

# Sale Of \$680,000 In School Bonds Is Approved By Board

City school trustees wrangled their way through a long agenda last night.

Action was deferred on a number of issues, including a proposal to reorganize with separate officers for the elementary and high school boards, and a decision on proposed lease of a house across Weeks street from the high school for high school office use.

The boards did act to authorize sale of bonds for the high school and Branciforte elementary school rehabilitation programs, which got the green light from the people in last month's school bond election, after some haggling over the amounts which will be required to pay for the work.

Told by School Business Manager George Castleberry that it was necessary to decide on the percentage of the bonds to be sold now, for figuring in this fiscal year's tax rate, board members finally settled on sale of \$680,000 worth of high school bonds, which is \$100,000 under the amount authorized by the voters, and \$200,000 worth of elementary school bonds. The bond issue voted on by elementary district residents in the June 7 election amounted \$680,000.

Castleberry advised the trustees that it would be best to set amounts that will pay for the jobs, so another bond sale will not be necessary. The balance can be sold later, however, he pointed out.

Trustee John Church expressed assurance a substantial saving under the bond election estimates can be realized on the Branciforte elementary school rehabilitation project, adding his belief a substantial saving can be made in rehabilitation of the main high school and Trident buildings as well.

The action on the high school bond sale was carried over a "no" vote from Trustee Gretchen Meek, who opined that \$680,000 was not enough to cover the program. Wade Henderson, the other school board member who represents the high school district only, was not present at last night's session.

Elementary district trustees made another major decision after Mrs. Meek left, on conclusion of business affecting the high school district.

Castleberry told the elementary board that Grant school is in dire need of maintenance, asking the position of the trustees on how much longer they plan to use the old elementary school building so the business office can determine how much money should go into its maintenance.

For use next year, he said, the school should have sheet rock

installed in the halls, lavatories and teachers' room, and repair and replacement of windows, at a total estimated cost of \$900.

If the board intends to use the building five more years, he added, it should be repainted inside and outside, bringing up the total maintenance cost to \$2600. He reported the heating system is old and hard to control, estimating that replacement of that with individual room wall heaters would cost \$2800. As to needs for structural repairs, Castleberry said the school maintenance crews could not undertake work like that. He called attention, finally, to unsightly fences around the building which are ineffective in keeping children away.

"It appears we will be using Grant school for the next two years, if not the next five years," Trustee Margaret Reed said, in making a motion to authorize maintenance work up to \$2600. Church after making sure removal of the fences were included in Mrs. Reed's motion, seconded it.

Board President Tom Polk Williams Jr. took issue with the suggestion to remove fences, which were put up to warn children away from the walls after the board received an engineering report indicating brick facing is not securely anchored to them.

Williams, Church and Trustee Hamilton Gronen, all of whom were on hand when crews removed some brick from the building's entrances to cut earthquake hazards, argued about the soundness of the anchorage of remaining bricks until Church asked if the cracks visible in the bricks can be filled in with paint.

"You are not going to tie them on with paint now, are you Mr. Church?" Williams asked.

"No, Tom, spit," was Church's reply before the maintenance work was okayed over a "no" vote from Williams.

"I do not object to maintenance," the board president remarked in casting his vote.

Board members present at last night's session agreed to a suggestion from Church for a board meeting at 1 p.m. tomorrow at the high school, to go through the closed buildings with Hillman-Gould plans for their rehabilitation as a group and formulate the board's decisions on the rehab program.