

State Orders New SC High School For Dropouts, Disciplinary Cases

By Alan Pugh
Sentinel Staff Writer

The Santa Cruz city system will have two new high schools next year—one started on the La Fonda site and approved by the district voters; the other, a separate "continuation" high school mandated by the state to care for dropouts and disciplinary incorrigibles.

Superintendent Deniz Morrissey tossed the "continuation" bombshell to district trustees at their November meeting last night. The state dictum was contained in his review of laws recent legislatures have imposed on school operations, and he explained how, under state law, it would have to be entirely "separate from the present high schools except for a physical plant."

"It will require a separate principal and counselors," Morrissey said, "but we will be able to use classrooms in either Santa Cruz or Soquel High schools." He said he estimated about 30 pupils would attend.

Asked Trustee Dr. Charles Smith: "You mean we have to hire a principal at \$15,000 to care for 30 students?"

Morrissey said the man could also direct the "parental school"—another school mandated by the state to care for dropout and disciplinary problem-students at the grammar level, for the district's correspondence school at the high school level and for home teaching.

"If we consider this is a penal school, we are dead," Morrissey told the board. "But if we consider it as a means of rehabilitation, I think it will be worthwhile."

The superintendent explained that the state also provided funding—"for perhaps the first

Education Can Be Broadening

How is it pronounced?

DeLaveaga with a long "a" or DeLaveaga with a broad "a."

That's a question that will have to be settled by November 23 when ground is broken for the new DeLaveaga, near Prospect Heights, school.

Principal Malcolm Macaulay reported a school naming committee had selected "DeLaveaga" — but "we aren't sure how to pronounce it."

The Spanish, and apparently correct, pronunciation uses a broad "a" such as in "father." The Santa Cruz pronunciation is DeLaveaga with the long "a" such as in fate.

The school would be named after Jose Vicente DeLaveaga, a Spaniard, and thus, Macaulay said, "we should use the Spanish pronunciation. But who is going to enforce the change?"

time"—and that an estimated \$33,000 would be available under the small schools measure.

This provides \$33,000 for the first 20 pupils and so much for each additional pupil attending.

State law now stipulates that a pupil can not be suspended from school for more than 10 days in a school year unless such pupils have been enrolled in "parental schools" (at the elementary level) or "continuation schools" (at the high school level).

The law requires continuation schools be established in all high school districts with the county superintendent inspecting curriculum. It also requires reporting to the law enforcement authorities incidents of assaults against school employees.

Morrissey said Dr. Richard Fickel, superintendent of the San Lorenzo Valley district, has queried Santa Cruz about handling SLV pupils who would come under the continuation school ruling. Trustee Mrs. Genevieve Beck asked if it were possible Pajaro Valley high school might also be interested and Morrissey said it would bear looking into.

Regarding the La Fonda site, Assistant Superintendent Dave Gray reported land purchase had been completed for the new high school in East Santa Cruz. He said negotiations had been completed with Arana Properties and with purchase of that property at \$370,000, the entire site had been acquired at a total of \$507,600.

"This was not an easy job," Gray told the board. He gave much of the credit to the Watsonville law firm of Wyckoff, Parker, Boyle and Pope which handled all negotiations and he said the \$507,600 price was "clear evidence that when we get top-flight people into the school picture, it pays off."

Morrissey pointed out that the district and citizens committee which selected La Fonda had estimated \$500,000 for site purchase—"and that was more than two years ago." He declared it showed the "team work and cooperation between the architect, Gray and the attorneys."

Plans for site development will be expedited for the new high school.