

Enrollment Preferences Task Force Minutes: Meeting #4
Monday, March 24, 2013
6:30 pm- Buena Vista Conference Center

Task Force members present:

- Representative Kim Williams, Delaware House of Representatives, Co-Chair
- Senator David Sokola, Delaware State Senate
- Secretary Mark Murphy, Delaware Department of Education
- Randall Hughes, Delaware State Board of Education
- Frederika Jenner, Delaware State Education Association
- Susan Francis, Delaware School Board Association
- Dr. Matthew Donovan, Delaware Association of School Administrators
- Dr. Mervin Daugherty, New Castle County Superintendent
- Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Kent County Superintendent
- Dr. Deborah Zych, Superintendent from Polytech
- Dr. Allen Lathbury, Superintendent from Sussex Tech
- Mark Pruitt, Magnet School Representative
- Diane Ruth, Charter School Representative
- Donald Mell, Charter School Representative
- Catherine Hegedus, Parent Representative

Staff present:

- Mark Brainard Jr., Delaware House of Representatives
- Fran Fletcher, University of Delaware

Members Absent:

- Senator Nicole Poore, Delaware State Senate, Co-Chair
- Representative Darryl Scott, Delaware House of Representatives
- Yvonne Johnson, Delaware Parent Teacher Association (Liz Toney attended)
- Chuck Taylor, Charter School Network (Kendall Massett attended)
- Terri Hancharick, Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
- Lindsay O'Mara, Governor's Office
- Dr. David Ring Superintendent from Sussex County
- Dr. Victoria Gehrt, Superintendent from New Castle County Vo-Tech (Kathy Demarest attended)
- Julie Rumschlag, Magnet School Representative
- Dr. Terri Hodges, Parent Representative (Bill Doolittle attended)
- Elizabeth Lockman, Parent Representative (Eve Buckley attended)
- Gary Stockbridge, Delaware Business Roundtable

Public attendees:

- Michael Oboryshko, Community Member
 - Henry Clampitt, Community Member
 - Ron Russo, Community Member
 - Nelia Dolan, Community Member
 - Debbie Dolde, New Castle County Vo-Tech
 - Mike Matthews, President of RCEA
 - Nancy Willing, Community Member
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Meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

1. Introduction

Rep. Kim Williams, co-chair, began the meeting by handing out a copy of a letter from Richard A. Morse of the American Civil Liberties Union of Delaware. Representative Williams mentioned that as the task force is nearing the end of its work, there will be discussions about possible action items moving forward. Appointed members of the Enrollment Preference Task Force were encouraged to be in attendance at the next meeting as the task force hopes to move forward with recommendations. She then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the third meeting. The motion is made by Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, seconded by Frederika Jenner, and unanimously adopted by the task force. Finally, Representative Williams turned the meeting over to Fran Fletcher of the University of Delaware who would be facilitating the rest of the meeting.

2. Group Work

Fran Fletcher put the task force back into the small groups from the previous meeting to finish work on the packet. This packet is a 19-page document of information requested on various charter, magnet, and vo-tech applications and forms. The requested information was divided into various categories including behavior/discipline, parent/guardian questions, pre-admission requirements, special education/related services, marketing, extra-curricular activities, student questions, pre-K/child find, family information, languages, attendance, accessibility, attachments with application, teacher questions, and academics. The groups looked at each question and were asked to determine, individually, at which point, if at all, during the application process it was appropriate to ask that information. Each groups' findings will be presented at the next meeting. The groups were broken down:

Group 1: Dr. Deborah Zych, Catherine Hegedus, Kathy Demarest, Kendall Massett

Group 2: Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Eve Buckley, Secretary Mark Murphy, Donald Mell, Dr. Matthew Donovan

Group 3: Representative Kim Williams, Diane Ruth, Bill Doolittle, Mark Pruitt, Senator Dave Sokola

Group 4: Frederika Jenner, Sue Francis, Liz Toney, Dr. Merv Daugherty, Dr. Allen Lathbury

****Note: Digital copies of the ACLU letter and other documents from this meeting can be found on***

<http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/TaskForces.nsf/113411bdd5de74d385257b3b005e343c/49b267f532b422d185257b6c0061a658?OpenDocument>

3. Open Discussion

At 8:07pm, Fran Fletcher asked each group to walk around and take a look at the various comments other groups had made. At 8:17pm, the meeting was officially called back to order by Ms. Fletcher. She asked if anyone had suggestions on how to, collectively, make recommendations. Diane Ruth suggested that a mechanism between consensus and majority rule be employed because simple majority rule is not fully representative of the entire group. Catherine Hegedus asked where the recommendations would go from here. Would it be a bill in the General Assembly? Representative Williams explained the recommendations would be the subject of an official report, and if changes to current law are recommended, it would be in a piece of legislation brought before the General Assembly. Fran Fletcher brought the conversation back to the process of making recommendations. How did this group want to move forward with action items? Donald Mell mentioned that he believed a majority of members were in agreement on a number of items. On other items, some of the differing opinions may be worked out and a consensus could be reached. There will be a minority of subjects that will not be able to be agreed upon or more context would be needed for further discussion. Donald Mell further elaborated that it may be appropriate to have a majority report and a minority report. Catherine Hegedus expressed agreement

with that concept. Fran Fletcher asked for any differing views on Mr. Mell's suggestion. Seeing none, she began to discuss the next meeting and moving forward with the areas in which the task force is in agreement while beginning to highlight what areas may need further discussion in order to reach a consensus. Secretary Mark Murphy asked if this would be based on an aggregation of the packet because some of the rows in the packet were similar or identical to other rows. Frederika Jenner mentioned some redundancies through the packet. There are different versions of the same issue across applications such as legal guardianship. Fran Fletcher agreed that two sets of data will be provided to the members before the next meeting, one of strictly raw data without any aggregated results and one with some of the redundancies removed. Eve Buckley asked what would constitute consensus with regards to making recommendations. Diane Ruth expressed that she believed consensus meant the group would come to a place of mutual understanding beyond majority rule and minority dissent. Kendall Massett points out that looking over the comments already made, there is consensus on a number of issues. Representative Williams suggested that after each member goes through the data on their own, a decision would be made at the next meeting on how to move forward with issues that are not universally agreed upon.

4. Public Comment

Nancy Willing was hoping for the data to be released to the public; the data was not being released because it was not completed. Nancy stated if she had known, she would have not attended this meeting and wasted her time.

5. Next Steps

Next meeting: April 7th, 2014 at the Buena Vista Conference Center from 6:30pm-8:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

*****NOTE: The meetings for April 7th and May 5th were cancelled. The next meeting will take place on Thursday May 22nd, 2014 at the Buena Vista Conference Center from 6:30pm-8:30pm.*****