

School Capacity & Utilization Task Force

Meeting Minutes #13

April 25, 2024, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

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

Members:

Present: Cynthia Balzarini, Ayden Berg, Ed Crow, Brian Devereux, Brian Fosnick, Sarah Gillispie, Jacob Gavre, David Ham, Chris Harris, Debbie Haworth, Bob Horton, Julie Hunter, John Huson, Michele Jangula, Brady Martin, Karen Mool, Vince Pecchia, Quavion Swazer, Victoria Treffry, Rebecca Williams

Absent: Sarah Emily Aunspach, LaShawnda Baldwin, Lauralee Chamberlain, Maria Finley, Nicole Helgeson, Myra Josey, Richard Lasso, Daniel Martinez, Michael McCanna, Rae McNally, Jiquanda Nelson, Shelby Rice, Amy Schweim, Jenna Slott, Wendy Wright

Meeting Documents

April 25, 2024, Mtg. #13, SCUT Agenda

March 28, 2024, Mtg. #12, SCUT Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2024, Mtg. #13, SCUT PPT

Welcome/Introduction

Brian welcomed the committee and thanked them for their attendance.

The meeting agenda was reviewed. Tonight's input from the task force will be critical for the final board recommendation.

The March 28 meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the MS TEAMS School Capacity and Utilization Task Force page.

Learning targets for Meeting #13

The learning targets for Meeting #13 were reviewed.

- Review Meeting #12 highlights and Board Study Session presentation.
- Review preliminary survey and findings
- Identification and voting for final recommendations

Recap Meeting #12 and Board Study Session Presentation

At the last meeting, information and challenges were shared for schools with enrollment and capacity concerns. The summary information and recommendations for Northwood Elementary was reviewed as an example. After reviewing the schools, the task force members were asked to complete a Preferred Preliminary Survey to identify priority solutions offered for Northwood, Mt. View and Edgerton elementary schools, Glacier View JH, and Rogers, Emerald Ridge, and Puyallup high schools. These schools were categorized by one of three symbols:

- Blue Diamond – waiver management should be considered to ensure sufficient capacity for resident students and programs. No additional solutions are needed over the next four-year period.
- Yellow Star – In addition to waiver management, additional solution(s) are needed to mitigate forecasted capacity deficit.
- Purple Pacman – a school without capacity concerns but will be impacted as part of a solution for another capacity-challenged school.

A preliminary list of priority solutions was identified, unique for each site, based on previous meeting conversations and feedback.

The preliminary survey results were reviewed and can be found on slide 13 of the Meeting #13 PPT.

Using the information presented at Meeting #12 and the preliminary survey results, a report was prepared and emailed to members prior to the study session with the school board asking for feedback. Brian received one comment that the building utilization rate increase for secondary schools was not a consensus priority solution. This was also heard from members at a previous meeting while doing group work. Some members have expressed that the building utilization rate should be considered a solution of last resort.

Brady and Brian reviewed highlights from the School Capacity and Utilization Task Force Board Report that was presented at the April 19 board study session. The PPT is on the SCUT website along with a recording of the study session.

Brian invited members that were able to listen to the full board study presentation to share their thoughts about the presentation.

- Bob found it interesting that the board was not aware of the charge of the task force. Vince explained it well to the board.
- Rebecca agreed and appreciated Vince's very clear statement of the purpose of the information.
- It was asked what questions the board had. Brian explained it was mainly questions and clarifications of what was presented at the meetings.

There was a conversation about waivers. Brian did analysis this last year and found that the enrollment decrease was not associated with a decrease of waivers but was found to be in an enrollment decrease within the district boundary, with significant loss at kindergarten compared to the previous year.

Consideration of Final Recommendations

Brian shared that tonight's work is to walk through the schools with preliminary prioritized solutions one by one using the work that was summarized from meeting #12. District leadership used the information to create two recommendations, A and B, for each of the schools that received a star designation.

Brian invited various members to take turns reading the recommendations, one school at a time. After recommendation options were read, time was given to members to discuss and comment on the drafted recommendations for that particular school and invited to nominate additional recommendations, if desired. Voting members were asked to vote by placing an orange dot sticker next to their preferred recommendation. Votes were then tallied, and results shared with the task force.

Northwood Elementary

Recommendations:

Recommendation A:

- Waiver Management at Northwood and Mt. View Elementary beginning in 2024-25, and;
- Relocate Quest (3 classrooms) from Northwood Elementary to Mt. View Elementary in 2024-25 or 2025-26.
- Option: Relocate Kindergarten Academy from Mt. View to Northwood Elementary at the time Quest is relocated.

Recommendation B:

- Waiver Management at Northwood and Mt. View Elementary beginning in 2024-25, and;
- Commission a boundary review committee in 2024-25 to recommend a boundary change between Northwood and Mt. View Elementary for implementation in 2025-26.

Members' Comments:

- Thinking about not just kids in Quest but their siblings. With Northwood pulling so many more students than Mt. View, families may have children going to two different schools.
- Similarly, Kindergarten Academy may be nice to go to Northwood because there is such a large population, and it may be nice to bring those families in early to have an early start at that school. It is the biggest school in that geographic area. It seems like a good thing.
- Is there any significant cost between either recommendation? Brian explained that the costs are comparable. Nothing from a capital project standpoint needs to accommodate program changes.

No other recommendations were made. Voting members were asked to turn in their vote.

Glacier View Junior High:

Recommendations:

Recommendation A:

- Waiver Management at Glacier View Junior High beginning in 2024-25, and;
- Commission a boundary review committee in 2025-26 to recommend a boundary change between Glacier View Junior High and Ferrucci Junior High for implementation in 2026-27.

