

Canton School Committee Minutes of the District Calendar Task Force Workshop of February 17, 2022

CHS Distance Learning Lab

Start time: 5:02pm

Present:

Kristian Merenda, School Committee Chair  
Nichola Gallagher, School Committee Vice Chair, and DCTF Co-chair  
Maureen Moran, School Committee Clerk  
Kendall O'Halloran, School Committee Member  
Laura Arboleda, School Committee Member (arrived at 5:14)  
Derek Folan, Interim Superintendent  
Stephen Marshall, Director of Finance and Operations  
Sarah Shannon, Interim Assistant Superintendent  
Deborah Rooney, Director of Teaching and Learning  
Dianna Mullen, Director of Student Services  
Julie Shore Director of Technology and Digital Learning  
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary  
Kelly Hung, DCTF Co-chair

Discussion:

The meeting was held to update the full Committee on the work of the task force. A timeline was shared. Much clarification was needed to determine the scope and work of the task force. Some members expressed concern with the scope of the task force and how it may extend beyond what the Committee planned for. The calendar is expected to be presented and available to the public on March 24, 2022. Mr. Folan expressed the importance of being poised to bring a 2022-2023 school year calendar to the District in a timely manner. Mr. Folan and Chair Merenda recommended the decoupling of the calendar from other topics proposed by the task force (ie...holidays, religious observances, the number of early release days) and made the recommendation that only the proposal pertaining to early release should be brought forward for the 2022-2023 calendar. Mr. Folan would entertain the shift from Friday to Wednesday. All other in-depth work is to be presented at a later date. There was a request to bring forward a clean calendar. CTA approved starting before 9/1.

Concern was raised that the work of the task force has not been done collaboratively. There was a discussion about methodology. There was further discussion regarding the development of a staff survey to gauge insight into whether Wednesday or Friday is the preferred early release day. There was concern that doing a survey now posing any other professional learning options/early release options (i.e. 1x/mor, 2x/mo, weekly) may present some instability. Ms. Hung suggested that potentially waiting another year to delve into other calendar professional learning options could result in a potential learning loss.

The survey will ask the question of whether an early release of Wednesday or Friday is preferred. Doing the survey would allow the task force members to compile data. To be sent to teachers and staff. One factor and data point to be considered with the early release option is attendance.

Taskforce members shared some background information on how the work to date was compiled.

Committee members include parents, teachers, administrators and 1 School Committee member. Taskforce members bring experience from varying backgrounds.

If anything other than Friday's early release (current model) is brought forward there will be data behind it. Suggestion to look at data. Survey just for teachers. What is ideal for learning?

At this time, Ms. Gallagher explained that no religious holidays were being suggested for omission at this time.

Moving forward, all work of the DCTF will be discussed with the full Committee first. There will be no delivery of information and/or sharing publicly on any topic until/unless the Committee has time to review content.

The task force will finish the work it has planned, then Committee members will determine how to move forward.

End Time 6:00 pm