

Vanguard

Westlake School

Board Will Seek \$600,000 For New Elementary School

To satisfy minimum needs for a normal growth pattern during the next three years, city school trustees last night voted to ask for \$600,000 to be used to build a new elementary school in the Westlake area and add more classrooms to two west side schools.

This will be on the general bond program ballot February 18 with the proposal for a new mid-county high school and additional facilities to the present high school. Only those living within the Santa Cruz elementary school district will vote on the \$600,000 bond. Those living outside the city elementary district will vote only on the high school proposals.

Specific recommendations for the distribution of needed facilities for the west side were presented by Dr. Lawrence Magee, city superintendent of schools.

They include eight classrooms, an administration building and a multipurpose hall in the Westlake area for the beginning of a new elementary school; five new classrooms added to Bay View elementary school; and three permanent type temporary classrooms for the Garfield Park elementary school.

The \$600,000 will also be used to purchase a site for the new elementary, but, according to the general feeling of the board, not the second site suggested in the Reller report for a future west side elementary school. No official action was taken on Dr. Magee's recommendations.

Trustee John McBain set the theme for discussion by suggesting to the board that "we work out what we need before we decide where we're going to put the buildings."

Dr. Magee said that to prevent overcrowding, there will be a need for 11 new classrooms, a kindergarten, and a special room for a mentally retarded class by next year.

There was some discussion of moving the seventh and eighth graders at Mission Hill to Branciforte junior high school and converting Mission Hill into an all elementary school.

George Castleberry, business manager of the city schools, said with the seventh and eighth graders gone it would make available only five usable classrooms which would have to be rehabilitated for elementary use.

"It would have to be reconverted back for junior high use in a few years when Branciforte overflows. The costs involved for the short time would not make this plan worth while," he said.

Castleberry reported that "assuming we have a 10 per cent growth on the west side by 1961, we will need 19 classrooms."

Present plans is to build 16 if the bonds are okayed by the voters.

Board members generally agreed that while the "permanent type temporary" classrooms represent only a difference of \$1.50 to \$2 per square foot in construction costs, they can be put to valuable use as a buffer. These classrooms look like any other, but can be moved from school to school to relieve overcrowding in areas with unexpected growth.

Present bonding capacity for the elementary district is "over a million dollars," according to Castleberry.

Trustee George G. Wilson made the motion setting the bonding amount of \$600,000. It was seconded by McBain.

Dr. Magee has felt around the edges during the bond program planning for a new cafeteria for Branciforte elementary.

Trustee Margaret Reed admitted that "the building is a disgrace to the city of Santa Cruz," but she as well as other members of the board were against including it as part of the bond program.

It may not be a dead issue, however, for there was general interest expressed for further investigation into the matter.

At present the hot food is being cooked and carried from Branciforte junior high school to Branciforte elementary. Following the noon meal the dirty dishes are carted back to the junior high school for washing.