

JLS Middle School PTA



February 21, 2019

Dear 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 clearly benefited Stanford, the community and children attending PAUSD schools. This collaboration is notable and has been a catalyst to successful preschool to post-graduate education. The benefits of this collaboration go beyond the immediate area of Palo Alto because education does not flourish in a vacuum, but requires the input and implementation of ideas from many educational institutions. 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 PAUSD schools. As it stands now, the Stanford GUP will add new housing which adds hundreds of new, **unfunded** students to the Palo Alto school district that will dilute the quality of our schools. Is this the type of (land) development model that Stanford and the County Supervisors want to encourage?

PAUSD and the surrounding community are like all school districts in Santa Clara County. We work hard to provide a good public education for all children. It is not reasonable to expect any community to maintain a high standard of education when hundreds of new, unfunded students are placed into its care unmitigated. Is this a precedent that Stanford and County Supervisors want to put forward for education? Currently, Stanford is choosing not to fully mitigate educational funding of new students¹ as part of the Stanford GUP, and hence, it is PAUSD and its surrounding community that are expected to bear the costs of this decision. It is not reasonable for Stanford, an educational institution itself, to place this burden on the District and surrounding community without having to pay its fair share. Further, we note that Stanford and PAUSD have worked together in the past to accomplish the common goal of maintaining excellent PAUSD schools when Stanford previously added hundreds of students living in

¹ Although we are calling out educational funding specifically here, we recognize that full mitigation goes beyond per student funding. Other items such as the potential need for new schools, related fees/land sales, effects on traffic safety, etc... have been noted by others (refer to footnotes 2 and 4).

Stanford tax-exempt properties. In 2000², Stanford contributed one time and annual funds to PAUSD, sold land to PAUSD to create neighborhood schools, and paid property taxes on its non-exempt commercial properties. We urge Stanford to continue this precedent for education - that is, to maintain or improve, not dilute the quality of education at local schools.

Furthermore, at JLS well over half of our middle schoolers either bike, walk or scooter to school. In fact, 69%³ of all middle schoolers biked, walked, scootered or skated to school in 2017-2018. We ask that traffic congestion and transportation effects be carefully evaluated and mitigated to ensure the safety of all children going to and from schools. We strongly encourage Stanford to work with the City of Palo Alto's Safe Routes team, who have a solid understanding of our children's commute routes.

Please ensure Stanford **fully mitigates** its impacts on the PAUSD schools, or our schools face irreparable harm. Full mitigation⁴ 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 school⁵.

Finally, we ask that you hold Stanford GUP meetings when PAUSD is in session so our community has a chance to participate.

Sincerely,

Lili Nova-Roessig

JLS Middle School PTA President on behalf of the JLS PTA Executive Board

² February 8, 2019 Guest Opinion on Palo Alto Online, section "Stanford's 100-Year financial partnership with PAUSD":

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

³ City of Palo Alto, Safe Routes to School data

https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/pln/transit/safe_routes_to_school/data.asp

⁴ February 8, 2019 Guest Opinion on Palo Alto Online, section "Common interest solutions":

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

⁵ 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

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