Formal proposal for memorial requested

Trio wants war memorial at San Dieguito Academy

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ENCINITAS — San Dieguito Union High School District trustees said Tuesday that they want to see a written proposal for a war memorial on the San Dieguito Academy campus.

"I'll get right on it," said David Gonzales, leader of the San Dieguito War Memorial Project. "I'll have it to them by the end of the week."

Gonzales and two other veterans have asked to install a memorial on the campus to recognize San Dieguito High School alumni who were killed while fighting wars.

The school on Santa Fe Drive now is called San Die-

guito Academy.

This month, Gonzales took his informal request to Assistant Superintendent Eric Hall, who said the school was not an appropriate place for a war memorial.

Hall told him that his opinion could be appealed to the school board, Gonzales said.

Hall repeated that statement Tuesday, saying that whether to allow the memorial was a decision for the district's board of trustees.

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► WEISMAN

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Between \$2 million and \$3 million went into Escondido road widening

Here's the dish.

North Broadway, as are Americans' waistlines this week after Thanksgiving, is getting wider due to about 250 new homes and a new golf course.

This summer between \$2 million and \$3 million in developer fees and money from the city of Escondido have been sunk into widening North Broadway from

wo to four lanes between

MEMORIAL

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Leader of project hopes to submit proposal in time for Dec. 13 meeting

Gonzales said he hopes to submit a written proposal for a memorial so the board will consider the request at its Dec. 13 meeting.

Any decision by the board would be two-pronged, Superintendent Peggy Lynch said. The district should decide whether to install the memorial at the school only after also setting a general policy governing commemorative monuments, she said.

"Whatever the board decides won't be simply about this piece," Lynch said. "It would have to be consistent. We should have a clear process."

The district has no policy on its books governing war memorials.

"We really need one," said trustee Dee Rich. "This should be part of a policy for what we do in the future."

Gonzales' proposal deserves the board's attention, she said.

"I do feel very strongly that we need to honor the servicemen and women who served in the military and died for their country," Rich said.

Trustee Joyce Dalessandro said she wants the district's staff to research whether precedence for such memorials exists among other school districts in the state.

"Because none of this has come to the board, we haven't been able to ask those questions," she said.

"Of course, this whole question of building a memorial for the Vietnam veterans begs the question of what about the graduates who lost their lives in the second world war and Korea."

Gonzales, whose initial idea was to erect a memorial to recognize five alumni who were killed in Vietnam, said Tuesday that he would expand the memorial to include alumni killed in World War II and the Korean War.

"We're hoping to get feedback from the public to get more names," he said. Earlier this month, Hall said the memorial was not appropriate at San Dieguito Academy because students would not have a connection with the veterans and the public's access to a campus memorial would be somewhat limited.

Gonzales said Tuesday that he was not discouraged that access to the campus is restricted during the school day but that he would be willing to put the monument somewhere other than in the campus' central courtyard, as originally proposed.

He envisions a five- to sixfoot-high black marble monument in the shape of the Washington Monument bearing the names of fallen alumni.

Some students at the school said Tuesday that they

liked the idea.

A memorial on the San Dieguito Academy would be "an honor," said 17-year-old student Veronica Cesena.

"We're at the age right now where people are learning about the (Vietnam) war," she said. "The war had such an impact. It would be an honor to know we're recognizing these individuals."

Students would benefit by reflecting upon former students who were killed in action, said Nathan Jacobson, 17.

"If they're going to put (the memorial) anywhere," Nathan said, "they should put it here."

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