

CUSD ordering system may replace drivers with outside vendors

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—Drivers and warehouse workers believe the new Just in Time ordering system proposed by the Compton Unified School District could lead to layoffs and they took their concerns to public officials to protest its implementation.

The employees spoke out against the new system during the Aug. 18 and Sept. 1 CUSD Personnel Commission, as well as the Aug. 23 meeting of the CUSD Board of Trustees.

"Warehouse employees are concerned about our use of a firm called Just in Time, which allows schools to order materials directly from them," CUSD interim Superintendent Karen Frison said at the board meeting. "This system will allow us to eliminate the writing of many checks, which created a second step of paying many vendors. Schools will be able to order their supplies from this company. There will not be any reduction of staff, and no one will lose their job because of schools using Just in Time."

"I am concerned about everybody's job," employee Herles Holmes said. "We don't need a system that can take away jobs. Just in Time has the potential to do that. I heard Deborah Willard say that this won't affect any jobs right now. What does that mean?"

Willard is the CUSD chief facilities officer.

Warehouse employee Anita Jones identified the two companies that are approved to provide supplies as Office Depot and Southwest School & Office Supply, and said this will result in a loss of jobs.

"We handle the supplies that are normally in our warehouse," Jones said.

"When they get pulled from an outside vendor at their location, you are taking away part of our job and assigning it to someone else. You cannot do that."

Alameda Warehouse employee Edgardo Reynoso said the employees are accountable for everything they stock.

"When the schools start ordering supplies directly, there will be no system in place," he said.

Warehouseman Eric Wilson added that he hopes the group gets the opportunity to make Just in Time work and he believes that it can be done.

Asking the trustees to disregard rumors about the Alameda Warehouse, employee Ranard Godwin said that the talk about schools not receiving supplies in a timely manner has never been addressed at the location. He said the warehouse employees provide service above and beyond the call of duty and have been recognized in the past for their performance.

"I have not received one complaint from Deborah Willard about warehouse service failures in three years," warehouse Supervisor Michael Bush said. "If I don't correct issues, then you should take measures to fix it. I sent Karen Frison four emails asking to meet with her to express my concerns about this issue and they were to no avail."

Bush said Willard has prevented him from doing his job as the leader of the warehouse because she won't meet with him to provide feedback.

"She said at a recent personnel commission meeting that there is \$1 million in inventory stored at the warehouse, which upsets her," employee Gerald Bushnell said. "You can't run a warehouse without inventory. We need to reconcile our items with what the principals are

asking for at each school site. They are ordering 100 cases of paper, and 50 cases of pencils, and that throws off our inventory."

He said that the Just in Time is promising next day delivery, while the reality is that it takes five to seven days to get the items delivered.

Bushnell continued his allegations at the Sept. 1 personnel commission meeting, when he called the integrity of one of the Just in Time vendors into question.

"We get our prices at the warehouse because we have been ordering in bulk," he said. "Now the individual schools are going to order in smaller quantities and they won't be able to deliver on those prices in the long term. They low ball the bid to get in and will raise their prices at the first opportunity."

"Willard isn't going to tell the board that the costs are rising," he said. "The only way you'll find out is if there is a whistle-blower at Office Depot or Southwest School & Office Supply."

He read a document that alleges Office Depot is currently under investigation in Florida and Missouri for overcharging government agencies in the two states, with lawsuits pending.

"You need to make copies of this document you've presented us, and make sure that the board of trustees receives it," personnel commission Chairman Tara Bonner said. "This document is back-up that they are price gouging and being sued."

The employees said they will continue to seek support at both the board of trustees and the personnel commission meetings.

Calls to the CUSD district office seeking clarification on this matter have not been returned as of press time.



Scooters will help Municipal Enforcement Services patrol parks and civic center.

Scooters are approved for Compton MLES

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The Compton City Council approved the purchase of 11 scooters from T3 Motion of Costa Mesa to be used by the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Service.

The motion was approved on a 4-1 vote. Councilwomen Lillie Dobson and Yvonne Arceneaux voted in favor of the vehicles, along with Councilman Willie Jones and Mayor Eric J. Perrodin. Councilwoman Janna Zurita cast the lone no vote.

Citing the large number of vehicles owned by the city, Zurita said she does not see the need to acquire more.

"Part of the reasoning behind purchasing these scooters is for additional security around City Hall and the outside plaza," City Manager Willie Norfleet said. "Covering more territory at parks and the canal will also be a benefit."

The \$8,988 price tag for each scooter will be paid with a Judicial Assistance Grant. Norfleet looked into using it for salaries, but unless a new law enforcement program is introduced, he cannot spend the money on personnel.

Zurita and Jones wanted to know if they could spend the money on the security cameras in the park or on Long Beach Boulevard to help deter prostitution.

"We could use the money for security cameras, but the grant would have to be written in a certain way," Norfleet said. "We cannot use the funds on Long Beach Boulevard."

Jones added that it would help if he had better proof of the scooters' effectiveness.

"The scooters are the best fit for the money and will make our officers more mobile," MLES director Carl Houston said.

"We should be able to give out more citations because we will cover more territory faster."

He said an application to spend the grant money must be submitted by Sept. 30.

"If we do not spend the money we have to return it," Norfleet said. "This money was originally from a 2007-2008 application."

"I have seen them in lots of cities and I like the idea of scooters," Arceneaux said. "I just hope they do not become a big-boys' toys."

Dobson said the parks are big, and the scooters would be beneficial.

