

SC School Trustees Again Seek Tony George Land

By Wally Trabing

City school board members last night voted to re-open negotiations for purchase of the Tony George property on Western drive and Meder street for an elementary school site.

Last month trustees rejected an offer through Realtor Bob Voris of \$78,000 for 14 acres. Although figures discussed (by passing a paper around the table) were not made public, the gist of the new proposal is that Voris had recently submitted a new offer at a reduced price and the board voted to answer with a figure apparently around \$3000 less.

It was learned the new offer by the school board is from \$16,000 to \$17,000 less than the original \$78,000.

Stipulations with the new offer ask assurance that the proposed housing project which will place 200 plus homes in the area will materialize and that an access road to the property from Western avenue be made available within three years. The motion was made by A. R. "Dick" Hackbarth and seconded by Pegie Johns.

Considerable discussion was centered around the lack of safe walking right-of-ways for students who will be attending Westlake elementary.

Trustee William Burr said that in the Westlake and Spring street area students were forced to walk in the streets, because of hedges, fences and other landscape growths protruding down to the curbs.

He said that city maintained a right-of-way along each property front and therefore could insist that these obstructions be set back enough to allow for walking room.

The board okayed a request to have the city council take action on the problem at tonight's meeting.

In other business the board:

1. Deeded a 10-foot strip of about 800 feet of school property along Swift street for eventual street widening. Some of the property was purchased from the city and, with other acquired lots, will be used as another West Side school site.

2. Voted \$800 for a playground on the upper parking area of the First Congregational church for children who will be attending school there until January 1, completion date for the new Westlake school. Board members praised the cooperation of the church officials in lending the Sunday school building to the school.

3. Approved a contract with KQED for education TV programs for 1070 students at 60 cents a person. Hill said there would be at least one TV set in each city elementary school.

4. Became persnickety over a request from Rita Mattei, Westlake principal, requesting that she start a contest among her pupils, parents, and teachers, on officially naming the school. Trustees John Melendy, Pegie Johns and John McBain, wanted the board to have a say in naming schools and suggested a committee to study this serious matter, and form a policy. The board would pass judgment. End contest for the kids.

5. Heard a report from Ed Warren, director of secondary education, that 66.6 per cent of the Santa Cruz high school seniors taking the University of California English "A" examinations had passed.

He said 12 of 15 Santa Cruz seniors taking the San Jose State college English "A" exam this year had passed.

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