

School Capacity & Utilization Task Force

2024-2025 Meeting Minutes #2

January 28, 2025, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

ESC, Mt. Tahoma Room – 302 2nd St SE, Puyallup, WA 98372

Members:

Present: LaShawnda Baldwin, Lauralee Chamberlain, Ed Crow, Brian Devereux, Bob Horton, Julie Hunter, Michele Jangula, Mark Knight, Brady Martin, Daniel Martinez, Rae McNally, Jiquanda Nelson, Vincent Pecchia, Quavion Swazer, Victoria Treffry, Rebecca Williams

Absent: Sarah Gillispie, Maricella Gonzalez, Ryan Hahn, David Ham, Chris Harris, Nicole Helgeson, Karen Mool

Meeting Documents

SCUT Meeting 2 Agenda

SCUT Mtg. 2 Presentation

2025-2036 Capital Facilities Projection

New Development Tracking Charts

Resident Student Change Oct. 2023 to Oct. 2024 by Neighborhood Tracts

School of Attendance Oct. 2024 Charts

Welcome/Meeting 1 Meeting Minutes

Brian Devereux, Director of Facilities Planning, welcomed the members and thanked them for coming. Doug Ouellette, director of MTSS, was introduced and welcomed as a guest who will provide observations about the QUEST Program.

The meeting agenda was reviewed.

The Oct. 2024 SCUT meeting minutes were approved as written.

SCUT Meeting Roadmap

The meeting roadmap was reviewed. The next scheduled meeting is on April 22. *(It was later decided to move this meeting to March 10.)*

Please use the QR code on the meeting norms to share thoughts, concerns, or questions during the meeting.

Meeting Goals

- Learn and understand the forecast of the updated Capital Facilities Planning enrollment projection.
- Review the Northwood/Mt. View recommendation.
- Discuss the upcoming work and timeline for Meeting 3.

Capital Facilities Planning Enrollment Projection Update

Brian stated the main factors that generally erode, or boost enrollment are:

“Bearish” Enrollment Factors:

- Decreasing birth counts in Pierce County
- Sluggish housing market
- Fulltime running start enrollment continues to rise

“Bullish” Enrollment Factors

- Net positive non-resident student waiver pattern
- 2,705 new housing units “in the pipeline” over the next 5 years within PSD

The Enrollment Projection Input flowchart outlines the data considered when calculating projections to ensure the district is planning for enough space for future enrollment. Generally speaking, the Capital Facilities Planning projection will lean towards variables that will result in higher enrollment values to ensure the district is planning for enough space for future enrollment. Projections are based on the October headcount because it’s typically the highest enrolled month of the school year.

Two data sources, provided by the WA Dept. of Health, are used to project future Kindergarten enrollment. The first chart, PSD Area Births by School Year, represents the number of births where a mother was a resident within PSD boundaries when giving birth. The 2018-19 (school year) births were used to project the 2024-25 kindergarten class. The trend over the next couple of years shows an increase in kindergarten students and then it begins to decline. The second chart, Pierce County Births by School Year, represents data of mothers residing in Pierce County when giving birth. The PC birth rates show a slight decrease for kindergarten next year, is almost flat the next couple of years, and drops for kindergarteners attending school in 2028-29. District staff has analyzed both data points with historical kindergarten enrollment. Neither is superior to the other, meaning some years Pierce County area birth data was a more accurate predictor of kindergarten enrollment, and in other years Puyallup SD area birth data was a better predictor. For this year’s Capital Facilities Planning projection, the data from mothers giving birth within the district is used for projections.

The Five-Year Projected Residential Unit Counts “in the pipeline” – Puyallup SD graph was reviewed. The top line represents total residential units expected to be built within a five-year period with all housing types combined. The lines below represent multi-family, single-family detached, and single-family attached housing types projected to be occupied in that period. In 2022-23, the five-year forecast of multi-family units surpassed the forecast of single-family detached homes with the trend continuing through 2024-25. Multi-family homes typically do not generate as many students as single-family.

The October 2024 Attendance Matrix was reviewed. The intent of the attendance matrix is to track where resident students attend vs where resident students live, when exempting students from placed programs such as self-contained programs, highly capable programs, and non-resident students. An attendance matrix has been created for elementary, junior high, and high school.

The 2025-2036 Capital Facilities Projection Chart shows data of past, current, and projected enrollment by grade level. For 2025-26, there is a projected increase of 38 students in grades K-6 across the district. Because of the birth rate decline, PSD is now a moderate growth district even when considering the planned residential construction. The district projects enrollment out four years at the school-level because the farther out enrollment is projects, the less dependable the numbers are.

Brian invited the group to review the handouts on the tables and then share their thoughts and observations. Report out:

- Looking at the projections, there is a lot more reliance on portables than they thought. It's rare to see a school with no portables.

