

February 26, 2019

Honorable Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, Stanford Provost Persis Drell, and Robert C. Reidy,
Stanford V.P. of Land, Buildings and Real Estate,

Stanford and PAUSD have had a long-term partnership that has benefited Stanford, the community and children attending PAUSD schools. This noteworthy collaboration has been a catalyst to successful preschool to post-graduate education, whose benefits extend beyond the immediate area of Palo Alto. This kind of educational success requires collaboration, communication, and responsible choices from all educators and decision makers.

We are concerned that the General Use Permit (GUP) application submitted by Stanford University, and currently under consideration by Santa Clara County will negatively impact Henry M. Gunn High School (Gunn HS). As it stands now, the Stanford GUP will add new housing that might place hundreds of new, unfunded students into the Palo Alto school district, thereby diluting the quality of our schools. Is this the type of (land) development model that Stanford and the County Supervisors want to put forward? As it stands now, Stanford would be placing these students without paying for costs incurred to provide for their education. It is unreasonable for the School District and community to bear the full cost. Stanford itself requires funding for students that attend its university. It understands that quality education requires funding. Similarly, PAUSD needs funding to give students a good education. We currently have 193 Stanford related students at Gunn, almost 10 percent of our students. As more of these unfunded students enter PAUSD, the schools will be unable to provide the same quality of education. Some per student funding is the only reasonable way to maintain the excellent education that PAUSD currently offers.

Historically, Stanford and PAUSD have worked together to accomplish the common goal of maintaining excellent PAUSD schools¹. We urge Stanford to continue this precedent for education, that is, to maintain or improve, not dilute the quality of education at local schools.

As Stanford continues to expand via the 2018 General Use Permit (GUP), Gunn HS respectfully requests Stanford to **fully mitigate** its impacts on PAUSD schools so that Gunn HS and all PAUSD schools can continue to staff based on what our students need to achieve high academic and social standards and to develop personal and community responsibility. **Full mitigation**² includes but is not limited to requests for annual payments for the cost of educating each student living in Stanford tax-exempt housing and efforts to protect children who transport themselves independently to school³.

Thank you for considering our requests.

Sincerely,

Sigrid Pinsky

Gunn High School PTSA President on behalf of the Gunn High School PTSA Executive Board

¹ February 8, 2019 Guest Opinion on Palo Alto Online:

<https://palaltoonline.com/news/print/2019/02/08/guest-opinion-protect-our-schools--speak-up-now>

² Although we are calling out educational funding specifically here, we note that full mitigation goes beyond per student funding. Other items such as the potential need for new schools, related fees/land sales, traffic safety, etc... have been noted by others (see footnote 1).

³ Palo Alto Council of PTA's Safe Routes to School Letter dated January 15, 2019.

https://ptac.paloaltopta.org/wp-content/uploads/GUP_SRTS_2019_Signed_Letter.pdf