

June 8, 2022 Neighbor Meeting Notes
6:00–6:40pm

Welcome and Introductions

Kathy welcomed everyone, noting that our regular meeting facilitator Nora De Cuir is out of the country. She introduced Karis Johnston, Nora's colleague from Kearns & West, who would facilitate the meeting.

Karis Johnston shared the meeting format and objectives along with explaining ground rules for the evening. She indicated that the school team is always open to receiving feedback via email.

Nanci Kauffman

Provided a review of the school year:

- We were successful with our track record of suppressing the spread of COVID on campus. Able to stay open every single day of the year with weekly PCR testing. Classes, athletics, arts performances all back to normal with the exception of masking requirements. Brief period with masks off indoors. Very high vaccination rate in Castilleja community.
- This past week, we celebrated 8th grade Promotion of the Class of 2026 and the Class of 2022 graduation. Graduation is one of our Major Events under our CUP and we appreciate your forbearance. We continue to park on Spieker field to alleviate impact on the neighborhood streets
- The summer program will operate in person. We have a new operations team to ensure everyone follows drop off and pick up procedures. Camp will be from June 13 to August 5.

Kathy Layendecker

- TDM continues to be a high priority, and we continue to communicate expectations for parents, students, and employees.
- Fall traffic monitoring confirmed program success
 - 377 peak AM trips (209 cars) → 26% reduction since 2012
 - 45% single occupancy vehicle (which is below the gold standard of 50%)→ 21% reduction since 2014
 - 40% walk/bike/shuttle → 233% increase since 2014

- We want this number to be even higher
- We expect to get results from the spring count within the next month
 - The reports that are sent to the City are done by an outside firm (Fehrs and Peers) and they subcontract the actual counting to another firm that is managed independent of Castilleja
 - Our own staff conducts the daily count monitoring in the neighborhood. We check for cars parked where they shouldn't be and then notify the student/employee and ask them to move their car if that's the case.

Q&A

Hank Sousa

At the senior parking lot, there is a “right turn only” sign. Every day during school, 10-11 cars all go down Melville to Alma. We'd rather not have the traffic on Melville. I don't know if you don't know that this was happening.

There are also green coffee cans with Castilleja parking signs all around the neighborhood. Typically these are obeyed. If windy, the signs are torn or fall off. I think at the end of year you have someone refurbish them for the fall. Several are missing their sign.

Nanci Kauffman

I appreciate both comments. We can pay attention to ongoing maintenance of those signs. We have a ‘no left turn’ rule around campus, and we reinforce that verbally. So if the sign by the senior lot says right turn only and people disobey the sign, that's a problem. The primary focus for us is no left turn because of how it disrupts traffic flow. We'll take a look and see what's happening in the senior lot.

Tom Shannon

I live across the street on Kellogg. Can you give an estimate of the start of construction?

Kathy Layendecker

We are still trying to sort that out. We are looking at the Council motion and trying to understand everything in it. We are also in conversation with the architect and potential contractor so that we can move towards the permit application. It takes time to convert what we've done already to construction drawings. We are in the process of converting our website that was about the project into a ‘construction website.’ We'll provide

regular updates on that website as information becomes available. We will also send out communications to very near neighbors about those plans.

Nanci

We look forward to the time when we can share that information with you. It will be way in advance since the permitting process takes some time. We don't have construction plans ready yet. Even Kathy and I, and our parent community, don't know yet.

Tom

Can I suggest: as we go forward, it's helpful to have an agenda (topics to talk about and that we could talk about). If that draft could be circulated ahead of time, people could decide if they want to join the meeting.

Kathy

Are there other items you'd like to see on future agendas that would be of interest?

Tom

Are you planning to stay on campus or get a temporary facility?

Kathy

Our objectives are aligned with neighbors: we also would like a speedy construction. If we can find an acceptable off site campus we'd happily move there and shorten the construction time to 2 years. If you hear of any sites we'd love to know about them. We're actively putting out feelers to see what would work.

Tom

Do you think you could temporarily use an office building? At least for Classroom space?

Kathy

It depends; we need good outdoor space for fitness. It depends on how the property is zoned and permitted. Depends on amenities and outdoor spaces.

Nanci

Previously we looked at properties that were schools. The timing didn't allow us to take advantage of either of those. Now if something comes up we can move forward.

Tom

It's hard to find a school that wants to lease to a short term tenant. Which is why I suggested an office building. There is such a thing as a temporary use permit and it has a lot more flexibility. School districts also have facility use permits. I can understand it's a very difficult situation but it's also worrisome to have 416 kids and construction all over the place.

Kathy

We think we can successfully manage either scenario and we agree it's better for everyone for us to find a temporary campus elsewhere.

Hank

I'm curious about whether the SRI site on Middlefield by MA is still available?

Kathy

Someone else mentioned a facility near there that is still available. We haven't seen it yet so we don't know. It could be a good location for us. Thank you for mentioning that and let us know if you hear of anything else.

Tom

For a community meeting, it might be helpful to see the names of everyone in the meeting and their faces, and then the Zoom moderator can mute everyone so people won't talk over each other. It's nice to see everyone who is coming to the meeting.

Nanci

In response to Tom, there was a desire for us not to control the agenda but to have an open dialogue. Maybe there's a 3rd option: we put out a survey for what you'd like to address prior to the meeting and we can put those items on the agenda.

Karis

How does that go over with the group? The School can provide structure and neighbors can also share what's important to them.

Nanci

We can tailor the first part of the presentation based on those items. If there's one thing we took away from the last few City meetings, there was a lot of conversation about

loss of trust. Depending on how we structure these neighbor meetings, it can be an opportunity to regain trust and have interactive dialogue.

Karis

Would people like to “raise hand” and we can pull you into this Zoom room venue? Put you in the main room?

People moved into Zoom room so we could see each other.

Tom

Even the chat is disabled. Would be nice to have that on too.

Conclusion

Karis

This is an ongoing process, especially regarding next steps with the construction phase. Need to determine location for a potential off-campus site. Need to follow up on the right turn sign and ensure that the coffee can signs are in better condition throughout the year.

It sounds like there is a want and need from staff to repair relations and a willingness there. Maybe this can be a forum for that. The first step can be to co-create an agenda and update the format of the meeting.