

## **June 10, 2020 Neighbor Meeting Notes**

### **6:30-7:30pm**

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

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

#### **Update on School Operations, Nanci Kauffman and Kathy Layendecker:**

- Castilleja has been doing distance learning since March. We do have some employees on campus, those essential to our infrastructure and for sustaining distance learning (e.g., technology, security, groundskeepers).
- Students came to the Circle on 6/6 to receive their diplomas.
- This summer we will conduct summer camp virtually. Counselors will be on campus, but campers at home.
- In the fall, we'll abide by county and state guidelines to develop a process for returning to school. We will be opening campus gradually. Safety protocols will be in place.
- Our robust TDM program will remain in place so that we stay in compliance with our CUP. We will make tweaks to our plan as needed.
- We don't expect big gatherings on campus; there will be less activity on campus even as we are re-opening.
- CUP Process: We understand that Dudek continues to work on the EIR and are processing all of the comments. Hearings will begin after the EIR is resubmitted to City staff.
- We proposed a project alternative to address issues raised in the EIR and also to respond to neighbor concerns. In the project alternative, the size of the garage is reduced to conserve trees and preserve two homes along Emerson. The project alternative also assumes distributed drop-off to alleviate the traffic impact on Emerson.

#### **Q&A**

Q: (Nelson Ng): How can we have access to the Zoom meeting recording? Castilleja is still steadfast in increasing enrollment even in this time when COVID-19 says density should be lower. How is Castilleja going to address that?

A (KL and NK): As is always the case, the meeting is not being recorded. Regarding the density question, we always adhere to health/safety/fire guidelines in determining enrollment. We have enough classrooms to accommodate all of students in classrooms, socially distanced. Further, COVID-19 won't always be a factor. Other schools are dividing students between days so that all students can come on campus because they do not have adequate capacity to maintain social distancing.

Q (Mary Sylvester): Are you working with public health specialists? Castilleja has among the highest density of private schools in the area. Are the school's health advisors independent from the school? I would hope you're working with neighbor, Dr. Cody. When do you expect to have a plan for the '20-'21 year?

A (KL and NK): We are consulting with an epidemiologist, pediatrician, and immunologist and are also paying attention to the detailed guidelines from the CDC and state board of Education. We are also awaiting information from Santa Clara County. We will take many precautions to ensure student and employee health. One of our consultants was on Governor Gavin Newsom's commission. Our advisors are a mix of Castilleja affiliates and non-Castilleja related. Our return-to-school plan will need to be reviewed by the County. By the end of June, we'll share our first set of options to our community. We will use July to see how the infection rate and guidelines change, and then share a more specific set of plans. If we do a staggered schedule, it would affect the neighbors, in which case we'd need to consult with them.

Q: (Rob Levitsky): How are we going to have stable cohorts with all of the parents and staff?

A (NK): That is the most challenging aspect of this program. Our students will be divided into cohorts (smaller groups) and take classes with that group only. We are currently looking at different models for the Middle School and Upper School and are working on designing the schedule with cohorts in mind. Some classes will be online to address this challenge. Teachers will have a limited number of students with whom they're working. People will not move freely on campus the way they're accustomed. Students will eat with their cohort, not with the full student body, and not in the dining room.

Q: (Neva Yarkin): What provisions will be made for students who don't take the train? It suggests more traffic.

A: (KL): We will adjust as necessary to make sure we don't experience an increase in car trips. We will provide more bus/shuttle service to support families and employees who don't want to take the train.

Q: (Andie Reed): Are you reconsidering the large enrollment increase or number of events that were in the original application?

A: (KL): They are still at the level of the original application. The PTC will consider the EIR as well as the other elements of our application, including the enrollment and event numbers.

Q: (Tom Shannon): How are you going to park the school, including all the students, employees, etc.?

A: (KL): Our proposal says we cannot increase enrollment if we bring more car trips, If we meet the car trips in our application, all cars will be able to park on site. Perimeter parking will not be needed. 440 is the number of allowable car trips at peak (that's not parked cars). We will have 104 parking spots. We will not park in front of neighbors' homes, and we won't have all-day parking on the street around the perimeter of Castilleja. Visitors only may park on our side of the street.

Q: (Alan Cooper): COVID may go on another year. Education is changing. Has Castilleja wrapped new learning methods into your long-term education plans?

A: (NK) COVID-19 has been an accelerator, but we always envisioned self-directed online learning in part. Learning online doesn't necessarily mean off-campus; it can be on campus. Still, there will be circumstances by which some students need to learn at home. Our distance learning succeeded because of the relationships built through in-person learning. We're looking at what opportunities this model presents.

Comment: (Nelson Ng): I'm concerned about cars in the neighborhood. A stagger schedule would continue to bring traffic to the neighborhood. Our quality of life is affected by traffic throughout the day, not just at peak hours,

Q: (Rob Levitsky): Are we going to have immunity certification for students, temperature taking? We are concerned for our welfare.

A: (NK) There will be standards that we need to abide by for temperature taking and testing. We are looking into immunity testing. We should bring experts to meet with the neighbors to talk about health and safety.

Q: (Carla Befera): We want to envision a process by which intersections are less busy. I would like Castilleja to engage with neighbors to consider how this can be done. Where will crowds from big events park?

A: (NK): We've reduced traffic tremendously in the neighborhood, including at intersections. Other schools have traffic at drop-off and pickup, and Castilleja's is less. We work on this all the time, and ultimately the City will decide if we've done enough or if we have to do more.

Comment: (Nelson Ng): Parking is a problem because of traffic. Traffic in the neighborhood is our concern. We want our quality of life addressed. Same number of events and same number of students does not address our concerns. Other schools do not have all the events that Castilleja has.

Comment: (Mary Sylvester): Traffic depends on what side of the school you live on. A more carefully nuanced approach is needed. We need more assurances that we're not going to be further impacted. Castilleja would have had approval long ago if it weren't for the underground garage. There are no schools in the area that have underground garages. Castilleja needs a more innovative and collaborative approach.

Comment: (Hank Sousa): We've enjoyed the quiet in recent months. We encourage you to have more events offsite. We'd appreciate your reducing the number of events.

Q: (Tom Shannon): I've worked on many CUPs. Why can't you use the Circle to queue cars?

A: (KL): We can look at that. Bus and shuttles will drop-off and pick-up on the Circle. It may not be safe to have cars as well.

### **Conclusion**

Neighbors' health is our biggest concern. We will bring someone in to make sure our health and safety measures are keeping you safe, and also speak about what you can do to stay healthy.