

Keema Urges Yes Vote On Junior College District

Elwood J. Keema, superintendent of the Grant Union High School District, today urged the resident of his school district to vote for the formation of a junior college district in Friday's election.

The election will be held in each elementary district in the Grant and San Juan Union High School districts. If a majority of the voters approve the proposal a junior college will be established to replace the Grant Technical College.

Established Need

In a letter to voters in his district Keema pointed out the need for the junior college was established by a state department of education survey which showed there were 26,886 kindergartens through 12th grade students north of the American River on October 31, 1953, as against 23,931 students in the same grades in the Sacramento City Unified School District.

He said the consolidation of the Grant and San Juan districts should double the property valuation and cut the tax rate from its current 35 cents to 20 cents.

Even after the construction of the junior college plant, he added, the operation tax plus the bond tax should be approximately the same as that used to operate the Grant Technical College.

Backed By School Boards

"The school boards of the San Juan and Grant Union High School districts," Keema explained, "have realized the necessity of meeting this growth on the junior college level and therefore have proposed the formation of the junior college district."

"The proposed junior college district will be able to provide adequate needs not only of junior college students but of the numerous adults seeking high school diplomas, lower division college work and trade and vocational courses."

Initial Action Is Filed To Acquire Land For New JC

The first condemnation suit to acquire land for the new American River Junior College District has been filed in the superior court by District Attorney J. Francis O'Shea.

The suit seeks 153 acres of property in an area east of Walnut Avenue and bounded on the north by Myrtle Avenue and on the south by Arcade Creek. The site is a little more than two miles north of the Carmichael central district.

Reveals Site Picked

Filing of the condemnation action was the first indication the board of trustees for the college had settled on a future campus location. The new school eventually will replace Grant Technical College and will serve the San Juan and Grant Union High School Districts.

Principal landowners named in the suit include Kate G. Jacobs, Ray and Adeline J. Parks, Henrietta Johnson, Robert L. and Ruth Cameron, Andrew C. and Ella K. E. Mikkelsen, Clarence W. and Helen Kilcher, Gordon and Sylvia Soderman, Allen W. and Helene Cressman and Ruby M. and Aaron Comen.

Trustees are Edwin D. Witter, board president; Evan W. Davies, Mrs. Kenneth Hammaker, Stanley W. Pretzer and G. Earl McNeely.

\$3,000,000 Bond Issue

Voters of the two high school districts last November 30th approved a \$3,000,000 bond issue to build the college. It is anticipated the college will serve 3,000 students when completed.

A committee which considered possible campus sites was composed of Elwood J. Keema, superintendent of the Grant Union High School District; T. R. Smedberg, county superintendent of schools; Mrs. Hammaker, Pretzer, William T. Mooney, superintendent of the San Juan High School District, and Dr. James R. Cowan, superintendent of the Arcade School District.

Junior College Post Attracts North Area Men

Two north area educators, Elwood J. Keema and Dr. James R. Cowan, are being considered for the job of superintendent of the American River Junior College District.

Stanley W. Pretzer, secretary of the board of trustees, made this announcement today and added the trustees will interview Keema and Cowan and three other applicants for the position January 25th.

Set Announcement Date

The trustees will announce their final selection, Pretzer added, during a special meeting February 1st. Keema is superintendent of the Grant Union High School District and Cowan is superintendent of the Arcade Elementary School District.

The other applicants being considered by the trustees are Harry D. Wiser, president of the Vallejo, Solano County, Junior College; Leo Wolfson, superintendent of the Reedley High School and Junior College District, and William J. Priest, assistant superintendent for administration, Orange Coast Junior College District, Costa Mesa.

Screened 13 Applicants

Pretzer explained the trustees during a meeting last night examined the applications of 13 candidates for the position and eliminated all but five for final consideration.

The board also directed Pretzer to ask the district attorney to prepare a resolution which, when adopted by the trustees, will authorize the sale and printing of \$3,000,000 in bonds which were approved by the voters during an election November 30th.

The trustees asked the secretary to hire two land appraisers to consider the value of the 153 acre college site against which the trustees have started condemnation proceedings.

The board will use the value recommended by the appraisers as a fair price to offer the owners of the property which is east of Walnut Avenue and bounded on the north by Myrtle Avenue and on the south by Arcade Creek.

North Area Votes For Junior College By Wide Margin

North area voters have approved the proposal to establish a junior college district by an overwhelming vote of 1,882 yes and 160 no.

An unofficial count after the polls closed last night disclosed voters in the Grant Union High School District favored the proposal 825 to 46, a margin of 18 to 1, and those in the San Juan High School District approved the measure 1,057 to 114, a nine to one victory.

Elwood J. Keema, superintendent of the Grant district, announced the following totals from various precincts:

Orangevale, 85 yes, 0 no; Fair Oaks, 158 yes, 19 no; Sylvan, 105 yes, 6 no; Arcade, 140 yes, 10 no; Howe Avenue, 142 yes, 3 no; Del Paso Manor, 122 yes, 10 no; Carmichael, 83 yes, 5 no; Marvin Marshall, 72 yes, 9 no; Arden, 79 yes, 33 no; Winterstein, 54 yes, 13 no; Orville Wright, 17 yes, 6 no; Lincoln, 27 yes, 2 no; Robla, 48 yes, 2 no; Del Paso Heights, 43 yes, 0 no; Rio Linda, 81 yes, 9 no; Fruitvale, 121 yes, 5 no; American Basin, 4 yes, 2 no; Jefferson, 10 yes, 5 no; North Sacramento, 98 yes, 7 no; Las Palmas, 61 yes, 2 no; Ben All, 32 yes, 2 no; Dos Rios, 10 yes, 0 no; Gardendale, 22 yes, 0 no; Hagginswood, 146 yes, 4 no; McClellan, 122 yes, 6 no.

Keema explained the next step in the formation of the new junior college district will be the appointment of an interim board of trustees by T. R. Smedberg, the county superintendent of schools.

The interim board, he added, will hire an architect to make plans for the school, locate a school site, set up a curriculum and employ teachers and other school personnel.

The temporary trustees will serve until next May when the voters will elect a board which will establish the district as a separate political entity July 1, 1955.

The Grant superintendent added there is a possibility the new district may use the facilities of the Grant Technical College until a new school more centrally located can be built. The Grant College will cease to operate as part of the Grant

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