Architectural consultant firms have been selected to begin the design process to construct a new elementary school in the southwest area of the district and to replace and enlarge Firgrove and Northwood elementary schools. In an effort to relieve overcrowding, these schools will be built to accommodate more students. Firgrove and Northwood will each be replaced with a larger 30 home room classroom elementary on their existing sites. The new elementary school will be constructed with 44 home room classrooms.

The district advertised to the public in May 2015 for interested licensed architectural firms to submit their qualifications for the bond projects as approved by voters in the November 3, 2015 General Election. Fourteen firms’ submitted statements of qualifications for pre-design, design, contract administration, and other related professional services for new construction, replacement, or major remodel projects.

Each firm’s proposal was evaluated by a Phase I selection committee made up of district operations, capital projects, and construction staff. Four firms were then interviewed by a Phase II interview committee with eight members, including the Chief Operations Officer, Director of Educational Planning, Construction Director, Director of Capital Projects, and three elementary principals. This committee evaluated candidates on organizational criteria, design approach and qualifications, elementary school expertise, and educational specifications knowledge. The interview team also toured elementary schools in the area that were designed by each of the firms.

The Puyallup School Board approved the recommended rank order of the top four architectural firms, as scored by the committees, at the July 2, 2015 school board meeting.

The architectural firms selected to begin work in 2016 on the bond projects are:

**mahlum**

**Mahlum – Replace and enlarge Firgrove Elementary**

“We are fueled by the belief that our work serves communities and fosters connections. As a result we are adept listeners who thrive on engagement and advocate a collaborative process that invites participation by people who have a vested interest in success: students, teachers, staff, administrators, alumni, parents, and neighbors.”

**NAC**

**NAC – Construct New Elementary School**

“The projects in the next phase of your long term development plan are a terrific opportunity to build on the success the district has worked so hard at over the past several years. Our approach to designing schools is founded on a commitment to create a great learning environment that aligns with the District’s educational approach, while developing a connection to the site, setting, and community.”
Studio Meng Strazzara – Replace and enlarge Northwood Elementary
“For over 30 years, we have partnered with districts across the Pacific Northwest to create exceptional learning environments. Either through renovations and upgrades to existing facilities or all-new schools, the foundation of our firm has been built on our work with educational facilities. We pride ourselves in delivering outstanding, award-winning learning environments, and are excited to have an opportunity to provide the Puyallup School District students and staff with safe and healthy environments that focus on teaching and learning.”

Additionally, the district is studying designs for a state funded class size reduction grant that may provide in excess of 28 additional classrooms. The classrooms would be built as additions to several elementary schools. The architectural firm selected to begin work on the class size reduction project is: BCRA

BCRA – Class size reduction grant projects
“Puyallup’s unprecedented growth at the elementary level, coupled with the state’s desire for full-day kindergarten and smaller class sizes have created a significant need for more classrooms. Over the past decade, BCRA has appreciated the opportunities we have had to work with Puyallup School District on projects and through committee participation. This involvement has given us insight into the current condition of the facilities, how the Puyallup School District is dealing with the challenges of growth, and the shift in student population within school boundaries.”

Director of Capital Projects Gary Frentress stated “The district received proposals from 14 highly qualified firms. I believe we chose the best of the best for our projects. The designs will benefit greatly from the knowledge and skills they bring to the work.”

Architectural assignments for the bond projects to remodel and enlarge Pope Elementary and to replace and enlarge Sunrise Elementary will be assigned in approximately one year as defined by the Bond Projects schedule.