School Capacity & Utilization Task Force

Meeting Minutes # 2
October 14, 2025, 5-7 p.m.
Karshner Museum and Center – 309 4th St NE, Puyallup, WA 98372

Members/Participants:
Present: Sari Burnett, Ed Crow, Brian Devereux, MacKenzie Fortune, Sarah Gillispie, Maricella Gonzalez, David Ham, Chris Harris, Bob Horton, Julie Hunter, Glenn Imke, Michele Jangula, Mark Knight, Brady Martin, Daniel Martinez, Rae McNally, Julie Moore, Dr. Vincent Pecchia, Joel Peterson, Meagan Rakoci-McDonald, Quavion Swazer, Brad Thayer, Victoria Treffry

Absent: Cari Ake, LaShawnda Baldwin, Lauralee Chamberlain, John Huson, Karen Mool, Rebecca Williams

Meeting Documents

SCUT 2025-26 Meeting 2 Agenda

SCUT 2025-26 Meeting 2 Power Point Presentation

Welcome/Meeting 1 Minutes

Brian Devereux welcomed the task force members. The Meeting 1 Minutes was approved by the committee.

The Meeting Goals

- The focus of today's meeting is on Waller Road Elementary and begin to create an alternative housing plan.

Brian reviewed the three planning scenarios for task force consideration over the five designated meetings:

1. Alternative Housing Plan for Waller Road Elementary Only
2. Alternative Housing Plan for Spinning Elementary Only
3. Alternative Housing Plan for Spinning Elementary and Waller Road Elementary.

Before moving onto the next section, Brian invited the members of the taskforce to use the newly updated QR code to submit any questions during or after the meeting into the "Parking Lot".

FOUNDATIONS FOR OUR FUTURE

Meeting 1 Debrief

Brian reviewed the focus of the taskforce that was shared in Meeting 1:

- SCUT is conducting a **feasibility study**, not making any decisions.
- **No school closure** recommendations have been made or will be made by this task force.
- This is an exploratory study to inform the School Board of **potential effects** on **enrollment, staffing, families, and transportation**.
- The process is transparent, data-driven, and inclusive of staff and community perspectives.
- Presentation of findings - **December 12** school board study session.

Brian next went over School Board Policy 6883 with the taskforce, which outlines the action steps needed if the district were to pursue a school closure in the future.

Key Themes from the Meeting 1 table exercise were shared. Below are the two questions asked to the taskforce members at the previous meeting:

1. How would closing Spinning or Waller Road Elementary affect student placement, school capacity, and the overall learning experience – including class sizes, access to programs, etc.?
2. Would closing either school improve or reduce equitable access to quality learning environments and resources? How might this decision affect families, neighborhoods, and community relationships?

A few key themes were mentioned multiple times, so Brian and the team summarized these themes and counted the number of mentions for each theme. Below are the themes, "Mention" count and summaries:

- Student Displacement/Capacity Balance – 3 mentions
    - Summary: Concern that closing either school would create overcrowding at remaining sites and disrupt existing boundaries.
- Equity and Access – 3 mentions
    - Summary: Several notes referenced "reduced access" or "inequity" for specific neighborhoods or families.
- Community Impact – 2 mentions
    - Families and neighborhoods would be "negatively affected" or "lose community identity."
- Program Access and Class Size – 2 mentions
    - Summary: Closing a school might reduce access to certain programs or increase class sizes.
- Transportation/Travel Distance – 1 mention

- One group noted that students would need to travel further, impacting families.

Brian next asked Brady Martin to help answer questions that were submitted via the Parking Lot after Meeting 1. Below are the summarized questions and Brady Martin's answers:

- Question: Why are Levy-funded projects proceeding if closure is being considered?
  - Answer: We made the commitment to the community to see these projects through.
- Question: If a school closes, will those projects still be completed?
  - Answer: No, they will not, if a decision is to be made by the school board to close a school. In that case, we would move forward by repurposing the funds for those projects.
- Question: If not, can Levy funds be reallocated, and who decides how that money is used?
  - Answer: Yes, if a closure were to happen funds would/should be allocated, the School Board would be the deciders after submissions and reports were given to them.

