## Criterion A: Initial consultation

**Transcript of Recorded Interview with Mr. Giovino on October 19, 2020:**

Can you please introduce yourself, including your job and title?

My name is Mr. Giovino, I am the director of student life, director of athletics, and the interim director of the upper school at Portledge.

I know that, from previous interactions, that peer tutoring is one of your initiatives, can you describe what peer tutoring is?

There are 2 parts to it. There are **students who benefit from hearing information in a different way** from a different voice, and that’s not an indictment of the teacher but rather a recognition that we have a variety of different types of learners. The second part is there are students who sometimes feel more comfortable being vulnerable about what they don’t know when they are with other students rather than with a teacher. Some students really benefit from the concept of peer tutoring; that we find somebody who is strong in a particular field and match them with students who may need help in that field, and that may alleviate some of the anxiety and allow that student to learn.

Can you explain how peer tutoring works now, or in the past, or at your old school?

**My understanding is that it currently doesn’t exist at Portledge**. The way I helped run it at my previous school was that, and you know, this was pre-COVID, we’d have a big assembly and the faculty member in charge of peer tutoring would give a brief description of what the program is; we’d sign up students who were masters in their particular fields; we’d confirm their strength in that field with their teachers in that field and then essentially it would be a rolling sign up for students who were struggling in that particular discipline. We then would match them with the masters who we already signed up. Those students who were doing the tutoring, that would be a part of their community engagement.

Were there any problems that came up with this method? Or how was it successful?

Problems, no, but obviously it changed from year to year in terms of where we would troubleshoot. Some years **we’d have a ton of kids willing to work in math but we’d scrabble if somebody was struggling in science**, or we’d have a ton of science masters and struggled for somebody with math. It’s not a set program in the sense that each year you have to re-evaluate where your needs are.

Do you think an IT solution would make this process more efficient, especially now with most interactions happening online?

Yeah, **I think an IT solution is a necessity** given our current situation and if it means we can do something more **efficient** then it’s even something we can do when we move out of our current situation.

**Works Cited**

Personal Interview

Giovino, Carmine. Personal interview. 19 October 2020.