

School Board Rejects Plan To Take New Look At La Fonda Site

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The La Fonda property as a site for the new Santa Cruz high school was back before school trustees today — pushed back by a reported petition being circulated to ask the school board to reconsider site selection.

At their monthly meeting last night, trustees were told by Superintendent Denzil Morrissey that the petition called upon the board to review its decision and to take a new look at acquiring the Chaminade property on Chaminade lane off Paul Sweet road. Reports were, according to the petition, that the Catholic brothers running the Chaminade preparatory school were willing to bargain.

Morrissey quickly spiked that rumor with a letter from Brother Elmer Drunsky, S.M., director of the school, declaring his order was not interested in selling any of the property.

"Because of many public pronouncements," the brother wrote, "I believe it prudent to declare the brothers have no present intention of selling our property."

The brother continued that the school had been there since 1923," and we are quite happy

with the location," at which brothers in the Marianist order are instructed.

Morrissey reviewed selection of the La Fonda site and said it followed all of the pledges laid down in the approved bond issue. He said a citizens' committee had selected the La Fonda site as the best of three in the area prescribed in both the bond issue and state school placement planning. He added that the school site had been approved by both the city and county planning boards and also by the state department of education.

Morrissey declared it would be quite incongruous if "we as a public school district were to start eminent domain proceedings for the Chaminade property, a private school . . . It would also be foolish."

To further acquisition of La Fonda site property, the board pointed the firm of Wyckoff, Parker, Boyle and Pope to handle all matters regarding the site. The appointment was effected on motion of Trustee Eugene Adams who added that the newly appointed legal representatives should keep the idea of negotiation foremost and legal condemnation actions as a last resort.