

Neighborhood Liaison Committee Meeting 9/4/20

In attendance (via Zoom): Crystal Land (HRS), Jason Langkammerer (HRS), Mary Fahey (HRS), Jerry Mullaney (HRS), Jennifer Beeson (HRS), Rodney Thompson (NSC), Karen Caronna (NSC), Victoria Wake (Dimond Improvement Association), Adam McClure (NLC), Matthew Napoli (Councilmember Thao's Policy Director)

- **Welcome and agenda overview from Jason Langkammerer, new HRS committee chair**

There was a round of introductions from the continuing members, in addition to Victoria Wake who was sitting in for JoAnn Tracht Lawson, representing the Diamond Improvement Association. Jason introduced himself as the new chair of the committee, replacing Rosanna Mucetti, who regrettably couldn't be in attendance.

- **Campus Reopening Update from Crystal Land, Head of School**

Crystal noted that School formally began on August 21 in distance learning mode. Employees have been allowed on campus because they are considered essential workers, and some teachers are opting to teach from their classrooms. We have models in place to shift to a hybrid model, once health conditions allow a partial, staggered return to campus. Crystal outlined the requirements that would need to be met to reopen campus, including a shift from the current "purple" (Widespread) tier of the CA Blueprint for a Safer Economy. The county will need to remain in the downgraded "red" tier for 2 weeks in order to begin a slow, phased reopening with health and safety guidelines in place. The HRS campus has undergone a substantial retrofit to safely accommodate essential activities. The School intends to apply for a K-6 waiver that would allow small cohorts of our youngest students to be on campus, even as the school is in the purple tier. The application process is estimated to take a minimum of 3-4 weeks. If our waiver is approved, we will open gradually. The hope is to have younger kids on campus in October. Middle and Upper school students would return slowly over the course of the fall, but approximately half of the student body would be on campus at any given time. If HRS is not approved for the waiver, the School will continue the 100% distance learning model through the fall.

Rodney wondered if the School had officially submitted the waiver application. Crystal explained that the School had submitted a "pre-application," as the actual application hadn't yet opened on the process as of our meeting date.

Rodney asked how HRS will communicate the reopening operational plan to the neighborhood. Mary replied that all information will be posted on the neighbor web portal and the NSC will be notified. Crystal clarified that the School has permission to have small groups of 14 on campus at this time, including for the purposes of fitness

conditioning on the outdoor fields (in the afternoons only). Karen raised a concern about noise near the sports fields. Crystal said that all rules and considerations around campus noise will be followed as usual.

Rodney asked if the South Campus will be used for social distancing upon campus reopening, and if there would be any additional outdoor learning spaces. Crystal said that the South Campus would not be used, and the School has plans to make use of 6 outdoor tents to create learning spaces within the interior of the North Campus only.

Student Enrollment

Karen asked what the School's current enrollment number is. Crystal replied that current enrollment is 897 students, and our county cap is 906.

Updated Camera Security System

Rodney stated that neighbors had noticed additional cameras being installed around the campus perimeter on Lincoln Avenue. Jerry explained that the School had been needing to replace outdated cameras for years and the new system features more modern technology and includes additional cameras in strategic spots for added safety. The cameras are stationary (not motion-sensor) but are higher definition. Rodney asked if the new system has been registered with the police department. Jerry replied that he was not aware that registration was required, but would look into registering them through the City website, as Rodney suggested.

Traffic

Karen asked what the traffic plan is for when the School reopens in blended learning mode, specifically as it relates to the Slow Streets program, and if the city has been contacted. Mary responded that the School has a similar protocol for drop-off, pick-up, and overflow to the normal school year, but pickup/drop-off times will be slightly staggered to provide for better social distancing. Mary contacted Oakland's Dept. of Transportation about our families' need to access slow streets to change direction on Lincoln Avenue. The DoT representative encouraged the School to instruct families to go down Lincoln to Macarthur and use the main arteries for turnaround. The City rep said that HRS families could still use slow streets, but should treat it like a parking lot -- not exceeding 20 mph and exercise caution around pedestrians. The School will enforce these recommendations.

Karen asked if HRS knew of any scheduled road repairs in the neighborhood. Mary said she contacted the City to inquire but had not yet heard back. Karen wondered what recourse neighbors might have to address poor driving around the slow streets. Mary encouraged neighbors to call her directly to report infractions (with license and car description, if possible) and explained the disciplinary system in place for offenders. HRS will continue enforcing the driving rules and communicating them explicitly with families.

Rodney wondered if there could be monitors added to the slow streets, and Mary noted that we can move monitors around to locations as needed.

- **Master Plan Update, Crystal Land**

The School is awaiting the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). There will be an open comment period after the release, hopefully in the fall, and the School will engage with neighbors. The project will then go before the planning commission for a vote and approval. Matt said that his office followed up with City Planning and confirmed the general time frame.

- **Vegetation Management and Fire Prevention Update from Jerry Mullaney, CFO/COO**

The HRS Facilities team continues to work diligently on vegetation management year-round. The School invested more this year to make sure we've been keeping vegetation down. All properties passed inspection.

Karen asked about the eucalyptus on Melvin, and if there was a plan to remove them. Jerry noted that the trees are being trimmed as needed, but there is not an active plan to remove them based on a fire expert's recommendation-- keeping underbrush minimized is the suggested course of action.

Closing questions:

Karen said she noticed activity along Lincoln Avenue this week. Mary explained that families came to campus to pick up school supplies at staggered times.