Recommendation B:

- Waiver Management at Glacier View Junior High beginning in 2024-25, and;
- Increase the Building Utilization Rate from 83% to 86% (increasing capacity from 891 to 923) to accommodate the 4-year projected enrollment high of 920 students in 2026-27.

Members' Comments:

- Brian Fosnick, GVJH principal, was asked his opinion about the two recommendations before the members discussed them. Brian F stated that as a principal he can make both options work. In the past, he has had to increase utilization rates, crowding during passing periods and lunches can be a challenge. It would be interesting to see what the suggested boundary changes would be. He would consider how many students come from Hunt. Brian D shared that a potential boundary change was shared in Meeting #12. Hunt is split, with students going to FJH and GVJH. It looks unlikely that the split can be eliminated when considering the necessary adjustments to balance junior high enrollment between the two JH schools.
- Brian F said Recommendation B could potentially cost more money than A because of accommodations for teachers to have planning spaces.

No other recommendations were made. Voting members were asked to turn in their vote.

Emerald Ridge High School:

Recommendations:

Recommendation A:

- Waiver Management at ERHS beginning in 2024-25, and;
- Increase the Building Utilization Rate from 83% to 86% (increasing capacity with portables from 1,552 to 1,608) to accommodate the 4-year projected enrollment high of 1,606 students in 2027-28.

Recommendation B:

- Waiver Management at ERHS beginning in 2024-25, and;
- Convert Project Areas to classrooms beginning in 2026-27.

Brian wondered what the members thought about Recommendation B to convert project areas to classrooms at ERHS. What is the expectation of the physical classroom space (temporary walls or something more permanent reaching floor to ceiling).

- Bob shared that converting project rooms into teaching spaces has been done in the past at ERHS by keeping project areas in the library open and turning the Coral Reef and Savannah rooms into classrooms with wheeled partitions, adding 5-6 ft. portable walls, and bringing in TVs. It was a problem when there was a lot of activity and noise in the hallway. They tried very hard to keep the upstairs hallways free of students.
- The cost to convert the project rooms into learning spaces could potentially be minimal.
- Jacob, RHS student, shared that friends who attend ERHS have said the project rooms aren't being used much. He wouldn't want to be in the partition rooms but feels that would be better than the alternative of increasing the building utilization rate.
- Ayden feels having to find a teacher for help when they are moving from classroom to classroom throughout the day seems nightmarish.
- Ed commented that looking at the current numbers, it's hard to say what may or may not be needed in 2026-27. In 2024, he has a classroom for every teacher, he doesn't need extra classrooms now. He would figure it out as needed. If he had to hire three teachers, he would have to talk about teachers sharing and would like to convert a project room before a teacher had to share a room.

Brian directed the members' attention to the Re"Other General Recommendations" PPT slide. He explained that the ERHS recommendation wouldn't be implemented until the 2026-27 school year. Enrollment numbers and programs change over the years. He would suggest that a standing, modified SCUT continue the work of the 2023-24 task force to keep the recommendations current with future enrollment headcount and building capacity changes.

No other recommendations were made. Voting members were asked to turn in their vote.

Rogers High School:

Recommendations:

Recommendation A:

- Waiver Management at RHS beginning in 2024-25, and;
- Increase the Building Utilization Rate from 83% to 87% (increasing capacity with portables from 1,693 to 1,775) to accommodate the 4-year projected enrollment high of 1,760 students in 2026-27.

Recommendation B:

- Waiver Management at RHS beginning in 2024-25, and;
- Program Relocation? (per survey response)

Brian explained that three comprehensive high schools have space challenges. It eliminates some options and priority solutions such as boundary changes and program relocation. RHS currently has 16 portable classrooms, it has been permitted to allow up to an additional seven additional portables from a Conditional Use Permit, although that permit has since expired. If a bond is passed, portables will need to be moved around so new buildings can be built. The data shows that Rogers will have sufficient capacity next year, capacity becomes a concern in 2025-26.

The task force nominated two additional recommendations for consideration for the vote

- Recommendation C – Add Portables in 2025-26.
- Recommendation D – Decline all nonresident waivers in 2025-26.

Voting members were asked to turn in their votes.

Task Force Voting Results:

Northwood Elementary

Recommendation A:

- Waiver Management at Northwood and Mt. View Elementary beginning in 2024-25, and;
- Relocate Quest (3 classrooms) from Northwood Elementary to Mt. View Elementary in 2024-25 or 2025-26.
- Option: Relocate Kindergarten Academy from Mt. View to Northwood Elementary at the time Quest is relocated.

Recommendation A was approved with 11 votes, Recommendation B received 5.

Glacier View Junior High

Recommendation A:

- Waiver Management at Glacier View Junior High beginning in 2024-25, and;
- Commission a boundary review committee in 2025-26 to recommend a boundary change between Glacier View Junior High and Ferrucci Junior High for implementation in 2026-27.

Recommendation A was approved with 11 votes, Recommendation B received 5.

Emerald Ridge High School

Recommendation B:

- Waiver Management at ERHS beginning in 2024-25, and;
- Convert Project Areas to classrooms beginning in 2026-27.

Recommendation B received unanimous approval.

Rogers High School

Recommendation C:

- Waiver Management at RHS beginning in 2025-26, and
- Add Portables in 2025-26.

Recommendation C was approved with 12 votes, Recommendation D received 4.

Brian shared that staff has enough information to prepare a final report for the task force's review. He asked members if there was a desire to meet on May 9th. Alternatively, staff may prepare a draft final report and email the report for member review the week prior to the May 22nd meeting. Members opted to review the report via email and have a final meeting on May 22. The May 9 meeting will be cancelled.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Next Meeting

The May 9 meeting will be cancelled.

Meeting #14

May 22, 2024, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

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