

GLENDALE INDEPENDENT 10/11/64

# Schools Want Country Club Land

Directors of Chevy Chase Estates Association will hold a special meeting tomorrow night to discuss the proposed purchase of Chevy Chase Country Club by the Glendale Unified School District.

The board of education Tuesday night unanimously approved a recommendation by Dr. James H. Williams to offer \$900,000 for the

country club property as a future school site.

The canyon homeowners group has continuously fought to have the facility remain a country club, opposing rumored efforts at subdivision, construction of a shopping center and building of condominium apartments on the site.

Association president Dr.

Kelso Barnett, 2380 St. Andrews Dr., called the board of directors meeting immediately after learning of the school proposal.

Dr. Barnett said members of his group are "shocked that school officials have gone so far in their planning without consulting the people of the area."

Richard Krotz and Ray

Freschi, principal owners along with investors in the club, expressed amazement or surprise at the school offer.

According to Krotz, they are "examining all facets of the proposal and hope to reach an early decision."

He says the club owners were aware there has long been talk of the need for schools in the Chevy Chase Canyon area and observes, "if the school district wants the club's 37 acres, it can take it by eminent domain."

The clubhouse was severely damaged by fire earlier this year and is due to be reconstructed.

Krotz and Freschi were notified of the offer by Dr. M.A. Hesse, school district business manager.

Dr. Hesse at Tuesday's meeting told board of education members surveys made in the canyon show the cost of developing other available land as school sites would be too expensive.

If the sale were to materialize, elementary, junior high and high school buildings would be constructed on the site with enough room left for a public library, park and fire station, Dr. Hesse explained. The golf course could remain open during early phases of construction, he added.

School officials said the

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offer was being made now before major progress is made with rebuilding of the fire-gutted clubhouse building.

Board members learned a population report indicated that by 1980 there will be from 2675 to 3408 dwellings in the canyon housing a population of from 8000 to 10,000 persons.

Dr. Williams said additional roads into the area will result in fantastic growth and all land suitable for building schools will vanish.

Dr. Hesse estimated it would cost about \$300,000 to just develop a mountain site for construction of an elementary school besides the cost of the building itself.

The business manager then added, "Many persons in the Chevy Chase area dislike this offering at first glance, but after they think about it for a while they will see the amount of good it can do."

He concluded, "There are plenty of parents in the area who know of the need for schools in the canyon."

The board authorized Dr. Hesse to request County Supervisors to sell \$2 million

worth of School district bonds. Dr. Williams said \$1 million is needed for projects under way while the other half will go for purchase of school sites.

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