haas weren’t immediately returned.

Classifieds

CLASS REUNIONS

Compton High School, Class of “71 40th Reunion, November 11-13, 2011 @ Doubletree Hotel, Carson, California. For ticket information, contact Joanne Layton Jones, misslayton@aol.com or Gloria Falls, gloriaff@aol.com.

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Legal services

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Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker October 5, 2011

ACROSS

- Atkins Diet no-no
- “Homo,” for humans
- Alphabetize, e.g.
- Lot measurement
- “J’Accuse” author Zola
- “Hey, what’s the big ___?”
- Thing sent to Santa
- Passover month
- Toss of the dice
- Classic Salinger novel (with “The”)
- ___ Royal Highness
- Lithium ___ battery
- “Ah, I see!”
- Fashionable Yves Saint
- Word with “sheet” or “music”
- “Antiques Roadshow” item, sometimes
- Beyond dry
- Brine-cured Greek cheese
- It may surround a charged particle
- Hand-lotion additive
- “The Dukes of Hazzard” deputy sheriff
- Direct attention (to)
- Words on many park signs
- “X-Men” character
- “Come ___ About Me” (Supremes hit)
- A sniggler snares it
- Where Mary and Joseph sought refuge
- Call it quits
- Tries to win the affection of
- Ellipsoid flattened at the poles
- Creep like lava
- “Climactic” intro
- Dumb bunny (with “___ lender be”)
- Spotted
- Base stealer’s tactic
- Stylish elegance
- DOWN**
- Advanced math course, briefly
- “Carmen” solo
- Seventh-day activity
- Cookie quantity
- Plural of 5-Across
- Ruler in Abu Dhabi
- Decree (legal term)
- ___ Bator (Mongolian capital)
- Soldier on guard duty
- Warning wailer
- What wavy lines signify in the comics
- Depend (on)

- Story that may be tall
- Feudal slave
- Scorching
- The Atlantic, e.g.
- Brit’s greeting
- Triple-layer cookies
- “That’s ___ your head!”
- Military drone’s job, for short
- Answering machine button
- Coral assemblies
- Noted seed salesman W. ___ Burpee
- Southern California ballplayer
- Bartender’s “rocks”
- “Fee, ___, foe, fum”
- Gets back to true
- Disguise for illegal activi-

- Cat cry
- Decorate fabric, ‘60s-style
- Rose-red substance
- “... tree falls in the forest and ___”
- “Jabberwocky” beginning
- Apply to a whetstone
- Mechanical learning method
- “Chapter Two” playwright Simon
- “Beloved” author Morrison
- Buck’s mate
- Blanket choice
- Old Testament book before Nehemiah
- Without much fat

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

1	H	2	A	3	S	4	P	5	A	6	M	7	P	8	S	9	B	10	L	11	S	12	A
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9/28

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10/5

PLAYING SECOND BASE By Kevin Carr

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