

## School Capacity & Utilization Task Force

Meeting Minutes #2

September 28, 2023, 5-7 p.m.

Karshner Center – 309 4<sup>th</sup> St NE Puyallup, WA 98372

### Members:

**Present:** Sarah Emily Aunspach, LaShawnda Baldwin, Cynthia Balzarini, Lauralee Chamberlain, Brian Devereux, Greg Farias, Jacob Gavre, David Ham, Chris Harris, Nicole Helgeson, Bob Horton, Julie Hunter, John Huson, Richard Lasso, Laura Marcoe, Brady Martin, Daniel Martinez, Michael McCanna, Ashley McClaran, Rae McNally, Karen Mool, Jiquanda Nelson, Vince Pecchia, Amy Schweim, Victoria Treffry, Rebecca Williams, Wendy Wright

**Absent:** Ed Crow, Maria Finley, Brian Fosnick, Michele Jangula, Myra Josey, Jenna Slott

### Meeting Documents

Sept. 28, 2023, SCUT Task Force Meeting Agenda

June 8, 2023, SCUT Task Force Meeting Minutes

Sept. 28, 2023, SCUT Task Force PowerPoint

### Welcome/Introduction

- Welcome new members  
Brian Devereux welcomed the task force members and invited them to introduce themselves.
- Review / Approve Meeting #1 Minutes  
Meeting minutes will be reviewed at the beginning of each meeting. Once approved, they will be posted on the Task Force [website](#) and in Teams.

### Operating Norms

Brady Martin reviewed the meeting norms. They were presented at the June meeting and the two additional norms that members suggested being added are marked in blue below.

- Preserve this as a safe space for open, honest discussion.
- Give grace and space.
- If you present a problem, then you should also present a solution.
- Keep an infectious sense of possibility of what we can accomplish.
- Engage fully with honesty and integrity.
- Respect the rights, differences, and dignity of others.
- Come with an open mind.

The norms will be at each table every meeting as a reminder.

## Review Dot Exercise from Meeting #1

Ashley McClaren, OAC, reviewed the results of the dot exercise that members participated in at the June meeting. The results can be found on slide 7 in the PowerPoint.

## Task Force Charter

*“To develop and evaluate recommendations to support the interim housing of students in the PreK-12<sup>th</sup> grade settings of the Puyallup School District until a future capital levy and/or bond program is funded and constructed.”*

Brian shared why the task force is needed:

1. Lack of funding for major capital projects.
2. Overcrowding at existing schools.
3. Significant growth projected in certain regions within the next five years and beyond.
4. Building condition challenges.

Task Force member questions:

- Is the task force focused on the physical space or are programs being considered?
  - Programs will be discussed as well because they often have an impact on capacity and sometimes enrollment.
- When was the last bond passed?
  - Nov. 2015
- When will we try again for a capital levy?
  - The board will hear a report on the levy at the Oct. 2 board meeting. It’s the board’s decision as to when one will be put before voters. It could possibly be run in Feb. 2024.
- How will that decision affect the task force’s work?
  - Levy funds help the district maintain current spaces. If we don’t have levy funds to keep our systems going and repair roofs, we will have to consider other options including possibly closing existing buildings.

The task force meeting schedule was reviewed.

Learning targets for this meeting:

- Current enrollment and enrollment projection trends at a districtwide level.
- Programs provided at Puyallup SD schools and the relationship to building capacity.
- The Supply vs Demand formula in K-12 Education Facilities Planning.

## District Enrollment, Boundaries & Projections

Brian shared enrollment projections based on Oct. 2022 numbers that were presented to the board in April. The district uses Oct. enrollment numbers for projections because from a facility standpoint, Oct. generally has a higher enrollment than other months ensuring there is enough room for everyone.

The enrollment projection graphs begin on slide 13 in the PowerPoint.

- **Boundaries**  
The district's boundaries were changed in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years due to building Dessie Evans Elementary School with 2015 bond funds. The boundary adjustments helped "right-size" enrollment to building capacity.

## Building Capacity

- **PSD Grade Configuration**  
PSD's grade configuration was reviewed. PSD is one of the few districts in the state that does not have a middle school configuration. The exceptions are North Hill schools with Mt. View and Northwood as pre-kindergarten to fifth grade and Edgemont Junior High housing sixth – ninth grades.
- **Special Education**  
Karen Mool, executive director of equity and special education, explained that PSD currently services 3,039 SPED students ages three to twenty-one. The main goal is to provide an appropriate, individualized program for each student in the least restrictive environment.
- **Pre-Kindergarten**  
Dr. Vincent Pecchia, assistant superintendent of operations and school support, shared that the district has implemented two programs to support kindergarten students, Kindergarten Academy and Right at School (RAS).
  - Kindergarten Academy is a transitional kindergarten program designed to assist young learners who would benefit from additional support. The free program runs Oct. through June and is housed at 13 elementary schools requiring one classroom at each school. The goal is to have Kindergarten Academy at every elementary school. It is targeted for students that have not had any preschool experience.
  - RAS is a tuition based preschool program currently offered at Maplewood Elementary, but it's planned to expand the program to Ridgecrest later this year. It is hoped to eventually offer the program in all three regions. The classroom space must have direct access to a sink and bathroom, meeting preschool classroom requirements.
- **Dual Language Program**  
The link to the Dual Language Program video is on slide 37 of the PowerPoint.
- **Highly Capable Program**  
Almai Malit, executive director of equity, student success, and strategic engagement, shared that the Highly Capable Program provides opportunities for identified students in grades K-8.
  - Young Scholars for kindergarten - second grades: No classroom is needed but requires a small teaching space twice a week for 30 min. sessions at every elementary school.
  - QuEST for third - sixth grades: Hosted at seven schools, one or more classrooms are needed for this program.

- PAGE for seventh – eighth grades: This is a regional program housed at Kalles, Ferrucci, and Stahl junior highs. Multiple classrooms are needed for this regional program.

Brian stated that since it was almost 7:00 p.m. and to honor everyone's time, the remaining agenda items would be presented at a future meeting.

The task force members were asked to complete a survey prior to leaving to make sure communication is being captured and to give a gauge of what might need to be revisited.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

### Next Meeting:

Meeting #3

October 12, 2023

Karshner Center – 309 4<sup>th</sup> St NE, Puyallup, WA 98372