

Paso staff asks safety after killing

By Pete Dunan
Staff Writer

State employe and teacher organizations are demanding added safety of the El Paso de Robles Boys School while an investigation continues today into the murder-rape of a 51-year-old teacher.

School Supt. Ron Lopez said his decision to halt classes until the killer of Marie Romero is found is independent of demands by the California State Employe's Association and the California Teacher's Association.

He said he will deal with the teacher problem, "if there is one," after a definite suspect is in custody.

He confirmed today that several possible suspects have been isolated from more than 300 inmates.

CSEA representatives met with teachers at the Paso Robles facility today to discuss what demands would be presented to Lopez in writing.

Lopez expressed a deep concern for the safety of all school employes, but added "right now the murder is my first priority."

The Telegram-Tribune has learned the demands center on providing additional security measures to protect female teachers.

The school now employs two full-time teachers, a librarian and two teaching assistants — all women.

The verbal demands were for a male staff member to be present during classes or near all female employes exposed to inmates and a better communication system in the classrooms. It would include electric warning devices, improved intercoms and alarm telephones. Battery-operated portable warning devices carried by female employes and automatic, self-locking doors on all classrooms were also demanded.

Lopez said he believes his facility and the murder this week are being used by the employe group representatives as an example for all California Youth Authority facilities, and the demands will pertain to each of them.

Meanwhile, an autopsy conducted in Los Angeles Thursday has shown Mrs. Romero, the San Luis Obispo mother of four, was beaten to death and died of massive head injuries.

Indications are she was sexually attacked after she died.