

School board promises to increase transparency

BY LEILONI DE GRUY
STAFF WRITER

This month, the Compton Unified School District Board of Trustees decided to reformat the way in which it conducts meetings, opting to hold closed sessions at the beginning of meetings, rather than the end.

Beginning May 13, each semi-monthly board meeting will begin with public comments on closed session items. The board

will then immediately recess, so that trustees can convene to discuss those matters with legal counsel, at which point, they will render a report to the public.

The shift will allow privileged information to be "more convenient and accessible to the community," said CUSD Superintendent Kaye Burnside. Added CUSD board member Micah Ali: "The board will

become more transparent." "With the board meetings former format, attendees often had to wait until 9 p.m. or 10 p.m. to hear the report out of closed session. With the new format ... members of the audience will hear the report out of closed session two to three hours earlier in the evening than they did at previous board meetings," said CUSD Director of Communications Christine

Sanchez on behalf of the district.

Located in the district's board room, 501 S. Santa Fe Ave., meetings will continue to take place every second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 5 p.m. Closed sessions are held to discuss privileged information to be discussed privately between trustees, staff, the superintendent and the district's legal counsel.

Center gives seniors place to work out, socialize

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heated pool and weight rooms. According to Wellness Instructor Ronald Bennett, the youngest member is 80 and the oldest is 97.

"The center focuses mainly on seniors, keeping them healthy and making sure they understand the workout program itself and what they are doing when they come to the gym," he said. "We have a 90 degree heated pool which we call the pool of hope. When people have surgery

or joint replacements they can get in the warm water and it helps to get them stronger. It's great to have active seniors in here preserving their lives."

A native of Birmingham, Ala., Bennett, 47, is a 13-year Y veteran and oversees a number of low-impact, easy-does-it classes for other members.

"I like to use the treadmill and do leg presses in the weight room," said Crittenden, a regular at the center since 1991. "I had both knees and hips replaced in

1994, 1995 and 1996. It helped me re-build my strength. I was walking kind of bent over and now I can straighten up."

Added the Georgia raised teacher: "I don't have high blood pressure or cholesterol and the only thing I take is vitamins."

Retired school administrator Annis Connor, who declined to give her age, attends the center four days a week and calls it a "blessing."

"I had knee surgery and the

pool really helped me to heal a lot faster," said Connor. "I've also lost 53 pounds with the training I've done in the weight rooms."

Last but not least, 86-year-old former aircraft engineer Homer Ralles started attending the Y 18 months ago following the death of his wife.

"I thought I would try it for the social life," he said, "and it's been great."

Actress appreciates instant audience feedback

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characters ... they are archetypes of people that you would find inside a hair salon, kinds of people you would see in the community, women that we all know or [actually] are. It's also an opportunity to laugh at ourselves and laugh at our friends."

Although Diane Rodriguez — who is directing Pinkins in the play at the Fountain Theatre in Hollywood — has compared the themes of African-American sisterhood and identity explored in "Hair" to "unwrapping a gift and finding yourself inside," Pinkins realizes that Black audiences may not appreciate all of the portrayals in the play. In particular, a character who wears a blonde wig and wears green-colored contact lenses is certain to be controversial, but



Photo by Ed Krieger

Tonya Pinkins (right, with "And Her Hair Went With Her" co-star Tracie Thoms) calls it "an opportunity to laugh at ourselves."

Pinkins insists that the character has a purpose.

"People will say, 'Why are you playing her like that?'" Pinkins said. "But for that character, it's a journey of self-hatred to try

to become as unlike herself as much as possible, even though she clearly was gifted in the beginning ... before she was told that she was not like all the other colored kids." When

that happened, Pinkins continued, the character "did not take it as an affirmation of who she was, she took it as an affirmation that she needed to become something else."

Nonetheless, Pinkins hopes audiences come to the show with a spirit of acceptance. The actress — once described by media mogul Oprah Winfrey as one of 10 American women who can "take your breath away" — says she always enters new projects with an open mind, learns something new each time and feels most at ease on stage when audiences provide an instant reaction to her work.

"It's wonderful to be in the presence of immediate feedback, Like 'Aha!' or 'No you didn't!' or 'That's right!'" Pinkins said. "I would rather be surrounded by that, than an audience that's all quiet because that's when you're thinking the whole time 'Oh, my God, am I dying out here.' And at the end they jump to their feet and applaud you —when the whole time you've had a miserable night, thinking you sucked."

And Her Hair Went With Her runs through June 15 at The Fountain Theatre, 5060 Fountain Ave., Los Angeles. (323) 663-1629

HOLIDAY TRASH AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY ATHENS-WOODCREST-OLIVITA GARBAGE DISPOSAL DISTRICT MEMORIAL DAY MONDAY, MAY 26, 2008

Due to the Memorial Day Holiday, your regular trash collection services will be one day later than normal during the holiday week. Regular collection will resume the following week.

