

The More You Know – April 7, 2018

Monopolize

mo•nop•o•lize

/mə'näpəlīz/

Verb

Exclusive possession or control. Getting or keeping things to oneself. Having or taking the greatest share.

Dear Colleagues,

Today's weekend edition of *The More You Know* provides a partial, snapshot-summary about some of the ways that the District administration has a monopoly in the YCCD—and this monopoly negatively affects faculty.

- Poor financial decisions (e.g., Ferrilli contract, unnecessary legal fees, annual “Achieving the Dream” fees, excessive administrator salaries, etc.), future “encumbered expenses,” the District’s “me too” philosophy with other employee groups, and exorbitant administrator compensation contribute to the YFA’s decreased negotiable ground for a reasonable contract.
- Ignoring current YFA contractual agreements result in the Union being forced to file Unfair Labor/Practice Charges and Impasse with the YCCD when that should be unnecessary. **{The taxpayers prefer that YCCD spend its money defending indefensible behavior?}**
- Ignoring ethical/moral/professional standards by the YCCD results in the District paying unnecessary fees (e.g., if Ferrilli does not remove Joan Smith’s illegal endorsement, then the YCCD may have to file a lawsuit to force Ferrilli to remove it). **{How many FTES does THAT cost?}**
- How many decisions has YCCD made that have been railroaded?
- How many administrator decisions have been rubber-stamped by the Board? I have focused most of the blame on the District administration but, frankly, the Board (both the past and the present) “own” some of this. If any of the Trustees approved these decisions, but later claim they didn’t understand it, that is indefensible. Each Trustee receives full benefits; they do not—currently—receive a stipend. So, before they approve ANY administrator decisions, they need to require full District transparency AND accountability. **Case in point**—How did this Ferrilli scenario happen? (i.e., no public bid, Chancellor endorsement on the Ferrilli website, possible legal action if Ferrilli doesn’t remove the illegal endorsement, etc.) The Trustees are accountable and need to make the administration accountable.

This “game” that the YFA plays with the YCCD is stacked against us. Nevertheless, we are doing everything possible to make our working conditions and compensation as fair as possible.

Just an FYI

- YCCD Board Meeting on Wednesday, April 11th beginning promptly at 5:30pm (District Office, MJC West Campus)
- YFA General Faculty Meeting on Friday, April 20th beginning at 11:30am (Gene Bianchi Community Center, Oakdale); **bring food for the potluck**
- *The Modesto Bee* is publishing an article regarding the YFA-YCCD impasse. I am told it will be published in Sunday’s news (April 8th)

Stay informed. Stay engaged. Stay united.

Jim Sahlman