

Nixon Elementary School



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January 14, 2019

Dear Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and Stanford Provost Drell,

We are writing to express our concern that the General Use Permit (GUP) application submitted by Stanford University, and currently under consideration by Santa Clara County, will negatively impact the Lucille M. Nixon Elementary School community, including a large number of Stanford-affiliates, and to request a partial remedy to address the impact.

Stanford's plans to expand housing on campus will lead to a significant increase in enrollment at Nixon Elementary School. In addition to the impact this will undoubtedly have on school operations, which have been raised by the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) Board of Education, this increase will exacerbate the challenges Nixon families—the majority of whom are affiliated with Stanford—already face in finding appropriate after-school care for their children.

Nixon's enrollment is at or near capacity, and we expect to have full classrooms for the foreseeable future. Given that many Nixon families require after-school care for their children, our current after-school program, Kids Choice After School Care, Inc., is also at capacity and has a long and growing wait list. Kids Choice is licensed to serve 75 children, but accommodates 95 because of the children's different schedules. 44 children are currently on the wait list for the program, with this number likely to increase by 25% over the next few weeks as families begin to register their incoming kindergarteners. This number, however, fails to reflect the need at Nixon because parents, discouraged by the long wait list, frequently identify other, less-convenient child care options without adding their names to the wait list. With the current enrollment, Nixon families already have difficulty finding after-school child care, and the proposed development in Stanford's GUP application will only increase the number of families seeking to identify and secure after-school care for their children.

We respectfully request that, as a condition for approval of its GUP application, Stanford University assist with the expansion of the current on-site after-school child care capacity to accommodate the expected increase in need. Specifically, using as a model Stanford University's previous partnership with PAUSD—through which the university provided funding to purchase, install, and set-up an additional modular classroom for Escondido's after-school program—we request that Stanford provide the same support to expand the after-school child care capacity at Nixon. The most significant barrier to increasing capacity at Kids Choice is limited space. With an additional modular classroom, more children can be served.

Since most of the children currently attending Kids Choice and those on the waiting list have at least one parent working at Stanford, and since all of the children who will enroll at Nixon as a result of the projected development will be affiliated with the university, Stanford faculty and staff will uniquely benefit from convenient, on-site child care. As a notable benefit, with more students staying on site to attend after-school child care rather than get picked up after school and being driven to off-site child care programs, traffic congestion will be eased on and around the Nixon and Stanford campuses.

Thank you for considering our comments and request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our PTA President, Matthew Hayes, at hayesandwilliams@gmail.com and 225-955-4486.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Hayes', is written over a white background.

Matthew Hayes

Nixon PTA President on behalf of the Nixon PTA Executive Board