

School Capacity & Utilization Task Force

Meeting Minutes #11

March 14, 2024, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Karshner Center – 309 4th St NE Puyallup, WA 98372

Members:

Present: Cynthia Balzarini, Ed Crow, Brian Devereux, Brian Fosnick, Sarah Gillispie, David Ham, Chris Harris, Bob Horton, John Huson, Michele Jangula, Richard Lasso, Jamie Lee, Almai Malit, Brady Martin, Daniel Martinez, Rae McNally, Karen Mool, Jiquanda Nelson, Vince Pecchia, Shelby Rice, Amy Schweim, Quavion Swazer, Victoria Treffry, Michael McCanna, Wendy Wright.

Absent: Sarah Emily Aunspach, LaShawnda Baldwin, Ayden Berg, Lauralee Chamberlain, Greg Farias, Maria Finley, Jacob Gavre, Debbie Haworth, Nicole Helgeson, Julie Hunter, Myra Josey, , Jenna Slott, Rebecca Williams

Meeting Documents

Feb. 22, Mtg #10 SCUT Meeting Minutes

Mar. 14, Mtg #11 SCUT Agenda

Mar. 14, Mtg #11 SCUT PPT

Welcome/Introduction

Brady welcomed the task force and thanked them for making it since there were so many school sporting events going on around the district. He went over Meeting #11 agenda.

Recap Meeting #10

The Feb. 22nd meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the MS TEAMS School Capacity and Task Force public-facing web page.

Results from the survey were that most members enjoy the S.W.O.T exercise as a group. Also, comments were made that the task force would like more time to discuss and go over the activity results.

Learning Targets #11

-Learn and discuss potential solutions to the forecasted capacity issue at Northwood Elementary.

-Review a school boundary scenario to create a sustainable magnet Dual Language school at Karshner Elementary.

Region 3 Prioritization

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Brian went through High School, Junior High and Elementary charts explaining where waiver management should be considered to ensure sufficient capacity for resident students and programs which included Fruitland ES, Karshner ES and Meeker ES. Northwood ES is projected to be over capacity starting next year and will be a topic of study for the task force for the duration of the work this school year. Puyallup HS is relying on the new additional portables to be placed on campus this summer that are going in to help with capacity issues.

Brian reviewed enrollment projections at Mt. View and Edgemont for the next 4 years seeing a steady increase at Edgemont. While Mt. View has a 95-student capacity cushion with portables. He also informed the task force that the enrollment at Mt. View was at 368 students in 2018, the year before the opening of the Northwood ES replacement school building.

Northwood Capacity relief options reviewed:

- Grade reconfiguration, moving Northwood 5th graders to Edgemont JH. There isn't enough capacity at Edgemont JH to house a 5th grade cohort from Northwood.

- Waiver Management, 26 in-district waiver students and 20 non-resident waiver students. Brian confirmed following the meeting that the waiver counts exclude students in placed programs such as QUEST and Support Center.

Task force members were then divided into two groups to analyze two additional options to reduce enrollment at Northwood. Group 1 was asked to complete a SWOT exercise to evaluate two boundary adjustment scenarios between Northwood ES and Mt. View ES. Group 2 was asked to analyze Program Management at Northwood. Here are their suggestions.

- Program Management:

- *Two programs at Northwood are Support Center and QUEST

- *The least disruption would be to move QUEST to Mt. View.

- *To ensure space for the QUEST relocation to Mt. View, it was suggested to look at moving Kindergarten Academy to back to Northwood.

- *This group was not supportive of moving 5th graders at Edgemont JH.

- Boundary Adjustment:

- *Scenario 1 was the preferred boundary scenario due to:

- it would adjust the targeted 50 student change needed to meet the capacity needs at Northwood over the next four years.

- A portion of the impacted students would be future student from new housing. (Wolf Point neighborhood) vs. existing students currently enrolled at Northwood.

- Transportation from North to South is harder than East to West.

The SWOT analysis table notes were collected and will be summarized and reviewed in a future meeting.

Dual Language Magnet Program

The task force has been asked to create and give feedback on a plan to implement a dual language magnet program at Karshner Elementary. The plan implementation would ultimately remove DL from Dessie Evans and require

future non-DL students in the Karshner Elementary attendance area to be reassigned to another elementary school under a phased plan. The Phasing process would begin in the 2025-2026 school year. No Kindergarten DL at Dessie Evans would be dropped in the 25-26 school year. 2030-2031 there will be 4 DL classes for grades K-3 and 2-3 classes for grades 4-6.

Conceptual School Boundary Planning Scenario:

Enrollment at Karshner is currently projected as stable, with no major housing projects in the next four years.

Brian presented a boundary change option that would absorb the Karshner ES attendance area. The plan included portions of the Karshner area being reassigned to Stewart ES, Waller Road ES, and Maplewood ES. Maplewood would need to phase out a portion of the existing waiver population to have enough capacity to house additional students. In the end, Maplewood may also need to have a current program(s) it hosts relocated to another site. Potential programs include Kindergarten Academy, Right-at-School Preschool, and SPED preschool. Time was then given to task force members for their comments and questions on the information presented.

Questions/Comments:

- If there are no new or projected developments being built around Fruitland, Karshner or Meeker than there shouldn't be a large rise in enrollment at those schools.
- It feels like the DL Magnet at Karshner conversation was brought to the task force late in the process.
- For DL, students need to be 50% Spanish speaking and 50% English speaking.
- Potentially move programs to Waller Rd to entice more students to change locations.
- What percentage of Karshner students are walking? Students that can currently walk to Karshner may be more challenged to attend school if relying on school bus transportation or parent drop off.
- From a transportation standpoint the drive to Waller Rd isn't as far as many might assume.
- The number of communities that this DL program will affect can cause a lot of negative impact/feelings for parents and students.
- Plan implementation could be controversial, particularly to Karshner ES area residents, which would have a negative impact on community support for future bonds/levies.

Brian thanked members for their feedback. He stated that a follow-up survey will be sent to task force members to give everyone a chance to comment, and results will be shared at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 7:05pm.

Next Meeting:

Meeting #12

March 28, 2024

Kessler Center – 1501 39th Ave SW, Puyallup, WA 98373