

December 11, 2007

THE LAUSD WASTE BASKET:



\$0 dollars for teacher increases but plenty for PR consultants!

In a striking example of wasteful spending, LAUSD has hired a slew of consultants to “fix” the District’s public image.

According to the Daily News, the District has hired three outside consultants and a PR agency in addition to its six-person communications staff, spending thousands of dollars on public relations that could be used in the classroom:

<u>Consultant</u>	<u>Annual Consulting Contract</u>
Victor Abalos	\$178,000
Michael Bustamante	\$ 90,000 (6 month contract)
Darry Sragow	\$ 60,000
<u>Rogers Group</u>	<u>undisclosed amount</u>
Total	\$328,000+

(These outside consultants’ fees are in addition to the department’s \$10 million budget.)

Image fix – too little too late?

It doesn’t take a highly paid consultant to realize that the District has an image problem. But spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on consultants rather than in the classroom is another example of the District’s upside down priorities. The best way to mend the damaged reputation would be to spend money in the classroom and either fix the broken payroll system or turn it over to someone who can pay people accurately and on time.

School Board members unaware of the plan

The recent hiring of outside consultants seems to be a surprise to at least one school board member. The Daily News quotes Tamar Galatzan “If the job description for all of the new communications folks is just to find happy stories and convince the newspapers to print them, then I question if that’s a good use of funds.”

Be our eyes and ears in the school and send in your examples of waste and mismanagement. Send your examples to webmaster@utla.net. Your name and email address will be kept confidential.



Get mad. Get active. Get organized.

