

The More You Know – April 14, 2018

Empty Calories

Noun

Calories derived from food containing no nutrients.

Dear Colleagues,

Today's weekend edition of *The More You Know* reflects on the two *Modesto Bee* articles published this week. Last Sunday, our communities learned about the YCCD's failure to follow the public bidding process regarding the Ferrilli contract. In addition to the requirements of complying with State law, the reason for public bids is to help keep costs down as well as provide fairness to other businesses who might have wanted to compete for the opportunity to do work for the District. (**NOTE:** This last week someone asked me if I was familiar with a local company called DataPath. To be honest, I've never heard of them. But after looking at their website, I'm wondering if DataPath might have been able to provide similar—or even better—service to the District and at a cheaper price. Check it out at <http://www.mydatapath.com/>).

Last Thursday, the story about the Ferrilli contract unraveled even further as our communities learned that the YCCD was never supposed pay this company more than \$300,000. So much for that. The District has currently paid-out \$817, 958.

How did this happen? We have a District administration with a history of filtering and censoring information. YFA has had a difficult time with District transparency (e.g., Board minutes were skeletal at best during Joan Smith's administration). And as you'll see from the attachments, contracts containing several pages (and signed by administration) were significantly scaled-down to a one-line item on a District purchase order—and that was the only information provided to the Board for approval.

The bad news? We can't "unring" that bell. The money has already been spent.

The good (or better) news? I think this may result in greater oversight and accountability of District spending. This is important. We can't bargain for money that has either already been spent or is encumbered out-of-reach.

Thursday's *Modesto Bee* article also uncovered that Dan Duffy (who was given the title of "Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor of I.T." while he served as a Ferrilli consultant for the District) appears to have approved travel reimbursements for himself and payment to Ferrilli in violation of Government Code 1090 (see attached). Since the files are too big, here is a Google Drive link to just some examples of Duffy not only approving these reimbursements and payments, but

the expenses exceeding the contracted amount. Click on <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1MGzw-pKvnf49g8UpzzfYh7G5CpDSax8o>.

I will continue to push for District financial transparency and limiting excessing padding of encumbered funds to promote fair bargaining for the YFA.

Hopefully, any other questionable decisions and practices will be re-evaluated to promote the YCCD meeting professional ethical standards.

Stay informed. Stay engaged. Stay united.