

**June 9, 2021 Neighbor Meeting Notes**  
**6:30-7:30pm**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Nora De Cuir, the evening's moderator from Kearns & West, described the meeting format and explained ground rules for the evening.

**School Year 2020-21 Review, Nanci Kauffman**

- We began the school year virtually, but returned to hybrid learning in October. We wore masks, did weekly testing, social distanced. Eventually engaged in athletics. Returned all students to campus for the month of May
- We plan to have all students back on campus in August.
- We had no on campus contagion all year. Some students and employees did test positive off campus during school breaks. We want to assure neighbors of good health in our school community.
- Graduation and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion were held on campus with limited guest attendance.
- There's only a small number of employees and students who are unvaccinated.

**Summer Program, Nanci Kauffman**

- Last summer, camp was virtual. This year, we will host summer camp on campus from 6/14-8/6.

**Planning for 2021-22, Kathy Layendecker**

- We expect to be back on campus in the fall. We will continue to closely adhere to county and state health guidelines. We expect revised guidelines over the summer.
- We will maintain our robust TDM program in the fall. We will continue to communicate expectations to employees and families.
- Our employee vaccination rate is greater than 95% and student rate is over 90%.
- It's been a challenging year with many adjustments. May, with all students back on campus, was a month for reinforcing the important habits of parking offsite, carpooling, shuttles, etc.

**Q&A and Operational Feedback**

Q: (Mary Sylvester): The school shouldn't unilaterally set the agenda for the meeting. Is the underground garage designated for staff only? Given the recommended reduction in parking spaces, is the garage a benefit to the school? Also, please tell us about the school shuttle program; it's problematic how it's implemented. Mary asserts that she's not supportive of the garage.

A: (Nora): There is a concurrent public process with the City of Palo Alto. That is a better forum for discussion of the "expansion".

A: (Nanci): We've been in conversation with neighbors for years. We've submitted many iterations over the years, all based on neighbor input. Because some of those comments were

not part of public process, they are not part of public record. We've been advised, even by some Council members, that now that the project is in public forum, neighbor feedback should be heard during ARB, HRB, PTC, and City Council hearings so that comments are part of public record and in the presence of all Council members. We want this process transparent to everyone.

A: (Kathy): We have a multiprong strategy. We have bus routes to more distant locations as well as local shuttle routes. We also have shuttle to Univ. Ave Caltrain.

Q: (Neva Yarkin): What is new in the last month with the expansion project?

A: (Kathy): We received helpful guidance/direction from Council in March. We submitted some additional materials in response. We await word from the City as to the resumption of the City process.

Q: (Gee Gee Williams): I live on Churchill and am concerned about traffic. And, I support the school. Are you for or against closing Churchill?

A: (Nanci): I live on Churchill. Often in these cases, it's hard to have all of the facts, and I don't think I have all of them. The facts are complicated, and I don't think it's appropriate to opine without all the facts.

Q: (Andie Reed): The CUP says the neighbor meetings are for dialogue around neighborhood issues. Yes, the school has made countless iterations for many reasons; it's certainly not because of these neighbor meetings. In March, City Council discussed the school's square footage and FAR; where does the square footage count stand? How does that relate to the recent submission?

A: (Kathy): The City is conducting this square footage count, and they've hired Dudek. They came on campus last weekend. I don't know how quickly they'll convert their measurements into GFA and report to the City. The recent revisions are in response to the Council recommendation to reduce by 4,370 sq. feet. There's the possibility for iteration following Dudek's findings; we don't yet know.

A: (Nanci): Most of the meetings we had with neighbors were above and beyond these biannual neighbor meetings. We had many focused just on the project. We look forward to the result of the measurements.

Q: (Caryn Huberman): I'd like to know more about the shuttle. According to the school, 20% of students are transported by shuttle/bus and 75% come from outside of Palo Alto. Can you address this? What is the enrollment for next year?

A: (Kathy): These numbers don't include carpooling or train stats. Under 50% of our students come to campus in a single occupancy vehicle. That figure is the "holy grail" per traffic experts, and we will continue to work to exceed that goal. Next year's enrollment is 422. We are following the enrollment rollbacks directed by the City.

Q: (Barbara Hazlett): The school is a wonderful and respectful neighbor and a great communicator. The school has regularly alerted neighbors to changes, including when the

school brought all students back to campus. The school focused on student and neighbor wellbeing. Gee Gee – I am against closing Churchill.

A: No response

Q: (Carla Befera): Why is this meeting virtual? I'm not seeing the communications to parents on transportation. At graduation, there were people whose car alarms went off, as late as 1am. All cars should have a sticker/permit to identify the student. And how will TDM be managed during construction? Why not create a temporary campus?

A: (Nanci): Our commencement ended at 6pm, so I don't understand the alarm issue. We do have a sticker program. We'll have to work with the City on TDM during construction. We will add our transportation information to our neighbor portal.

Q: (Paula Powar): Parents are still dropping their kids on the opposite side of the street. Parents need to be aware that's not safe. Parents also block the sidewalk at times.

A: (Kathy): Thank you. We will redouble our efforts and make sure our monitors are paying attention.

Q: (Bob Kocher): I'm surprised about comments about traffic and whizzing. I think we need to support the school. Our streets are in fact rather empty and concerns are overstated.

A: No response

Q: (Hank Sousa): There are ~ 200 drop-offs in the morning. Will the new shuttle program eliminate those?

A: (Kathy): That's the process we're going through – determining the expectations for TDM going forward.

Q: (Glowe Chang): I agree with Barbara; I'm thrilled to see the school reopen and see the flow of cars so very smooth. I don't see whizzing cars on Bryant. We all continue to support the school. The school has been wonderfully communicative; I don't see infractions of parking. Instead I have start-up employees parking in front of my house from early in the morning until late. This is the unintended consequence of the school's parking policies.

A: No response

Conclusion: We were not able to call on everyone. Please email Kathy and Nanci with any additional comments that you may have. We welcome your feedback and will answer questions as best we can.