Brady Martin next spoke on current portables and space for portables for Waller Road. Currently at Waller Road we have a total of 7 portable buildings for a total of 8 portable classrooms (6 single, 1 double classroom portables). Brady reviewed a list of potential sites for additions, plus a few sites unable to accommodate additional portable space. Below is the list of sites:

- **Woodland Elementary** – No additional portables may be added to the school being served by a septic sewer system.
- **Fruitland Elementary** – 2+ Restroom portable, however this site lacks core facility space.
- **Maplewood Elementary** – No room
- **Meeker Elementary** – No room
- **Karshner Elementary** – 8 portables + Restroom portable, however this site lacks core facility space.
- **Stewart Elementary** – No room
- **Shaw Road Elementary** – 4 Portables
- **Wildwood Elementary** – 4 portables + Restroom portable, however this site lacks core facility space.
- **Sunrise Elementary** – No room

Core facilities are important in consideration of portable placement as lack of core facilities can lead to other service problems. An example of a core facility is the kitchen, if we move additional portables to a site but they have a small kitchen this can lead to a service problem as they will not be able to handle the increase in student population. Other core facilities can be gyms, bathrooms, and commons areas.

Brady next reviewed additional considerations the taskforce should keep in mind moving forward:

- Move Cost and Setup each **$350K**
- Restroom Portable Addition **$600K**
- Core facility needs such as inadequate Kitchens, Commons and Gym Space
- Septic vs sewer sites
- Site supervision and placement

Brady reminded the taskforce that none of the money being mentioned regarding portable movement here is part of the Capital Levy funds as those funds already have planned projects and commitments.

During this section of the meeting a question was posed to both Brady and Brian:

- Question: How much would it be to get a school moved from a septic system to a non-septic system?
    - Potentially **Millions, depending on the distance and depth of the closest public sewer connection to the school building.**

Waller Road Elementary Feasibility Study

Information that was shared about Waller Road at Meeting 1 was summarized for the committee. Below is the summarized information:

- Built in 1920 then expanded in 1936 and 1960.
- Remodeled in 1985.
- The building has a Condition Assessment Score of 40.
- Without portables, the school could serve up to 238 students.
- Current Enrollment: 309 K-6 students.
- The only Puyallup School District school that is located on tribal lands.

To further expand on the reasoning of the Condition Assessment Score, Brian presented the committee with a summary of the challenges Waller Road faces currently:

- Challenge: Waller Road Elementary School serves K-6 in the west area of the district. The existing school **does not have an adequate library, cafeteria, or gym** and **does not meet other District standards** (special ed, offices and projects spaces). The location of the main office for supervision purposes is poor. Parking and traffic circulation need improvement. The school has 8 portable classrooms. The existing building, due to its age, has **systems that are reaching or beyond the end of its useful life**. The existing building is eligible for State match modernization funding.

Table/Group Exercise and Comments

Once information on Waller Road was reviewed, Brian had the taskforce begin a table exercise to review

the information presented and develop potential alternative housing options. Transition to Kindergarten is a program at Waller Road that could be relocated independently. Brian clarified that scenarios developed tonight would help form alternative housing plan options that would be packaged and brought forward again to the task force for additional input.

Next, Brian briefly spoke on the Dual Language program as this program should be considered during this exercise.