Review Mt. View / Northwood Recommendation

Brian reviewed the board approved SCUT recommendation to be implemented this year:

- 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 2025-26.
 - Option: Relocate Transitional Kindergarten from Mt. View to Northwood Elementary at the time QUEST is relocated.

Brian reviewed the October 2024 Projected Enrollment and Capacity Chart for Northwood Elementary.

- The 4-year projected high enrollment is 732 and capacity with portables is 734.
- There is a large mixed-use project that is proposed to be built next to Northwood to include a 600-unit apartment complex. It is Brian's understanding after speaking with City of Edgewood staff that the project may not move forward as currently proposed. This project's impact to Northwood Elementary has been pushed further out that what was projected last year and makes it difficult to project four years out.
- It is now expected that enrollment will remain level at Northwood due to the lower number of kindergartners coming into the school and larger fourth and fifth grade classes that will eventually move to EKH.
- The district uses a lower class-size equation for each general education classroom for the North Hill Elementary schools because they serve grades K-5 and are missing the typically larger sixth grade class.

October 2024 and Projected Enrollment and Capacity chart for Mt. View Elementary

- The 4-year projected high enrollment is 311 and capacity with portables is 374.

The Mt. View and Northwood Enrollment CFP Projection tables containing Oct. enrollment headcounts and the 4-year projection for each grade was reviewed. Two FTE were added to Mt. View this year because of increased enrollment. There is less space at the school this year than what was expected last year when the task force made their recommendation.

At Northwood, enrollment is projected to remain level because the incoming kindergarten class is lower than the exiting fifth grade class. Instead of seeing an increase at Northwood, enrollment is expected to remain steady for the next several years.

The Mt View Elementary classroom site plan was reviewed. All classrooms are full except Portable 4 where music is being housed. Music can be placed on a cart to free up the portable if necessary. Portables 5 and 6 are being used for pullout programs. It's possible other spaces can be identified for the pullout programs.

The Northwood classroom site plan was reviewed. One classroom is not being used as a homeroom classroom and, if needed, an additional FTE could be added. Northwood was built with small instructional spaces intended for small group instructional teaching giving flexibility at Northwood that you don't have at Mt. View. Brian anticipates the task force may need to reconsider the timing of proposing the program move.

Brian invited comments from the members:

- Doug Ouellette, director of MTSS, has been having conversations with principals and the data that's been shared reflects some of those conversations. He feels strongly, having been able to visit the QUEST spaces, there is both a human and technical physical space component. How do we integrate QUEST students into the culture of the school instead of being separate. As far as timing, the timing is falling inside of the bond efforts. We have been transparent of plans for Mt. View and are asking families to uproot their students. There is also a significant attendance time difference between the two schools. He doesn't have a good answer for parents that may have children that would attend both schools. The data shows that Northwood families would move to Mt. View to attend QUEST, but we don't have information about the time differences to share with parents. In speaking with Mt. View Principal Eric Molver, there is some significant staff moving from the portables into the main building. There is not a comparable space in the building, music may have to travel to classes on a cart. He would like social emotional considerations to be made to ensure that the QUEST Program is welcomed, and the move is positive.

Brian stated that SCUT's recommendation last year to move QUEST was a difficult one and was ultimately supported by a majority split vote.

Uplands Development Update

Brian shared that the Uplands Development is a project in the Orting SD. There has been a slight increase to the development with 827 single-family detached homes and 229 single-family attached being built for a total of 1,056 homes. The number of multi-family homes decreased slightly. It is expected that Uplands will generate 609 students when built out. Brian expects that the district will receive waiver applications before the end of the school year. Edgerton, Pope, Hunt, GVJH and ERHS are the most likely schools that could be impacted by the development based upon proximity.

Preview and Discuss Plans for Meeting #3

Brian proposed that the April task force meeting be moved to the end of Feb. or beginning of March to take action to modify or propose new recommendations to the board. A new recommendation will be made regarding the Northwood QUEST Program. Please visit the Teams Channel to view information by grade and school to be prepared to make suggested changes or proposals to add to the presentation or share at the meeting. The group approved the proposal of moving the meeting. The members will be surveyed for their availability.

February 11, 2025, Capital Bond Proposal

Brady shared that the Capital Bond will go before voters on Feb. 11. The bond includes seven projects and has the potential of generating \$152.8M in state match funds. Over 21 years, the \$800M proposed bond tax rate would remain the same at the 2024 voter-approved rate of \$4.14 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The district needs 40% of the 71,055 ballots received from the Nov. 5, 2024, General Election to validate the vote. Please become knowledgeable about the facts and building needs and share information and posts with your network.

Please use the QR code to sign-up to attend a Patron Tour if interested.

Brady asked that the members take the informational handouts home to review. The next meeting is important because the task force will be taking action to make a recommendation.

Next Meeting:

After a Forms survey was taken of members' availability, a meeting was scheduled for March 10 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Karshner Center.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.



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