

# School Leaders Split On Proposals For County-Wide Junior College

## Building And Operating Costs Cause Division Of Opinion On Feasibility Of Local College

Right now, Santa Cruz county has the necessary assessed valuation and the estimated minimum average daily attendance to qualify for the establishment of a satisfactory junior college, it was agreed last night when the county school re-districting committee met to discuss the subject.

As a matter of fact, the meeting was called as one of three to be held with the county school trustees to study rec-matter further, as required by state law, before formally recommending the establishment of the college by the committee.

However, it was understood the county school superintendent failed to notify the trustees, who were not present as planned. The meeting will be held March 23 at 8 p.m. in the board of supervisors room in the court house annex.

Last night Homer Cornick, Santa Cruz city school superintendent, L. L. Jones, Watsonville city school superintendent and Eugene Haskell, district superintendent of the San Lorenzo Valley unified school were present to take part in the discussion with the committee and divided on recommendations for a junior college.

Also in attendance was Lloyd Taylor, field representative of the state department of education and Vincent Locatelli, Mrs. Kathryn Claver and Earl Adam, trustees of the valley school.

According to a projection of enrollment for the proposed Santa Cruz junior college, presented last night by Taylor, the state junior college average daily attendance for the school year 1950-51 was 90.106. For the same year, the high school average daily attendance was 422,321. The junior college average daily attendance was 21.33 per cent of the high school average daily attendance for that year.

If the statewide average daily attendance is applied to the total high school enrollment in Santa Cruz county, then a junior college, had it been in existence in 1947, would have had the following enrollment:

1947	524
1948	535
1949	558
1950	577
1951	578
1952	604

Using the same percentage for 1953, the junior high school enrollment would be 658.

According to the recommendations of the department of education for a satisfactory junior college there must be a minimum enrollment of 500 pupils. The assessed valuation of the junior college district should reach at least \$100,000,000, according to the same source. The current assessed valuation of Santa Cruz county is \$117,000,000.

According to another list compiled by Miss Edith E. Fikes, county school superintendent, Santa Cruz county paid \$143,239 for out of

county tuition for junior college students last year.

This did not include veterans, Miss Fikes pointed out.

Hartnell college has an ADA from Santa Cruz county of 110.95, with a cost of \$707.51 a year for the education at each college. Next is Monterey with 91.278 or a cost of \$610.297; San Jose with 16.0629; San Francisco with 7.49; and scattered attendance at Los Angeles, Contra Costa, Fullerton, San Mateo, Santa Rosa, Marin, Stockton, Napa and Bakersfield.

One question yet to be settled is whether or not the junior college and high school districts have to be co-terminous. Taylor said they had to be and Linton Forrester, chairman of the county re-districting committee, said he thought not. The problem arose because of the joint Watsonville high school district which is partly in Monterey county.

The matter was to be clarified before the next meeting.

(Six million of the assessed valuation computed for the junior college lies in Monterey county).

Cornick, Santa Cruz school superintendent, wasn't too pleased about the establishment of a junior college, when his opinion was asked.

"I can't conscientiously be very enthusiastic about a junior college in a county that doesn't adequately support its elementary and secondary school enrollments," he said.

"It would require at least \$2 million for a campus and a 35-cent tax rate for maintenance," he continued. "At the moment Santa Cruz county taxpayers don't feel like supporting the other youngsters in that style."

"If the people want to vote for it, it's fine," he said, "but I think every type of explanation should be made and the people told that it is an expensive type of education."

"But before we expand," he added, "they should feel willing to do more for elementary and secondary education."

Jones, Watsonville's superintendent, said he didn't feel that way at all. He said he felt the high schools in Santa Cruz county were paying comparable salaries to those in other parts of the state and that our schools were probably being financed as well as the others.

"Using Calvin Flint's reports," he said, "it appears we are denying a junior college education to a third of the children in the county because the schools are too far away for them to attend. It is necessary for those who do go to school to spend three to four hours a day on buses," he explained.

"I think Santa Cruz county can afford it and I think it ought to have it," Jones concluded.

Carl Conelly, a member of the committee from the San Lorenzo valley, pointed out 600 students would be educated instead of the 250 now receiving higher education.

"For the number of persons we'd be educating, we wouldn't be paying much more," Forrester said.

Haskell, valley superintendent, said he tended to agree with Cornick, but added that if the entire state waited, there would be no junior colleges today.

He said children in the valley were denied a higher education because a bus was out of the question. Adding it all up, he stated, it was really a financial investment well worth the money, to have a junior college available.

The group agreed it would take a good deal of selling to put the junior college across to the public, but all felt that once the entire matter was understood, it could be successful.