

# Pupil-Teacher Ratio Upped In Santa Cruz Schools

By Wally Trabing

A city schools programming plan for 1959-60 which will stave off increasing elementary double sessions by increasing the pupil-teacher ratio from 30.2 to 32.1, was approved last night by the city school board.

Edward Hill, assistant superintendent, presented two plans—"both undesirable," he said.

But, he explained: "Next year 190 additional students are expected to enter high school; 60 additional in the seventh and eighth grades, and 80 additional in the elementaries. All these new students will have to be housed. All classrooms are presently utilized and 12 classes at the elementary level are on double sessions.

"Of the many plans suggested by the administration, only two seem workable for implementation in September."

Under the adopted plan, not only will there be no additional double sessions in the elementary district but also the double session class at Mission Hill will be discontinued.

Double sessions in grades one through three at Bay View and one through two at Garfield Park will continue. If the bond election (June 2) passes, these students would be on full-day sessions with the completion of the new wing at Bay View in January.

To put the plan in action the following changes will be made:

1. The Child Care center will be moved from Grant school. Present Grant second graders will occupy the classroom vacated by the center when they become third graders. A partition in the Grant auditorium will be moved to provide better space utilization.

2. Mission Hill elementary will consolidate classes to release one classroom for additional students at the junior high school level. Primary students who live in the attendance area of the proposed new elementary school on the hill would be transported to small classes at Gault.

Tentative plans call for 18 first graders, 12 second graders and 10 third graders being transported to Gault. This would make a first grade minimum of 30 students, second minimum of 29, and a third minimum of about 35. Bus transportation will cost about \$962 for the school year.

3. The special class now housed in a work room at Branciforte elementary would be housed in a third grade room left vacant because Grant third grades would not come to Branciforte.

4. Bay View would transport 45 sixth graders to Laurel to be absorbed in two small sixth grade classes. A bus presently takes 21 to Laurel.

At the high school, Principal Lee Sims reports that with "tight scheduling" and maximum room usage, the high school should be able to operate on a six-period day with the enlargement of the library and the addition of two academic classrooms.

Both junior high schools will be able to program students with in their present facilities with Mission Hill utilizing one additional elementary classroom.

Changes at the high school will include partitioning the Trident basement, developing two additional classrooms; a journalism class would be vacated to provide additional library space and a temporary class used by the agricultural shop will be used for an academic class.

The adopted plan, moved by Pegie Johns and seconded by George G. Wilson, did not meet with unanimous approval. Trustees Margaret Reed and A. R. "Dick" Hackbarth, voted against it.

Hackbarth said he wanted to go along with the advice of Dr. James B. Conant, in his recent study on the American high school, who advised that under a crowded situation such as ours, it would be better to extend the high school day from six to seven or eight periods rather than continue double sessions on the elementary level.

Hill said: "If we thought we could have obtained more classrooms that way we would have presented such a plan." He warned that a delay in a board decision would cause programming on into the summer.

Hackbarth had requested a delay for the study of an extended day set-up to explore areas of enriching the curriculum and relieving double sessions.

He pointed out that according to Hill's report, Sims had not proposed a program to handle students on an extended or double noon hour day.

Sims also said, according to the report, that "either suggestion calls for additional expense in cafeteria responsibilities and/or additional transportation for late and early students. Because of the undesirability of this type of programming, no alternative was developed."

Hackbarth felt that the two farmed out ninth grades could be returned to the high school with the extended day periods.