

Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start Date for Maryland Public Schools
Minutes
September 17, 2013 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by William Cappe, Chairman, at 1:03 PM.

Attendance: 15 task force members (See attendance log), William Cappe, Chair, Sarah Spross, Co-Chair, and Kris Angelis, Administrator, were present. There were 10 observers at the meeting (See sign-in sheet).

Mr. Cappe welcomed the members of the task force and thanked them for their time and efforts for their service on the task force. The make-up of the task force includes 2 Maryland delegates, 2 Maryland senators, teachers, local school system administrators, business leaders, the Teacher's Union, the Maryland Tourism Board, an elementary, middle, and high school parent, and a high school student. These individuals represent approximately ten counties in Maryland.

Mr. Cappe stressed the importance of the task force, each person's voice on it, and the resulting report to the Governor which will be completed June 30, 2014.

Sarah Spross, Co-chair of the task force, also welcomed members of the task force to the first meeting and had each member introduce themselves to the other members. Senator John Astle, District 30, Anne Arundel County, and Senator James Mathias, District 38, Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico Counties, welcomed the task force members.

Delegate Anne Healey, District 22, Prince George's County, was unable to attend and sent a letter to the committee which was read by Sarah Spross (Attached). Delegate LeRoy Myers, Jr., District 1C, Allegany and Washington Counties, was unable to attend and was represented by his aide Renee Novak.

Administrative Details: Mr. Cappe shared administrative information with the group advising if there are any changes to the location, time, etc., it will be posted on the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) website (www.marylandpublicschools.org) or members will receive communication from either Sarah or him. Mr. Cappe, Ms. Spross, Dr. Angelis, all from MSDE, are here to support the task force members as needed.

This task force is a multi-member public body and as such comes under the Open Meetings Act; therefore, all business of the task force must be conducted in an open and public manner. Mr. Cappe again reiterated the importance of each member's voice in these proceedings.

Chapter 336: As sponsor of the bill, Senator Mathias was asked to introduce Chapter 336 (Senate Bill 963). He shared the importance of education in our state as Maryland has been number one in the country for the past five years. He explained that his district ranges from tourism to agriculture, and the last week of summer is very important to his district. He is seeking a creative discussion that will find a workable solution to smartly educating our students

while supporting teachers, acknowledging the importance of pre-Labor Day revenue, and that relationship to the economy of Maryland.

Charge of the Task Force: Mr. Cappe shared the focus of the task force:

The Task Force shall study the impact of moving the start date of the public school year in the State to after Labor Day on the following areas:

- The education system including the academic calendar, planning, administration, and facilities use:
- The economy; and
- Summer tourism.

If during the task force's discussions, topics not germane to the charge are identified, the topics will be captured on a "Parking Lot" board for future consideration by appropriate committees.

Review of Materials: Each task force member was given a folder that captured current information through September 13, 2013 from newspapers, television, and radio about start dates for school district. Additionally, the folders contained materials relating to air conditioning in school systems, projected school starts, ten years of historical perspective on school start dates in order to provide members a foundation to begin their discussion.

Assignment of Groups: The task force was divided into three subgroups (refer to committee list) with each subgroup representing one of three prongs of the legislation. Each group has six members that represent the various interests of the group in order to provide a balance of views in each subgroup. Each group will be expected to provide a briefing on their topic at the February meeting, and each subgroup was given a flash drive to capture their information electronically in order for it to be captured in the task force's final report. At approximately 1:40 PM the task force broke into their subgroups to begin discussion on their topic.

Meeting dates: The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2013, at 1 PM at the West County Public Library in Odenton. Speakers have been scheduled for that meeting and will include Ms. Teresa Tutor, Senior Manager, School and Family Partnerships, Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Dr. Bernard Sadusky; Mr. Edward Sparks, Executive Director, Sports Programs, MSDE; Dr. Carl Roberts, Executive Director of Public School Administrators; Mr. David Reel, President and CEO of Maryland Hotel and Lodging Association; and Mr. John Woolums, Maryland Association of Board of Education.

The task force was asked if there were any other individuals who the committee would like to either receive information from or have speak to the group. The task force members suggested: Ray Leone, President, Maryland PTAs; Comptroller Peter Franchot; economist Anirban Basu, chairman and CEO, Sage Policy Group, Inc.; someone from the Maryland Tourism Board, however, it was noted by a member of the task force that we have a representative from this organization; the Farm Bureau; superintendents from school districts that start after Labor Day; or higher education. It was suggested that information could be provided for the record from the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, business advocacy groups, various mayors or council

members from towns affected across the state. This meeting may have to be extended depending on the number of people scheduled to present.

Task force members posed various questions:

- Baltimore Inner Harbor had not been discussed and the impact on Orioles and Ravens games. It was suggested someone from the Cornish Group be invited to answer questions;
- Moving testing dates for the various testing students take including Advanced Placement (AP) exams, Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) exams, Maryland School Assessments (MSA), High School Assessments (HSA), and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PAARC);
- What is the premise for the 180 instructional days for schools (COMAR 13A.02.01.04) or schools open for 1,170 hours (COMAR 13A.03.02.12);
- Can an individual telecommute to the meetings?
(Library apparently does not have the capacity for telecommuting.)
- Can a member send someone else in their place? Mr. Cappe reiterated that each member was appointed by the Governor and having someone represent them would not fulfill their responsibility to the task force.
- Can additional dates for the task force to meet be added if necessary?

Mr. Cappe ended the meeting at approximately 2:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Angelis, Ph.D.
Administrator