Outreach Summary for Brentwood School's Education Master Plan, Covenant, Traffic Agreement, DEIR, Construction Logistics (2006 to 2018)

"Developing trust is straightforward. You take time to get to know each other, you invest in and understand the other's needs, and when you say you're going to do something, you do it."
—Mike Niera, Head of Brentwood School

In 2006, at the encouragement of WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges), the Brentwood School Board of Trustees voted to undertake a long term Education Master Planning process to ensure that the school would have the resources and facilities necessary to provide students with an excellent educational environment now and for years to come.

Before beginning that process, the school arranged meetings with the leadership of the Brentwood Community Council (BCC), Brentwood Homeowners Association (BHA), Residential Neighbors of Brentwood School (RNBS), Brentwood Village Merchants, West LA VA, and Council District 11 to discuss the need for a campus Education Master Plan and to gather input to help guide the process.

During 2007 and 2008, as the Education Master Planning process was beginning, the school began discussions with BHA and RNBS on negotiation of a new private land use covenant to replace the one that would expire in 2012.

In 2008, the school presented the first iteration of the Education Master plan to BCC (Land Use Committee and General Meetings), BHA, and to RNBS through small group meetings in the homes of RNBS residents. The input received during that process resulted in a number of changes such as the relocation of certain proposed buildings, reducing the size of one of the buildings nearest residences to two stories instead of three, and providing designated setbacks and landscape mitigations for residences that shared property lines with the school.

From 2008 through 2012, the school administration continued covenant negotiations with BHA and RNBS. In 2012, the RNBS Board of Directors and the neighbors in the association voted to approve the new covenant. Since the covenant is a three-party agreement, the school then sought approval from the BHA board who felt that covenant section on traffic requirements and monitoring needed to be strengthened. A sub-committee was assigned to focus on that part of the negotiation, a process that lasted nearly two years. In 2014, BHA voted to approve the completed 30-year covenant and a revised traffic agreement.

During and after the covenant negotiations, the school continued its outreach to other groups. These included the BCC Land Use Committee (2013) BCC General Meetings (2014, 2016), D11 (2012, 2014, 2016), local residents (2016), as well as the VA, Brentwood Village, and Sunset Coalition, as well as a series of BCC subcommittee meetings regarding traffic (2016).

All told, from the start of the process to completion, the School held just over 130 meetings with neighborhood groups.

In February 2017, Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously to approve Brentwood School's conditional use permit for a 30-Year Education Master Plan, but that did not conclude the school's outreach. In the months that followed the approval, the school met with representatives from BCC, BHA, RNBS, Sunset Coalition, and Brentwood Village to work out specific details important to each group.

"Brentwood School is pleased with the process we followed to secure our 30-Year Education Master Plan, and delighted that over the years our relationships with the various neighbors and neighborhood groups have gotten stronger and more transparent. We feel both proud and lucky to be a part of the Brentwood community."

—Mike Riera, Head of Brentwood School