

**CCSD**

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work in the [public school] district.”

Applications are still being taken and the hiring is expected to be ongoing according to district officials. Another critical need is transportation staffing, and about 100 more bus drivers will be hired, Lea said.

A major concern facing CCSD each year is transportation of students. This year, more than 140,000 students will ride the 1,100 busses in the district. Parents are advised that a number of school buses will be running late in the afternoons for the first few weeks.

In order for the planners to make provisions, it is imperative parents register children for transportation services. The district is running a series of public service announcements and issuing notices urging parents to do so immediately. More than 45,000 had not yet registered just days before the start of school.

Registration is important for two main reasons, Lea said. “It really is a safety issue.” For instance, in the event of emergencies, the child’s information is crucial. She said it’s school policy, as well. The Transportation Department will be open for extended evening hours for the next seven days. Parents of students eligible for transportation are asked to call 799-8111.

As the student population fluctuates, so too will the number of open positions for food service, janitorial and maintenance workers. The growing district is always hiring for those categories. For information on open positions, Lea suggests viewing the employment section of their website, [www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net).

At the district’s administrative office, there is one critical opening — the top position, superintendent. Currently, there are two interim co-superintendents, pending the hiring of a replacement for the head position left vacant since the end of last school year. The former superintendent, Carlos Garcia, resigned to accept another job. One certain prerequisite for an incoming executive administrator is his or her ability to handle the challenges — ups and downs — that come with dynamic growth.

Case in point, to accommodate expansive enrollment, 12 newly built schools were scheduled to open this year alone, 11 met the deadline on time, with one, Thiriot Elementary, set to open Sept. 19 due to construction delays.

**Winfrey furious over Johnson snub claims**

CHICAGO (AP)—Oprah Winfrey said she is “furious” at allegations that her absence at the recent funeral for *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines founder John H. Johnson was a snub of the pioneering Black publisher.

A column published Thursday in the *Chicago Defender*, a historically significant Black daily newspaper, questioned

why Winfrey didn’t attend Johnson’s Aug. 15 funeral in her hometown of Chicago. Former President Bill Clinton, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and many notable Black media personalities attended the service.

*Chicago Defender* Executive Editor Roland Martin wrote that many Black media figures have been lamenting Winfrey’s “apparent snub of the man who single-

handedly made it possible for people like Oprah to launch their own magazines and media companies.”

In another column published Friday, Martin recounted a tense phone conversation he had with Winfrey on Thursday.

“I am furious at the allegations because it’s just not true,” Martin quoted Winfrey as saying in his column.

“It’s not true and it’s un-

fair.”

Winfrey said she was in Hawaii when Johnson died and was unable to make it back for the services, according to Martin’s column. Johnson died of heart failure Aug. 8 at the age of 87.

She said she sent notes to both Johnson’s widow, Eunice, and his daughter, Linda Johnson Rice — even offering to provide Martin copies of the notes and a re-

ceipt of the flowers she sent to Johnson’s downtown publishing company, according to the newspaper.

She also told Martin she plans to pay tribute to Johnson when she returns from her summer hiatus with a TV show dedicated to the man who built a media empire and became one of the nation’s wealthiest Black businessmen.

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