



Lance T. Izumi: That sucking sound is LAUSD doing business as usual

By Lance T. Izumi

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WHEN the Los Angeles Unified School District unveiled its Kennedy High School, the most expensive government-run it was not just an isolated PR disaster. Rather, it was only t floundering district is like a vacuum cleaner with its hose w taxpayers.

The RFK High School, located on the site of the famed Coc troubled history, including a 15-year legal battle with litigant preservationists to Donald Trump. Methane gas on the site effort. Further, LAUSD voluntarily increased costs by agree despite evidence from throughout California that such agre construction costs.

LAUSD also misleads the public on its per-pupil spending f 2008 it spent a little more than \$10,000 per pupil. Yet, that building costs or interest costs on those bonds.

According to Adam Schaeffer, researcher at the Washingto author of a study analyzing LAUSD spending, when constrn costs are included, the district's real per-pupil funding figure argue that students perform better in nicer environments, s: It therefore

seems fair to include building costs in per-pupil funding figu higher amount, LAUSD officials head for the hills.

John Seiler, a reporter for CalWatchdog.com, a project of t recently contacted LAUSD spokeswoman Lydia Ramos abt denying the figure without citing convincing contrary eviden likely reason for such stonewalling is the long line of fiscal s

In January, the district's inspector general found that LAUS 1,700 employees no longer on the job. LAUSD Superintenc defended the RFK project, refused the local NBC affiliate's comment on the findings. The superintendent condescendi denying the cost amount, but not the actual payout miscue.

In July, auditors found that unnecessary textbook purchase nearly \$10 million from 2008 to February 2010. In one case

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