

Laurel School

Laurel Elementary Faces Moment Of Truth

By MEL BAUGHMAN
Sentinel Staff Writer

A moment of truth approaches for the 31-year-old Laurel Elementary School that has served generations of Santa Cruz youngsters since it was built in 1930 at a cost of slightly less than \$79,000.

On Monday night, when the Santa Cruz City Board of Education convenes at 7:30, trustees will receive a one-page memorandum and an eight page report that together point clearly in the direction of the school's closing at the end of the current school year.

In his one-page memo that accompanies the agenda for Monday night's session, Dr. Carl E. Wilsey, superintendent of Santa Cruz City Schools, notes that the facilities subcommittee of the citizens committee on school needs and goals also recommends that the building be

converted to an administrative center and that the 153 students who are now enrolled there be transferred next year to Bay View School.

A second subcommittee, on opportunities for ethnically, racially and culturally different children, has not dealt specifically with the school's closing, Dr. Wilsey said, but has recommended "broad community and parent involvement in the decision-making process whenever a school is to be closed."

Dr. Wilsey planned to meet last week with parents from the Laurel and Bay View Schools to discuss the proposal and to develop a final recommendation to the board on Monday's session.

Trustees will meet in the board room of the administrative building, 133 Mission St.

Although Dr. Wilsey said only preliminary planning has been done so far and detailed finan-

cial data is yet to be developed, he commented, "I am confident that operating cost savings would result from such a change and that we can provide needed new facilities at Bay View at less cost than remodeling Laurel School."

He concluded, "It is my hope that the board will discuss this matter in detail at the Feb. 8 board meeting and, if deemed advisable, take a preliminary position on the closing of Laurel School at that meeting. Final action should probably be taken at subsequent meeting to allow for full public discussion."

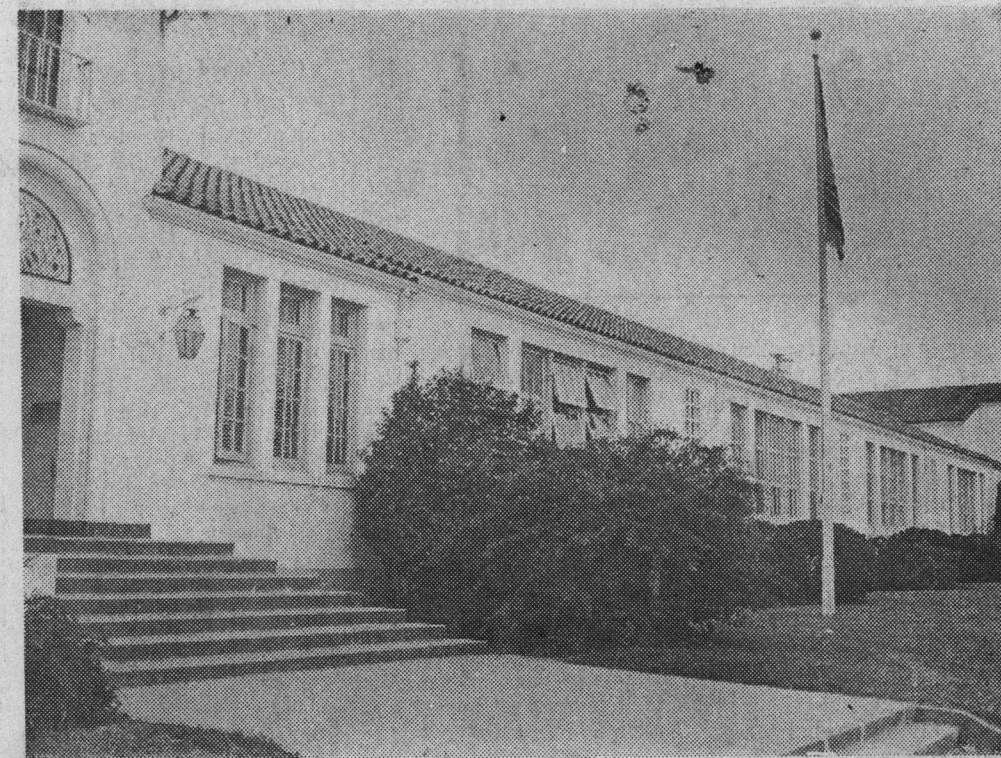
The memo accompanied an eight page report on possible closing of Laurel School by William Lorimer, director of elementary education.

Also on the agenda is a call for a special meeting of trustees to discuss financial needs.

Other business on Monday night's docket will include a discussion of the junior high school study and recommendations for law changes, the 1971 high school summer program, acting on hiring a district architect, and a discussion of proposed amendments to the city charter's provisions on election of school board members.

Other business will include adoption of textbooks, a proposal for a vocational agriculture course in horticulture to be offered next year, and reports on English as a second language, a change in the primary schedule at DeLaveaga School, and a social welfare counselor program.

Members of the citizens committee that has spent several months studying the goals and needs of the school also are scheduled to submit their report.



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Weather

MONTEREY BAY AREA — Fair through Monday, except patchy fog and low cloudiness Sunday morning. Slightly warmer Monday. Overnight lows from mid 30s to mid 40s. Highs near 60, Monday in mid 60s. Light wind.

Temperatures for 24-hour period ending at 5 p.m. Saturday, maximum 61, minimum 40.

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