

Press Releases

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Rep. Casimiro elected chairwoman of commission studying RI high school start times

STATE HOUSE – Rep. Julie A. Casimiro (D-Dist. 31, North Kingstown, Exeter) has been elected the chairwoman of the 15-member House study commission that will examine all aspects involved in changing the start times of Rhode Island’s public high schools.



The commission, which held an organizational meeting this week, resulted from legislation (2017-H 5888A) sponsored by Representative Casimiro that passed the Rhode Island House of Representatives earlier this year.

“With increasing amounts of evidence that support earlier high school start times are detrimental to students’ health and learning capabilities, this commission is needed to study what would need to happen if Rhode Island high schools were to start at a later time,” said Representative Casimiro (D-Dist. 31, North Kingstown, Exeter). “I am looking forward to working with the commission and hearing the testimony of both the public and experts to determine what is in the best interests of the students in our state.”

The commission will examine the fiscal impact on school districts, relevant health and educational issues, and the coordination of state-wide afterschool activities in regards to changing public high school start times. The commission will report its findings to the House of Representatives no later than January 31, 2018.

The commission’s members include:

- Representative Casimiro
- Rep. Susan R. Donovan (D-Dist. 69, Bristol, Portsmouth)
- Lt. Governor Daniel McKee
- Dr. Phil Auger, Superintendent of the North Kingstown School District
- Robert Mitchell, Superintendent of the Cumberland School District
- Colleen Burns Jermain, Superintendent of the Newport School District
- Donna Policastro, Executive Director of the American Nurses Association RI
- Robert Walsh, Executive Director of NEARI
- Dr. Colleen Callahan, RI Board of Education, Council on Elementary and Secondary Education
- Timothy Duffy, Executive Director of the RI Association of School Committees
- Tom Mezzanotte, Executive Director of the RI Interscholastic League
- Keith Oliveira, Executive Director of the League of Charter Schools
- Andy Andrade, Intergovernmental Relations, RI Department of Education
- Steve DeToy, RI Medical Society

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