"There is an awful lot of walking the code enforcement officers do every day," she said. "If we have the money we should use it."

Perrodin questioned Houston on how "green vehicles can be effectively managed by the city."

"The scooters will travel approximately 25 to 45 miles on a complete charge," Houston said. "It takes two hours to recharge them. We will rotate the fleet in and out, (half in operation and half charging) to maintain effectiveness."

The company is paying the maintenance costs on the scooters for the first three years. Houston said maintenance cost will be \$1,000 per vehicle per year after that. Insurance is a separate expense.

The company will provide an instructional DVD and training to operate the vehicles. Additional training beyond the introductory period will be at the city's expense.

The processing time to receive the grant money for the scooters will up to five months.

"The scooters are the best fit for the money and will make our officers more mobile."

MLES director Carl Houston

College activists praise decision to replace special trustee

By Cheryl Scott
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—Members of the Concerned Citizens of Compton and the Committee to Save Compton Community College District are elated at the news that Chancellor Jack Scott has replaced Special Trustee Genethia Hudley-Hayes.

They are also pleased that former Special Trustee Thomas Henry has been appointed to replace her on an interim basis.

"This was a very positive step from our standpoint," said Committee to Save Compton Community College District President Marie Hollis. "We are delighted that Tom Henry is back. We are confident that the district's efforts to gain accreditation will benefit from his expertise and experience."

The Compton Community College District is working with El Camino Community College to earn accreditation for the college, a prolonged and complex process that could take as long as 10 years.

"We could not understand why we had to be saddled with such a combative and confrontational personality," Hollis said. "She often made offensive, insulting remarks about the community of Compton, and perpetuated negative racist stereotypes. We found her actions akin to a 'bull in a china shop' and a manifestation of her recklessness and ever-increasingly obvious lack of knowledge of accreditation and postsecondary methods."

The special trustee position was created in 2006, after the Accrediting Committee for Community and Junior Colleges revoked Compton College's accreditation. While the college no longer exists as a separate entity and is now a remote learning center of the El Camino Community College District, the Compton Community College District still exists. The special trustee oversees the district as a representative of the Chancellor's Office.

Henry was special trustee in 2006 and

"We are delighted that Tom Henry is back. We are confident that the District's efforts to gain accreditation will benefit from his expertise and experience."

Committee to Save Compton Community College District President Marie Hollis

2007, leaving the post when Peter Landsberger was appointed. Both Henry and Landsberger were popular with the Compton College community, and local activists have been demanding Hudley-Hayes' ouster in repeated statements and a vote of no confidence sent to Chancellor Jack Scott.

Hudley-Hayes has been a bone of contention for the two groups since she took over as special trustee in January. She further angered the group when she fired CEO Dr. Lawrence Cox, who was also popular with district trustees, as well as with the two organizations.

"During the three years he served as CEO he garnered praise for achieving outstanding results," said Hollis. "He restored fiscal stability by eradicating a long-held structural deficit. He increased enrollment from 1,500 to approximately 10,000 students. And he has improved administrative capacity and processes as the college continues towards recovery."

Hudley-Hayes claimed that statements made by Cox about the progress being made toward gaining accreditation for the

college were not supported by the findings of an independent auditing committee.

The committee announced immediately that it would call for the immediate removal of Hudley-Hayes after what it called "her impromptu dismissal of Cox after being on her job for less than two months."

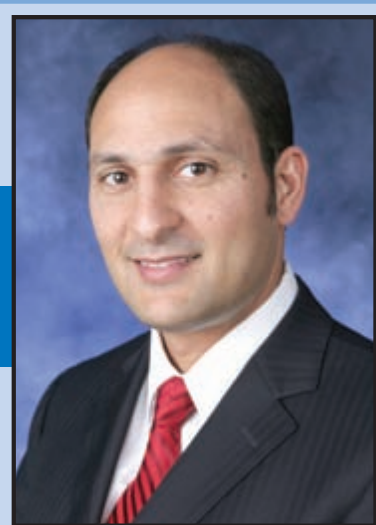
"Dr. Cox was a seasoned community college administrator since 1985 with 25 years experience," Hollis said. "This was Ms. Genethia Hudley-Hayes' first appointment on the postsecondary level, and she led with a blunder."

Hollis said Hudley-Hayes had a reputation for "abrasiveness in dealing with the Los Angeles Unified School District when she was a member of the school board." She also said that Hudley-Hayes only spent two days a week on campus.

In a letter written to state officials in April, Hollis said, "I speak for the communities and many who are disenchanted and disenfranchised by the recent and unnecessary changes under Ms. Genethia Hudley-Hayes that have already negatively impacted and threatened the road and timetable back to accreditation. We recommend swift action on your part to remove Ms. Hudley-Hayes given her actions and demeanor are not amenable to this community and delay will further jeopardize our mutually stated goal of swift reacquisition of accreditation."

The Committee to Save the Compton Community College District is comprised of citizens, organizations and politicians from the communities of Carson, Lynwood, Paramount, Long Beach and Compton. It is dedicated to the restoration of local governance and re-accreditation to the Compton Community College District.

"We are looking forward with pleasure to supporting Tom Henry's efforts as special trustee," said Hollis. "We hope that he will bring Dr. Cox back as CEO."



SEPPI ESFANDI
ATTORNEY AT LAW

• Criminal Defense •
• Personal Injury •

Call for a consultation
310-496-1633

Melrose-La Brea Animal Hospital

7116 Melrose Ave.
Hollywood, CA 90046



(323) 937-2334