- Karshner Elementary – The Dual Language Program will occupy available space at Karshner for the foreseeable future.
- Dessie Evans Elementary. DL classes from Dessie Evans will begin feeding into the DL program at Aylen Junior High beginning next year. This year, 14 7th grade DL students from Karshner Elementary initiated the program at Aylen. DL program leaders have shared the following DL staffing plan currently and over the next 2 years.
    - 2025 – 2026 School Year: 1 Dual Language Teacher
    - 2026 – 2027 School Year: 2 Dual Language Teachers
    - 2027 – 2028 School Year: 3 Dual Language Teachers
    - Dessie Evans dual language program is expected to bring an additional 90 students by 2027-2028 school year above the school's current enrollment projection. Brian asked the task force to add 90 students to the projected enrollment when considering available space at Aylen Junior High.

For the exercise, the task force was separated into four groups. Below are the 4 table groups with member/participant names and a summary of their comments/ideas made during the table exercise:

Table 1 – Maricella, Victoria, Michelle, Julie, Glenn

Questions/Comments:

1. Why are we giving priority to Dual Language when Karshner has room to support Waller Road students?

2. Placing feeder schools' 6th graders at Aylen will be another Junior High/6th grade discrepancy from the rest of the district (together with Edgemont JH).

3. Why not send all 6th graders from Aylen Feeder Schools (Karshner, Maplewood, Fruitland, Waller Road) to Aylen?

Waller Road Track Relocation notes:

- Tracks 206, 207, 213 reassigned to Fruitland (requires 2 additional portable classrooms)
- Track 217 to Meeker
- Tracks 214-216 to Maplewood
- Track 228 to Karshner

Table 2 – Brad, Daniel, Ed, Sari, Meagan

Questions/Comments:

1. Move 6th graders from Aylen Elementary feeder schools to Aylen. Add four portable classrooms if needed.
2. Relocate the TK program to another elementary school independently.
3. Comment from a parental perspective: Keep feeder schools together and move them to Aylen as it would keep the student's and parent's sense of community.

Waller Road Track relocation notes:

- Tracks 207, 216, 217 reassigned to Maplewood.
- Tracks 206, 213-215, 228 to Fruitland. Add 2 portable classrooms at Fruitland

Table 3 – Quavion, Sarah, MacKenzie, Chris, Joel

- Add up to 4 portable classrooms at Aylen JH, giving Fruitland, Maplewood, Karshner more space. Split multiple neighborhood tracks.
- Scenarios of splitting Tracks were shared. See picture of Group 3 map board for more details. Comment was made about this plan minimizing the number of additional portables needed compared to others shared.

Table 4 – Mark, Julie, David, Bob

Questions/Comments:

1. Shift 6th grade at elementary feeder schools (Fruitland, Maplewood, Karshner, Waller Road) to Aylen with 4 portables. Add 2 portables to Fruitland, move multiple neighborhood tracks. The group indicated a question of how many classrooms there are at each elementary feeder school. Staff have added this information into the meeting minutes for consideration.
    - Fruitland – 3 classrooms at 29 student/class avg. w/ waivers
    - Maplewood – 2 classrooms at 28 students/class avg. w/ waivers
    - Karshner – 2 classrooms at 18.5 students/class avg. w/ waivers + 1 DL 6th grade class with 21 students.
    - Waller Road – 2 classrooms at 20.5 students/class avg. w/ waivers.

Waller Road Track Relocation notes:

- Tracks 206, 207, 213, 215, & 216 reassigned to Fruitland with the addition of 2 portable classrooms.
- Tracks 214,217,228 to Maplewood

Parking Lot Questions

At the conclusion of the meeting, there was one question submitted in the virtual Parking Lot:

Question: Do elementary students currently attend school via an approved waiver need to apply each year?

Brian shared that it was his understanding that elementary waivers were grandfathered at a school once approved. Students need to reapply again when enrolling in junior high. However, he commented that he would research this further and report his findings at Meeting 3.

Closing

Brian thanked the committee members for their time. Brian also reminded the taskforce once again about the QR code for the Parking Lot and asks the taskforce to leave any questions or comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Meeting # 3
October 28, 2025
Karshner Museum and Center – 309 4th St NE, Puyallup, WA 98372