

**Task Force to Study the Advisability of Starting the School Year After Labor Day
Thursday, December 12, 2013 (9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)
DEDO Large Conference Room
Dover, Delaware
MINUTES**

Attendance:

Glenn Byrum, Grotto Pizza
Mervin Daugherty, Red Clay Consolidated School
Karen Field Rogers, Department of Education
Susan Francis, Delaware School Boards Association
Bryan Gordon, Aide to Senator Sokola
Senator Gerald Hocker
Adele Jones, Sussex Central High School/DSEA board member
Phyllis Kohel, Milford School District
Paul Kuhns,
Allen F. Lathbury, Jr., Ed.D., Sussex Tech District Office
Dorothy A. Linn, Ed.D., Colonial School District
Keith Martin, Hotel Rehoboth
Kendall Massett, Delaware Charter School Network
Linda Parkowski, Delaware Tourism Office
Ronald Pierce, Delaware School Boards Association
G. Scott Reihm, Delaware Association of School Administrators
Ronald Steen, Steen's Beach Service

The meeting of the Task Force was called to order by Chairperson Linda Parkowski at 9:33 a.m.

Introductions

Introductions were made by each member

Senate Concurrent Resolution #22

Senator Hocker explained the need for the resolution and how Delaware's summer seasons are shrinking and we only have two major sources of income for the state-Agriculture and Tourism. Senator Hocker also noted how school starting prior to Labor Day is causing an economic hardship to Delaware.

Senator Hocker did advise the group that he represents the resort areas and had asked for only one member to be appointed to the board-Ron Steen-who can speak for small businesses and is a former educator. The other members selected as per the resolution.

Charge of the Task Force

Linda Parkowski explained the responsibilities of the Task Force, to study the impact of late school start on:

- The education system-academic calendar, planning, administration & facilities use
- The economy
- Summer tourism

Additional Information Needed

Group discussed what additional information is needed before a recommendation can be made to the General Assembly and Governor.

The list was agreed upon as follows:

1. Controller General Study
2. Worker Study-how many Delaware high school students in workforce as well as total overall high school workforce
3. Speaker from Virginia, which has already adopted school starting after Labor Day and one from Maryland who is currently studying this topic
4. Copies of other surrounding states (NJ and PA) academic calendars
5. Each member of the board will survey their respective organizations to ascertain their input regarding school starting after Labor Day

Path Forward Discussion

- Group agreed to meet once a month until May 2014
- Task Force due date for report will need to be amended from January 2014 to a later date
- Secure speakers from Virginia and Maryland

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.