August 23, 2019

Dear Council Member Gallo,

Thank you for meeting with us on July 18 to learn about the school’s desire to address traffic, parking and safety concerns in the neighborhood. We enjoyed meeting you, and your staff, in person, and having an opportunity to show you around our campus.

As requested, we are sending this letter to share the various traffic, parking and safety measures that we have been discussing with our neighbors in the Sheffield Neighborhood Association. Since our meeting on July 18, we’ve met with many neighbors to hear their suggestions for specific parking and traffic reduction measures and to discuss the school’s desire to increase enrollment in a multi-year, phased approach. The following list represents our collective thoughts. Some will likely require assistance from the City as part of any implementation, including creating a drop-off and pick-up along MacArthur Boulevard or at Central Reservoir Park for a portion of our student body.

List of Potential Traffic, Parking and Safety Measures

Traffic and Parking Measures

1. Redwood Day has been in discussions with EBMUD regarding the potential use of an access road in between the reservoir and the 580 Freeway to Ardley Road. EMBUD has included this access road in the EIR for their development project. Rerouting cars away from Sheffield Avenue would significantly alleviate many of the Sheffield neighbors’ concerns and move the queuing of cars onto private property and outside of the neighborhood.
2. Create a potential student drop-off and pick-up on MacArthur Boulevard for a portion of our student body.
3. Reconfigure the school’s existing parking lots to create potential pick-up and drop-off solutions.
4. Open Central Reservoir Park for a potential drop-off and pick-up zone for a portion of our student body.

We also have been discussing safety and ask that the City consider the following safety measures to address concerns of both the School and Sheffield Avenue Neighborhood Association:

1. Repave Sheffield Avenue, adding speed bumps in specific locations, and restriping existing speed bumps to slow down traffic along Sheffield Avenue, as speeding cars are a significant safety issue for children, neighbors, and community members. Our
neighbors have identified this as a primary neighborhood concern. The street has many ruts, potholes and cracks which pose a significant safety concern. As we understand it, Sheffield is not currently scheduled for repaving and would need to be added to the list of streets identified for repaving.

2. Install new crosswalks with audible signals on Sheffield Avenue and MacArthur for student and neighbor safety.

3. Install a round-a-bout with new crosswalks at the intersection of Sheffield Avenue and Morrison Avenue and McKillop Road.

4. Modify the traffic light at Sheffield Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard to include pedestrian crossing lights and a left turn signal onto Sheffield Avenue going north on MacArthur Boulevard.

5. Create a “no school parking” zone on the south side of Sheffield Avenue up to the Morrison and McKillop intersection to indicate no school parking at all times, and potentially including additional parking restrictions further up along Sheffield Avenue, if requested by the neighbors and agreed to by the School.

We appreciate your active involvement in the neighborhood and your consideration of the items listed above. We believe a productive next step is to set up a time to discuss these items with the City’s traffic consultants and engineers so we may all understand the feasibility of the various measures identified. Once we have a clearer idea of what is feasible and the City’s thoughts regarding the measures identified, it would be great to meet with you, the Sheffield Avenue neighbors, and any other experts/consultants, to discuss next steps and other potential solution to address the traffic, parking and safety issues in the neighborhood and around the school.

Thank you, again, for your guidance. We greatly appreciate it.

Warm regards,

John Loesser
Head of School
Redwood Day