

August 15 2013
Neighbor Meeting Minutes

Dining Room

5 – 6:45 p.m.

Meeting called to order by Joe Martignetti at 5:00 p.m.

Joe asked everyone to go around the room and introduce themselves:

Joe Martignetti
Barb Rosston
Lee & Kitty Price
Brian Canepa
Ken Plourde
Michael Manneh
Polina Levitan
Steve Levitan
Bill Powar
Stan Shore
Paula Powar
Amy Renalds
Scott Silers
Diane Rolfe
Joe Rolfe
John MacDaniels

Doug Owens
Sara Cody
Robert Yamashita
Carla Befera
Bruce McLeaod
Vic Befera
Mercury News
Yvonne and John Myers
Gail Stuckey
Adam Cain
Alan Cooper
Toby Williams
David Quigley
Rob Steinberg
Hank Sousa
Glowe Chang

Chi Wong
Scott Vermeer
Loren Brown
Neva Yarkin
Don Douglas
Nina Moore
Vince Dailey
Rob Levitsky
John Haickmann
Kimberly Wong
Sara Whitehead
Priscilla Bates
Dana Sundblad
Nanci Kauffman
Sue Reyneri
Jason Green– Daily News

Dana Sundblad from Castilleja reminded all present of the Castilleja School policy of no recording devices allowed during this meeting, and asked all present to respect that policy in order to protect the privacy of those attending. Joe asked everyone to fill out the sign in sheet that was circulating.

Joe introduced himself and thanked everyone for coming. He encouraged all to feel free to voice their opinions and asked all to be respectful. He assured all present that the school was here to listen, so that we can respond to the neighbors. On behalf of the Trustees and the administration, Joe apologized for the School's over enrollment and non compliance with the current CUP - in hindsight the School could have done better. The original plan was to file for a CUP for an increase in enrollment to 515 for programmatic reasons. We listened carefully since the last meeting, and we heard a message to slow down. We are no longer planning to file a CUP for 515, but rather 448 in order to come into compliance. The school wants to respond to current conditions with current enrollment of 448. We think we can justify it and hope you can count on us.

Parking and traffic still are a concern, and the school recognizes that it was ignorant to think they could go ahead without stopping and listening and addressing the current condition. The School has engaged Traffic Consultants and TDM consultants, and we told you at the last meeting that we would bring them tonight. The school began to address the issue on over-enrollment in 2012, and the mistake was in not coming to you sooner. The school was focused on solutions, and wanted to have answers before coming to the neighbors. The school is very serious about solving the problem and engaging in dialogue.

Joe presented information on what has occurred since the last meeting:

- City of PA wrote us a letter requesting us to report on our conformance with the conditions of our 2000 CUP and gave us 10 days to respond. The report was filed by close of business today, and will be made available to the neighbors. The school will email those present at the meeting when they can pick it up. We would have preferred to have more time between filing the report and tonight's meeting, however it took a long time to go back in our records, and the deadline for filing happened to coincide with this previously scheduled meeting. The report is comprehensive, and it was the school's opportunity to get all the information on the table.

- Have begun to put transportation plans for the start of the school year to reduce traffic and parking impact from last year's levels. Two shuttle pilots will occur at the beginning of the school year – Woodside and Los Altos. There will be more if these are well-received.

Joe presented enrollment information dating back to 2000, indicating that the school historically has used an “average daily attendance model” to assess compliance with the CUP. Using this metric, the school began exceeding 415 in the 2010-11 school year. This is a model that independent schools use, which focuses on the number of students that impact parking and traffic on a daily basis. With 20/20 hindsight we are not saying this is right or wrong. Factors impacting this creep in enrollment over time include change in trends in acceptance rates, “bubble” years and attrition. 2013-14 will have fewer students than 2012-13. Bottom line is the school is projected to be over by 33 students and they need to fix this. Joe affirmed that the school is at fault for the position they are in.

Neighbors voiced concerns as follows:

- Lack of institutional memory and promises of past administration and former trustees
- Disappointment and frustration with school's non-conformance with the CUP
- Disappointment and frustration with the length of time the enrollment has exceeded the CUP limit
- Inadequacy of signage and lack of compliance by students and parents
- Student and parent behavior
- Enrollment – want to see plan on how the school will get to 415
- Having outgrown the current site
- Compliance with car registration
- Lack of enforcement of parking violations
- Congestion on street and blocked driveways
- Dangerous intersections (Kellogg/Emerson and Melville/Emerson)
- Skeptical of shuttles and size of shuttles
- Trust has been broken with neighbors
- Number of student drivers
- Lack of annual reports and meetings on the TDM

- The school's need to be bigger
- Accountability to City of Palo Alto

Solutions proposed by the neighbors included the following:

- Suggested using a wait list for admissions
- Split the campus (Middle School vs. Upper School)
- Underground Parking
- Transparency in Master Planning
- Pay to opt-out of on-site parking
- Put rules of the road on the website along with consequences
- Visibility into long-term plan
- Need stop signs/calming measures
- Prioritize admission based on not driving
- Girls should report where they park
- Guaranteed ride home program
- Provide incentives for students to not drive

One neighbor on Bryant expressed that their experience was that things are getting better in the neighborhood. They appreciated the traffic guard and mentioned that summer camp is no longer a problem. They also mentioned that all the Palo Alto schools are packed.

The School has had conversations with the City that indicate that their view on signage in the neighborhood has changed and that they are more open for discussion on enforceable and permanent signage. The school is interested in addressing this, as well as exploring calming measures.

With regard to getting enrollment down to 415, the school is currently pursuing a CUP amendment for 448 – the current enrollment. It would pose undue hardship to get to 415 by the start of the school year. The school admitted they did hold themselves accountable, but did come to the neighbors to make them aware of the over enrollment. Programmatically, 448 has allowed for better collaboration and an enhanced learning environment. In an all-girls

environment, the program benefits from the mentoring provided in a 6-12 configuration. A split campus might adversely affect the importance of these relationships.

The school is optimistic on shuttle effectiveness, based on the results at similar schools. They have been focused on areas where public transportation is not an option. Shuttle surveys indicate strong interest. With regard to Master Planning, the school mentioned that the last plan was done in 1999. Master Planning is in the normal cycle of a business which Castilleja routinely performs.

The school affirmed their desire to respond to neighbor complaints and referenced a recent mailing with contact information if problems arise. The school agreed to post the Transportation information sent out to parents, the consequences for parking violations and the minutes of tonight's meeting.

Next meeting will be on September 11 at 6:00 p.m.