

School Start Times Task Force

Meeting 11 – August 27, 2014

Minutes

Members Attending: M. McMahon, K. Lane, C. Truffer, H. MacIntosh, D. Batten, K. Chandler, P. Bukowski, C. Streeter, J. Horstkamp, T. Tudor, K. Snyder,

Absent Members: G. LeGrand, W. McIntire, W. Meyers, F. Chaney

Also in Attendance: L. Grey-Hawkins (recorder), J. Pfister

Maureen welcomed the group and informed the Task Force that they were scheduled to present their findings/recommendations to the Board of Education on Wednesday, October 8, 2014. Once the agenda for the meeting is finalized, Maureen would provide the Task Force with a more accurate time-window of when they would most likely present so that as many members of the Task Force could attend as possible. Kathy reminded the Task Force that there would only be one more face-to-face Task Force meeting before presenting their findings to the Board. To prepare, this meeting needed to focus on finalizing the pros and cons for each start time option, reviewing and providing input for additional FAQs and other website components, and providing input to the Executive Summary.

The Task Force moved to the computer lab where they began by reviewing the website. Lauren Grey-Hawkins presented an overview of changes made since the last meeting, including: a new page with Definitions, an FAQ page that included the question offered by the Task Force (these suggested questions were collected through the survey provided after August 20, Meeting 10), and a page devoted to the issue of Health and School Start Times.

Maureen and Kathy explained that based on input gathered by the survey released after Meeting 10, they condensed the pros and cons for each option and highlighted pros and cons that some members of the Task Force pointed out as being relevant. Maureen asked all Task Force members to provide additional feedback, through a worksheet, on suggestions/changes to the pros and cons for each option. Each member of the Task Force also considered and submitted additional questions that parents and members of the community may have regarding the options; we will add these to the FAQ page.

The Task Force had another opportunity to review the website for themselves and offer feedback and suggestions. During this review, the Task Force discussed the validity of the claim made on the website that elementary school students have a “optimal learning time” earlier in the day—a claim that was provided as a pro for Options A and B and a con for Options C and D. The Task Force came to the consensus that there is not enough research to support this claim and agreed to remove the definition of “optimal learning time” from the website and as a pro/con. In addition, The Task Force suggested changing the term “Task Force Assumptions” to “Task Force Beliefs,” and decided to revise the format for the FAQs and Meetings Timeline to be more user-friendly. Finally, the Task Force also agreed that certain definitions were especially important to include as pop-up boxes whenever the word was used including the terms: “tiers,” “hybrid,” and “adolescent.”

Kathy then introduced the Task Force to the first draft of the Executive Summary. Kathy reminded the group that this Summary was designed to be brief and to only serve as an introduction to the website where all of the options and findings were held. Each member of the Task Force received an electronic copy of the Executive Summary and was asked to make his or her own changes. At the end of the meeting, the Task Force returned their changes to Kathy who would incorporate into the next draft.

At the end of the meeting, Kathy and Maureen assured the Task Force that they would continue to make updates to the website and offer the group another opportunity to review at their final meeting.

Next meeting:

September 9, 2014

5:00-7:00 pm

Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Conference Room 2A

2644 Riva Rd

Annapolis, MD 21401.