If your Regular Pick-Up Day is:	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Your Holiday Collection Day is:	Tuesday, May 27, 2008	Wednesday, May 28, 2008	Thursday, May 29, 2008	Friday, May 30, 2008	Saturday, May 31, 2008

As a reminder, UPW offers free bulky-item collection service throughout the year for large items such as stoves, furniture, refrigerators, washers, heaters, mattresses and other large items. To arrange for a bulky-item pickup call UPW's Customer Service Center at (866) 699-7600.

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To dispose of such items you may call the Los Angeles County Hotline: (888) CLEAN-LA

For More Information Please Call:

UPW
Monday - Friday,
7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(866) 699-7600 Ext. 114

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Monday - Thursday,
7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
(800) 404-4487

PROGRAMA DE DIA FESTIVO PARA LOS SERVICIOS DE COLECCIÓN DE BASURA Y RECICLAJE PARA LOS RESIDENTES Y NEGOCIOS DEL CONDADO DE LOS ANGELES DISTRICTO DE BASURA DE ATHENS-WOODCREST-OLIVITA. DÍA CONMEMORATIVO LUNES, 26 DE MAYO DE 2008

Por motivo de este día festivo, la colección regular de basura semanal se hará un día después del día festivo. Regresaremos a la colección normal la siguiente semana.

Si su día de colección es el:	LUNES	MARTES	MIÉRCOLES	JUEVES	VIERNES
Su día de colección será el:	MARTES, 27 DE MAYO 2008	MIÉRCOLES, 28 DE MAYO 2008	JUEVES, 29 DE MAYO 2008	VIERNES, 30 DE MAYO 2008	SÁBADO, 31 DE MAYO 2008

Como un recordatorio, United Pacific Waste (UPW) ofrece servicios gratuitos de colección de cosas bultosas durante el año. Por ejemplo, estufas, muebles, refrigeradores, lavadoras, calentones de agua, colchones y otras cosas bultosas. Para una cita de colección de artículos grandes llame a nuestro Centro de Soluciones para Clientes al (866) 699-7600.

Desechos tóxicos, o desechos de líquido no serán colectados. Para desechar estos artículos por favor llame a la línea de servicio del Condado de Los Angeles al: 1-888-CLEAN-LA

Para más información llame:

United Pacific Waste, Inc
Lunes - Viernes,
7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(866) 699-7600 Ext. 114

Condado de Los Angeles
Departamento de Obras Publicas
Lunes - Viernes,
7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (PEA) PROPOSED SOUTH REGION HIGH SCHOOL #6

Pursuant to the California Education Code Section 17213.1(a)(6)(A), the Office of Environmental Health and Safety of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) hereby gives public notice that a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) has been prepared for the proposed South Region High School #6. The LAUSD has submitted the PEA to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) for review and approval pursuant to the California Education Code Section 17213.1(a)(5). The PEA is available for public review and comment, and the LAUSD will hold a Public Hearing on the PEA.

Project Location: The site is located on the existing Los Angeles Southwest College Campus in the City of Los Angeles.

PEA Status: The DTSC is currently reviewing the PEA prepared for the proposed school site. Pursuant to the California Education Code requirements, the DTSC must consider and approve the PEA in order for the LAUSD to proceed with the project.

Public Review: The LAUSD has elected to make the PEA available for public review and comment pursuant to the California Education Code Section 17213.1(a)(6)(A). The public review period begins on May 19, 2008, and ends on June 18, 2008. During this period the LAUSD will receive written comments on the PEA. The DTSC will review the PEA concurrently and must either approve or disapprove the PEA within 30 days after the close of the public review period. Interested parties may obtain a copy of the PEA for \$200 per copy at the LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety. Written comments must be received no later than **June 18, 2008**, at the following address:

Attention: Andrew Fowler, Site Assessment Project Manager
LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety
1055 West 7th Street, 9th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 893-7418 Telephone Number; (213) 893-7412 Facsimile Number

All of the following documents are available to the public on request during the public review period: (1) the PEA, (2) any changes that the DTSC may request to the PEA, and (3) any correspondence between the LAUSD and the DTSC that relates to the PEA. These documents are available during regular office hours at the LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety address listed above and at the following locations:

Washington Preparatory High School: 10860 S. Denker Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90047
Middle College High School: 11750 S. Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90047
Mark Twain Branch Library: 9621 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90003
DTSC Regional Records Room: 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630
LAUSD Website: http://www.laschools.org/project-status/oneproject/project_number=5640021

Public Hearing: A Public Hearing on the findings of the PEA will be held at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, June 3, 2008, at the Washington Preparatory High School Auditorium, 10860 South Denker Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90047.

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con: Eloy Florez al (213) 893-7418.