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MACO 251
School Board Meeting

Gastonville Platte School Board last night approved a \$9.3 million new elementary school, 4.5 percent raise for teachers, six percent raise for administrators and 3.7 percent raise in salary for the school superintendent.

The total budget equals \$618.7 million, a five percent increase from last year. The new elementary school will be built on West Madison Avenue and will be in full function in two years.

In addition to the budget, the board also discussed eliminating remedial summer classes to save an estimated \$2.1 million. School board member Umberto Vacante believes that the cost of running the program exceeds the 900 students who've flunked their regular classes and need to take remedial during the summers. Vacant said that if the school board was going to spend that kind of money on summer classes, it should be used for offering special programs to their most talented students.

Superintendent Greg Hubbard said that some of the summer students have learning disabilities and emotional problems and might never graduate without the program. The board voted to keep the summer classes one more year, and to ask their staff for a study on the matter.

The school board also took time to honor seven retiring teachers: Shirley Dawson, Carmen Foucault, Nina Paynich, Kenneth Satava, Nancy Lee Scott, Lonnie McEwen, and Harley Sawyer. Paunch worked as a teacher for 44 years, longer than any of the others. Each teacher was given a framed "Certificate of Appreciation."

In other business the board listened to a debate on the issue of creationism vs. evolution and whether or not to continue the use of the present textbooks that supported evolution. One

parent, Claire Sawyer, said, "I don't want my children using them. They never mention the theory of creationism." Two other parents, Harley Euon and Roy E. Cross, agreed that creationism is just a religious idea, not a scientific theory, and shouldn't be taught in schools. Cross believes that evolution is a proven fact and said, "People can teach creationism in their homes and churches. It's not the schools job." After listening to the debate, the board voted to continue using the present textbooks and encouraged the parents to discuss the matter with their children and to provide religious training in their individual homes if they deemed necessary.

Lastly, the board adopted a resolution praising the school systems ADDITIONS: adult volunteers who contribute their spare time to help and assist their neighborhood schools. Superintendent Hubbard reported that last year there was a total of 897 ADDITIONS, and they put in a total of 38,288 hours of volunteer time.