

March 23, 2007

THE LAUSD WASTE BASKET



\$95 million for the new payroll system and what do we have to show for it?

Thousands still getting shorted pay or receiving no paycheck at all.

The payroll horror stories have been coming in from every corner of the District . . . the adult school teacher who received a 20-cent paycheck . . . the veteran educator who had to borrow money from her mother to go on a business trip after not being paid for two months . . . the new teacher whose check appeared and then disappeared from his account, triggering a series of bounced checks. As the payroll problems stretch into a second month, frustration is reaching a fever pitch, and UTLA is demanding answers.

Why didn't the District chose the company with lowest bid?

SAP, the company that provided the software for the new system, didn't have the lowest bid for the project, but it still was chosen. Why? Could it have something to do with the fact that the company's lobbyists—Rose & Kindel—are also the District's lobbyists? The relationship is so cozy that Rose & Kindel lobbied in 2005 for legislation that allows District officials more flexibility when making major technology purchases, opening the door for them to choose a higher bidder. *The day the legislation was signed into law, SAP announced its contract with the LAUSD.*

\$95 million in taxpayer money went to the flawed payroll system. Where did it go?

A big chunk of it went to SAP for the computerized payroll system software. Another big piece—\$55 million—went to Deloitte Consulting for an 18-month contract to help implement the software. Who's accountable for which part of this mess? And are the companies making even more money to solve problems that should have been fixed in the first place? SAP was chosen even though it has a history of problems at other school districts. It turns out that SAP's one-size-fits-all software—which may be fine for its billion-dollar corporate clients like Walt Disney and Coca-Cola—doesn't work so well in the complex world of public education.

How much money is being wasted in overtime?

Numerous LAUSD employees have been working long hours to fix the payroll problems. While we applaud their dedication, their overtime comes at a price. How much money is being spent for these extra hours? From what fund is that money coming?

Join the payroll protest Thursday, March 29!



In response to the payroll crisis, UTLA has issued five demands, focusing on accountability, restitution for employee losses, and other key factors. We won't rest until it's right! We're also holding a protest at LAUSD headquarters (333 S. Beaudry) on Thursday, March 29, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Join us and let the District know it is NOT ACCEPTABLE for employees to work so hard and then not be paid properly. Look for more details at www.utla.net.