

High school board to consider memorial policy

■ Policy would govern monument proposed for San Dieguito Academy

ADAM KAYE
STAFF WRITER

ENCINITAS — The San Dieguito Union High School District board on Thursday is due to consider a policy that would apply to a proposal to construct a war memorial on the San Dieguito Academy campus.

Last month, a group of local veterans urged trustees to allow them to build a memorial on the Academy campus to honor alumni who have

died in war.

The plans by the group — the San Dieguito War Memorial Project — received an enthusiastic nod from the board on Dec. 13.

But trustees agreed the district needed a general policy for this and future memorial proposals submitted by outside organizations.

The draft policy, which would govern memorials at all schools in the district, states:

“The Board may consider memorials proposed by outside organizations and/or employees or staff of the district if they acknowledge graduates of the school who lost their lives in military service of our country during a time

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Memorial proposed by veterans would list names of alumni killed in wars

of national conflict or war.”

The draft policy says that a committee would review the memorial's design, materials and placement. The committee would be composed of a student, staff member and administrator from the school site, as well as a business services administrator from the school district office.

The consensus of the committee would be presented as a recommendation to the superintendent for final review and approval.

Unless the board requests major changes when it meets Thursday, a final draft could be voted on at the board's Feb. 7 meeting, Superintendent Peggy Lynch said Monday.

In researching policies set by other school districts and the California School Boards Association, Lynch said she found language that applied to the naming of facilities but none that specifically addressed war memorials.

The policy due for the San Dieguito board's consideration cleans up the process, Lynch said, “so there's some steps people have to take.”

“Our next step is to bring together some people from the veterans group with some people from the school site,” she said.

The veterans group's president could not be reached for

‘They Gave Their Tomorrows for All Our Today’s.’

— MESSAGE THAT WOULD APPEAR ON PROPOSED MEMORIAL TO VETERAN ALUMNI

comment on Monday.

Michael Burns, secretary of the memorial project, declined to comment on the draft policy, saying he would like to study it further.

The memorial proposed by the veterans' group would be an obelisk with the names of alumni killed in Vietnam on one of its four sides. Other sides would be used to recognize graduates killed in other wars.

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

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.”

The school board meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. at the district office, 710 Encinitas Boulevard, Encinitas.

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