

Legal Steps Completed For Junior College Vote

While Hartnell college trustees were reportedly making wooing goo-goo eyes at the Watsonville high school district, election officials announced here today that legal steps have been completed to have the junior college district proposal for Santa Cruz county placed on the November general election ballot.

A tip that Hartnell college trustees, at a meeting Tuesday night, wondered about the Watsonville high school district's assessed valuation and asked other "bewildered" questions about the possibility of annexing it into the Hartnell junior college district, set county education officials a-flutter.

County Superintendent of Schools Norman S. Lien said today that if the Watsonville district did "pull out" to join the

Hartnell junior college district it would "definitely upset this county's junior college plans."

Donald Eddy, superintendent of Watsonville city schools, said today: "I frankly don't think our board will take any action until the November election. The board has already committed itself to the question of the proposed Santa Cruz county junior college district vote."

He said the board had not been contacted by Hartnell officials.

Stuart Dufour, vice president of Hartnell, was rather amazed at all the fuss.

"A former student of mine sent me an editorial on your county's junior college district question. I turned it over to the trustees. There were a lot of bewildered questions on what we should do and if we should make an offer to Watsonville. Nothing concrete was decided. Watsonville officials have not even been contacted," he said.

"I believe former studies have indicated that there is a need for a junior college in Santa Cruz county."

Dufour said that some 1200 students were expected at Hartnell this fall, "just about what we can handle."

It was reported that 157 Watsonville area students attended the college last spring.

Lien reported that the county last year spent \$460,000 to send about 600 students to junior college in other counties. He said Santa Cruz county could operate its own program for about \$249,000.

Lien said that the county pays Hartnell junior college \$550 per student.

"At present the taxpayers here are not getting as much as they could out of their tax dollar. If a junior college was built in Santa Cruz county, all this money would be retained within this county," he added.