

# **Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools**

**Materials of Interest  
January 7, 2014 Meeting**

## **Materials of Interest by Speaker**

**Dr. Lillian M. Lowery, State Superintendent, Maryland State Department of Education**

**Dr. Michael J. Martirano, Superintendent, St. Mary's County Public Schools**

**November 6, 2013 Letter from the Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland**

Refer to document provided at the November 12, 2013 meeting.

**Mr. Franklin Chaney, Chief of Recreation Services, Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks**

## **Various Newspaper Articles Concerning Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools**

**"Task Force Debating Delaying School Year to After Labor Day," Fox 45 News, November 12, 2013**

News clip featuring Senator Jim Matthias, Mr. Howard M. Mosner, and Dr. Carl Roberts. Link to the news clip is <http://foxbaltimore.com/news/features/featured/stories/task-force-debating-delaying-school-year-after-labor-day-2403.shtml>.

**"Muslim holidays not added to Montgomery school calendar," Gazette, November 12, 2013**

Article provides follow up to the September 18, 2013 article that the Equity for Eid Coalition's efforts to persuade Montgomery County Public Schools to close school for the Muslim Holidays was unsuccessful. Montgomery County Public Schools will not be adding Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr to their calendar as official holidays.

**"Montgomery Schools take no action on Muslim holidays," the Washington Post, November 16, 2013**

Article reports that the Montgomery County school system adopted its calendar for next year without voting on the question of giving students off for the major Muslim holidays. However, members of the Montgomery County Board of Education indicated that they would continue to study the issue. Next school year the holidays of Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr fall on non-school days.

**“Franchot continues push for post-Labor Day school start,” Southern Maryland News Papers Online, December 13, 2013**

Article reports that at a recent event to promote his art initiative, Franchot continued to seek support to push back the start of schools and indicates that , “it’s a great idea...it’s ultimately going to happen.... it is very popular with parents.” Superintendent Michael Martirano reported “it is not a sound instructional decision.” He further indicated that the Maryland Superintendents have come out against the idea and (Martirano) has sent a letter to the committee advising against the change.

**“Franchot should stop meddling,” Southern Maryland News Papers Online, December 18, 2013**

Letter to the editor from Terri Van Asdlen, concerning the December 13, 2013 article, “Franchot continues push for post-Labor Day school start.” Ms. Van Asdlen expresses her concern about, “how the duties of the comptroller have a bearing on school year start dates.” She further questions the job duties of the state comptroller and state, “that other than state taxes supporting public education; she fails to see how the comptroller’s office and the Department of Education are connected.” Finally she states, “Franchot’s statements that the, “education bureaucracy will put up a lot of resistance” and “it’s a great idea, it’s ultimately going to happen” are divisive, insipid, and egotistical.”

**Documents from Mr. Thomas Noonan, CEO, Visit Baltimore**

**“An Economic Analysis of the Changing School Start Date in Texas,” Susan Combs, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, December 2000**

The purpose of this report was to study how a uniform start date would affect education and the economic issues surrounding that decision. The findings of this report indicate that in tourist destination areas there was at least \$332 million dollars lost due to an early school start date. Furthermore, 65% of Texans indicated that parents would prefer a uniform start date and that the children of migrant workers would benefit most from that decision.

**“South Carolina Early School Start Dates and the South Carolina Travel and Tourism Industries: An Analysis of Economic &Tax Revenue Impacts,” Stephan C. Morse, Ph.D., Professor & Economist School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management, University of South Carolina, August 2002**

The purpose of this report is to examine the effects and impacts of early school start dates in South Carolina on the Travel and Tourism economy of the State. This report concludes that South Carolina schools have moved start dates up by as much as three weeks and that this shift in start date has been associated with lower tourism activity in August, which has not been offset by an increase in June. Furthermore, schools have incurred higher utility costs associated with cooling school buildings due to the hot weather in August. Finally, under one scenario it is estimated that if 40% of families took one more vacation in the year the impact would be \$180 million in tourism related spending, \$6 million in new state tax revenue, and \$2.3 million in new local tax revenue.

**“Impact of a Uniform School Year on Florida’s Economy,” The Florida Senate, Interim Project Report 2003-112 Committee on Commerce and Economic Opportunities, January 2003**

The purpose of this interim report was to examine whether or not later school start dates would benefit the state’s economy, specifically the tourism industry, without harming the public school system. It was determined that there was not any currently available data that indicated starting schools later would benefit the state’s economy. In fact it was found that, the current early start dates may have only changed the timing of tourism revenue and expenditures. Therefore, the committee recommended against enacting uniform school start date or calendar at this time.

**“Post Labor Day School Start Dates in Tennessee: An Analysis of the Economic and Tax Revenue Impacts on Tennessee Travel and Tourism Industry,” Steve Morse, Ph.D., Director & Economist Tourism Institute Department of Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Management, University of Tennessee, January 2008**

The purpose of this report was to 1) determine if a post labor day start would influence Tennessee residents’ summer travel plans, and 2) to estimate potential economic impact on state tax, local tax, and payroll. The report concluded that approximately 463,000 Tennessee residents would take an additional vacation during the summer if school started after Labor Day and approximately 223,000 residents would extend their vacation through the holiday weekend. It is anticipated that extending the summer would generate \$189 million in tourist spending, \$73 million in statewide payroll, and create more than 2600 jobs.

**“Do families vacation more in the summer when school starts after Labor Day?” Elton Mykerezzi, Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota and Genti Kostandini, Assistant Professor, Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics, University of Georgia, July 23, 2012**

This study indicates that states have historically struggled to accommodate the competing interests of the varied stakeholders in determining whether to mandate a post Labor Day start to schools. This study used data from the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) to examine the differences in family travel patterns from 2005-2010 in five states that have mandated start times. Some of these start times are pre-labor day and some are post. Findings indicated families were 50% more likely to take a two night or more trip in August or September if there was a post Labor Day start date.

***Special Note:*** Mr. Noonan referenced the aforementioned studies in his testimony on November 12, 2013 and asked that all provided documents be copied and be distributed to task force members. Due to the size of the documents, it was agreed by all members that copies would be provided at the January meeting. If outside entities are interested in obtaining a copy of a specific report please contact Dr. Kristine Angelis at [Kangelis@msde.state.md.us](mailto:Kangelis@msde.state.md.us).