

Consider this The Post-Standard (Syracuse, New York) June 29, 2008 Sunday

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BODY:

Freeze the school accounts

On Monday, the Syracuse school board will consider whether to freeze the accounts of school principals beginning July 1.

It should.

The fact that the accounts are known by a number of names -- "school," "house," "Pepsi" and "principal" -- and have no hard and fast rules about how the money is collected and spent is enough reason to examine them.

A proposed halt in spending from the accounts was prompted by a district investigation into the use of Fowler High School's account by Principal Laura Vieira-Suarez.

Board Budget Committee Chairman Calvin Corriders says he has had concerns for months about the use of the school's funds.

Officials' concerns included the principal's reimbursement twice for the same receipts, along with missing documentation of some spending. But Vieira-Suarez says all the money is accounted for and "everything that was purchased was purchased for kids."

She may be right. But the district should long ago have instituted policies about the use of school accounts -- something the Policy Committee is planning to do by the fall.

Until that happens, the school accounts (student fund-raising accounts are not included in the

freeze) should be carefully reviewed to ensure that all spending has been appropriate.

Centro basks in popularity

Regular Centro bus riders may have been amused by The Post-Standard's explanatory guide for riding the bus in a Friday report about the bus company's increasing ridership. But more folks who have never taken the bus may be hopping aboard.

Centro has seen a 12 percent overall spike since the beginning of the year in the number of riders -- and a whopping 28 percent increase in the suburbs.

No doubt the sticker shock at the gas pump has sent a lot of people to the bus stop.

Centro has skillfully accommodated that need by adjusting and creating more routes -- making it easier to take the bus to and from work.

As more people take the bus, more of their friends and family may be inspired to do so.

For \$1 to \$1.50 each way, it may be one of the cheapest ways to offset spiraling gas prices.

Now if the company would only start offering coffee on those morning runs ...

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Terms: **bus and (ridership increases) or (increasing ridership or increased commuters) and not Asia and not Europe and not India and not China and not Mexico and date(geq (June 18, 2008) and leq (August 18, 2008))** ([Edit Search](#) | [Suggest Terms for My Search](#))

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