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J. C. Board Okays Radio Station Plan

The Mountain View-Sunnyvale area may be serviced by a new FM radio station which will air cultural programs and classical music starting in February.

Plans to put such a station on the air were approved by district Board of Education last night.

Trustees approved the expenditure of \$4,440 for the purchase of studio and transmission equipment for a 10-watt FM station, pending approval of the Federal Communications Commission.

If approved, the station will be established at Old Highway School in Mountain View, and will have enough power to beam programs over the entire district from Palo Alto to San Jose.

The request to establish the station was presented to the board last night by Foothill engineering students Bob Ballou and Bob Johnson.

Ballou told the board that most of the equipment can be transferred to the new campus in Los Altos Hills when the temporary Mountain View campus is abandoned.

He said the college has already received clearance from Navy authorities at Moffett Field to erect a 100-foot antenna atop the temporary campus on El Camino Real.

"If we are able to process our application now, we see no difficulty in obtaining a license for an educational station," Ballou told the trustees.

The two engineering students presented a complete breakdown of costs to the board, including \$2,614 to equip the studio and \$1,649 for the 10-watt FM transmitter and related equipment.

They pointed out that if the college decided to up the sta-

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tion's power at a later date, the proposed equipment could be used in the more powerful setup.

Dean of students Arla Dehart indicated that preliminary plans would call for broadcasting classical music and other similar programs to the community. At first, about 25 students will be involved in the radio station project, he said.

Later, the college would hope to broadcast plays and drama productions, along with student newscasts and live music played by students in the music department.

Ervin L. Harlacher, Foothill journalism chief and director of public information, said the FM station would be invaluable in training students for radio writing and other phases of mass communications.

"This will give the students a sense of realism in their production, and provide the needed audience for such presentation," Harlacher told the board.

Johnson and Ballou said that much of the equipment to be used in the FM station will be constructed by electronics students at the college.