

# SC School Board Calls For Bids On La Fonda Campus

By John Elliott  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Bids have been called by the Santa Cruz city board of education for the district's third high school, the controversial \$1.8-million La Fonda campus.

Trustees yesterday set February 16 as the last day for receiving bids and said they will consider offers and award contracts at a regular meeting four days later.

Kal Porter, of the architectural firm of Porter-Gogerty-Meston and Associates, San Jose, listed an approximate estimate of \$1,813,000, including \$1,663,000 for building construction and the remainder for on and off site improvements.

**The board's action—assuming that acceptable bids are received—apparently ends a feud which has lasted for months. The site has been attacked as unsuitable for educational use, while the city and school board engaged in a dispute over whether or not a connecting road should be built between Soquel avenue and the La Fonda overpass.**

The board yesterday accepted two use permits, one from the county and the other from the city. The latter requires construction of the connecting road. Funds for construction of the road and primary access, in the southwest corner of the site, are scheduled to be provided through city council formation of a special assessment district, with a levy against taxpayers within the high school district.

Philip T. Boyle, of Watsonville, the board's attorney in the La Fonda matter, said yesterday in response to questions from three members of the audience that a rough guess is not yet possible on what the cost of constructing the connecting road and primary access will be.

He said the city public works department will handle preliminary engineering work. Boyle also said the city is agreeable to meeting with the school board in order to determine the route of the connecting link.

Expressing curiosity about the road cost were Mrs. LaSalle Bachelder, 1299 Granite Creek road, Francis Bell, 112 Getchel street, and Charles Wheat, 711 California avenue.

Mrs. Bachelder told trustees she thinks they are "honor bound" to inform citizens of the cost, since an earlier bond issue included funds for prime access and road construction (on the east side of the site instead of the west as now planned).

Trustee Eugene Adams said the board's main responsibility is to construct the school by September, 1968, and moved that bids be called in line with construction changes discussed during the two-hour session. He also asked that connecting road plans suggested by Bell be studied.

The motion was passed by voice vote, without dissent.

A number of construction changes or modifications were suggested by Trustees Lloyd Hebbbron, Lewis L. Alcorn and Mrs. Genevieve Beck. Some trustees met last week with citizens and school officials to study final construction drawings.

Porter said suggested changes will be checked and can be made part of the project if desired by the board.

Most discussion centered on means of further reducing costs, by using alternate and unit price bidding methods where changes will not affect function, although some minor additions to present plans were suggested.

A combination room arrangement to be used by the English, social science and foreign language departments was challenged by Mrs. H. R. Lans, 815 Riverside avenue, who said it is impossible for teachers and students to concentrate in a multi-room arrangement.

Ron Dameron, La Fonda principal, stated the combination rooms are not an economy factor, that it is felt the concept enables students to learn more. Dr. Dameron noted the practice is becoming accepted across the country.

Also questioned, by Mrs. Lans and Mrs. Bachelder, were plans for feeding students. President John Melendy noted there has been no final decision, although one consideration is to provide vending machines.

Mrs. Bachelder asked if there would be room to cook for students if the vending machines were pulled out later. Dave Gray, assistant superintendent of business, said there would be room to install a snack bar arrangement if necessary.

## Valley Players Meet February 7

The Valley Players will not meet tonight in Boulder Creek as announced in yesterday's Sentinel.

The meeting has been set for February 7 in the recreation pavilion. Persons interested in joining the drama group are welcome.

For further information, contact Jace Hayes, 338-6439 or John Hill, 338-3805.