

Harbor High Near Completion; Tours May Be Offered

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By Mel Baughman
Sentinel Staff Writer

Harbor High School construction is now 78 per cent completed and "work is progressing satisfactorily," Laurence Gentry, architect's representative, told the Santa Cruz City Board of Education last night.

Gentry said the date for completion of the contract is May 13.

At the suggestion of Trustee Ambrose Cowden, the school staff will study the possibility of conducting guided tours of the new facility as part of the campaign for the February 20 tax election.

Other business included:

ELEMENTARY PROJECTIONS — Projections of future enrollment in the city's elementary schools were reviewed. With 3,005 youngsters in the seven grammar schools as of October, officials predict the

1968-69 enrollment will climb to 3,098 students, to 3,159 in 1969-70, and to 3,229 in 1970-71.

East Side enrollment is expected to increase from the present 1,196 youngsters to 1,253 next year, 1,279 in 1969-70, and 1,315 in 1970-71. On the west side, where 1,809 pupils now attend schools, officials predict there will be 1,845 next year, 1,880 in 1969-70, and 1,914 in 1970-71.

A committee of Trustees Eugene Adams, Charles Smith and Dr. Cowden was appointed by President Keith Shaffer to confer with administrative officials and architects on the implications of the enrollment growth for present facilities, especially at the DeLaveaga School.

GAULT SCHOOL — Trustees discussed possible expansion of Gault School, where 14 classrooms now are in use and two classes are being transported to DeLaveaga School.

A proposal to expand the school by purchasing land to the north across Effey Street was declared not feasible since the property no longer is available. A second proposal to expand to the east across Sumner Street, at a cost of \$126,400, was termed by Superintendent Denzil Morrissey "much too expensive for this district to consider."

Morrissey suggested that available funds would be better used by completing facilities at DeLaveaga and enlarging its attendance area. He also said final decisions should be postponed until a city planning study of the Gault area is completed in a few months by Neal Walton, city planning director, and his staff.

In answer to comments by Trustee Don Starr, Morrissey stated the city study's findings will give the school district some basis for making long range plans covering the next decade.

Starr predicted the Gault area will grow more rapidly than present projections indicate and that additional school sites might be needed. He cited expansion of the harbor, the shift in zoning to permit construction of apartments, the barriers posed by traffic arteries such as Water Street and Soquel Avenue, and the eventual need for replacement of the Branciforte Elementary School.

AUDIENCE — Mrs. H. R. Lans told trustees that some persons in the community could not support the tax override request because of what she termed the "failure of the new board to keep its promises to change the school administration."

She charged that Shaffer, Eli Bariteau and Starr, all of whom were elected last April, "smear-ed" Morrissey in order to win

election.

The members denied the charge and Morrissey joined them in the denial. He praised the present and past board members, declared that they

are "gentlemen in every respect," and added that they have not "changed their minds regarding their objectives for improving this district and the administration."

CONFERENCE — The board held at Cabrillo College in financing a reading program in the primary grades.

FUND APPLICATION — Trustees approved an application to the state for funds under the Miller-Unruh law for

NEXT MEETING — The board set February 5 as the date for its next regular meeting.

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Wounded In War



Sgt. Stephen M. Welch, 20, has been wounded in action in Vietnam. Mrs. Harold M. Welch of 712 Almar Avenue, his mother, said he was shot in the right side of the chest on January 3 and is now in a recovery hospital awaiting evacuation to the United States. She said Welch saw action in the Iron Triangle and War Zones D and C, and was one of 750 paratroopers to jump over enemy territory with the 173rd Airborne Unit, the only paratroopers to make such jumps during the war. He was in one of the companies cut off from 24 to 48 hours last Thanksgiving during the battle for Hill 875 at Dak To. Mrs. Welch said her son was due to return January 15 after his one-year tour of duty. Welch was a baseball player while at both Santa Cruz High School and Cabrillo College. He is a former Sentinel newsboy and worked for Pacific Cement and Aggregates before entering the service in June of 1966.