

Veterans submit war memorial proposal

■ No decision on whether matter will appear on board's Dec. 13 agenda

ADAM KAYE
STAFF WRITER

ENCINITAS — Responding to instructions from the San Dieguito Union High School District's staff, a veteran's group on Monday submitted a written proposal for a war memorial on the San Dieguito Academy campus.

Four members of the San Dieguito Vietnam Memorial Project signed the proposal for a memorial to recognize San Dieguito High School alumni who were killed while fighting wars. The high school now is called San Dieguito Academy.

The district's staff and

school board president Barbara Groth will discuss the proposal this week and decide whether to place it on the board's Dec. 13 agenda, Superintendent Peggy Lynch said Monday.

Also this week, the district's staff will consider how to craft a general policy governing commemorative monuments and other installations that community members propose for school campuses, Lynch said.

"They would be parallel discussions," Lynch said. "We don't have a policy right now that talks about outside organizations wanting to come and do something like this."

Groth agreed that a policy is needed.

"We've got to discuss it," she said. "I'm looking forward to doing it as a board."

The veteran's group members could not be reached Monday. Veteran Michael Burns, however, sent an e-

mail to the North County Times, saying that in addition to presenting their proposal to the school district's staff, he and another group member had a "productive" meeting Monday with Assistant Superintendent Eric Hall.

"We suggested taking suggestions from the current students to allow them to be part of the decision-making process. This will allow them to have a positive connection with the project," Burns wrote.

As presented to the school district, the memorial obelisk would identify five alumni who were killed in Vietnam on one of its four sides.

"Due to public interest, we wish to expand the memorial to include all veterans, past and future," the proposal says. "Each of the four sides of the obelisk will be utilized with portions dedicated to specific conflicts or combat settings."

Members of the memorial project have identified at least five San Dieguito alumni as having been killed in Vietnam.

"Such a memorial is a fitting and proper means to remember and honor these former students," the proposal states.

A final design for the monument would be submitted to the board for its review and approval. It would be purchased and installed at no cost to the district.

As described in the proposal, the monument would be made of black granite and stand about five feet tall atop a concrete base. This message would appear above the names of the fallen: "They Gave Their Tomorrows for All Our Today's."

Contact staff writer Adam Kaye at (760) 943-2312 or akaye@nctimes.com.