

Task Force to Study the Advisability of Starting the School Year After Labor Day
Wednesday, February 6, 2014 (9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)
DEDO Large Conference Room
Dover, Delaware
MINUTES

Attendance:

Margaret M. Dean, House of Representatives for Rep. Gray & Sen. Hocker
Karen Field Rogers, Department of Education
Allen F. Lathbury, Jr., Ed.D., Sussex Tech District Office
Kendall Massett, Delaware Charter School Network
Linda Parkowski, Delaware Tourism Office
Ronald Pierce, Delaware School Boards Association
Eric Ruth, Delaware Tourism Office
Representative Stephen Smyk

The meeting of the Task Force was called to order by Chairperson Linda Parkowski at 9:30 a.m.

Approval of 12/12/13 Meeting Minutes

A quorum was not in attendance minutes to be approved at the February 26, 2014 meeting

Reports from Task Force Members

Surveys were submitted via email by:

- Adele Jones representing DSEA Executive Board, DE Association of Visiting Teachers and Sussex County Interagency Council for Children and Families provided that they are all in favor of school starting after Labor Day. Adele also polled the district superintendent for Cape Henlopen who is in favor of schools developing their own calendar. The district superintendent for Indian River is in favor of starting after Labor Day since that is what the local community needs.
- Glenn Byrum representing Grotto Pizza, submitted that their executive board is totally in favor of late school start. They have seen a significant drop in business since the calendar was changed. Labor Day used to rank 2 of 3 for the major summer holiday weekends and is now a distant 3rd.
- Scott Reihm representing DE Association of School Board Administrators provided that 164/428 members responded and 39% were in favor of late school start.

Surveys were submitted at the meeting by:

- A.J. Lathbury representing the Chief School Officers Association
- Kendall Massett representing the Charter Schools of Delaware
- Ronald Pierce representing DE School Boards Association

All of the above organizations are in favor of allowing schools to decide the start date.

Karen Field Rogers submitted via email after the meeting her findings of Eastern Shore school district start dates.

An updated list will be distributed with the minutes to all Task Force members.

Linda Parkowski reported that speakers from Maryland and Virginia have been secured for the next two meetings. Linda is also trying to ascertain whether Sen. Hocker introduced a resolution to extend the due date of the report to January 13, 2015.

Path Forward Discussion

Margaret Dean to make contact with Controller General regarding study or possibility of hiring an outside organization to perform economic impact study.

Public Comment

Eleanor La Prade, Delaware State News was in attendance.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.