

4:51 PM

64%

< Messages

Justin

Details

Wed, Apr 20, 12:40 PM

Any updates on BRC?

Working on it. Spoke to Governor this morning. Need to circle back with him when he get back to the office, which may not be until tomorrow.

Do you feel confident that the commission will meet Monday?

Yes.

And we are on a positive trajectory with the items you and I discussed

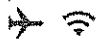
Thanks

Fri, Apr 22, 12:11 PM

The public is allowed to attend Monday's Blue Ribbon Commission right?

It's going to be an item of





4:51 PM

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Messages

Justin

Details

It's going to be an hour of discussion on Monday. Public has not been invited to the Blaine House. Breakfast will be served.

So no public on Monday? Even for elected leaders?

I meant even other Elected legislators

I'm not aware of other elected legislators that the Governor has invited to attend.

This decision to make any of the BRC meetings not open to the public does not make sense.

That decision has not been made

Monday will be a good chance for everyone to meet each other and discuss how you'd like that to work. I think it can go well.

Delivered



Messages



Aaron Chadbou...
[REDACTED]

CALL

MORE



Spoke to Governor. He says it's an advisory group with no decision making authority. All of their recommendations will be fully vetted by the Legislature in Jan. If anyone is uncomfortable then they don't need to participate.

MMS
8:06 AM

8:07 AM

Got it, thanks.



MEA videoed me talking to them about who is on the guest list, what the group would be doing, etc. I expect they'll post it

MMS
8:39 AM


8:40 AM

Okay, thanks. Fun stuff, eh?



Enter message



 Messages


Chadbourne

Details

Wed, Apr 20, 4:05 PM

Need your guidance on a press thing. Can you call me when you have a moment?

What's up? In car and not sure when I will be free


Blue Ribbon Commission. Alford and the education activists are preparing to go ape  that it's closed to the public and the press. Gov does not want press at all. Beardsley is ok with one reporter sitting in as long as it's not a statehouse reporter (e.g. Mistler / Cousins). I pitched that to the Gov (having Noel or Mal or the BDN's Ed guy) and he said no and then later called me back into the office and said we could hire our own person to sit in and write up an account of what happened and then share with the media

Which means he's still thinking



iMessage



 Messages

Chadbourne

Details

press. Gov does not want press at all. Beardsley is ok with one reporter sitting in as long as it's not a statehouse reporter (e.g. Mistler / Cousins). I pitched that to the Gov (having Noel or Mal or the BDN's Ed guy) and he said no and then later called me back into the office and said we could hire our own person to sit in and write up an account of what happened and then share with the media

Which means he's still thinking about it

I'd like to avoid a messy public fight over our lack of transparency before this even gets off the ground

Would love to know what you think we can / should do

And maybe have you discuss with him


Mon, Apr 25, 1:54 PM



iMessage

●●●○ AT&T LTE

12:45 PM

↑ * 69%  Messages

Avery

Details

Mon, Apr 25, 10:10 AM

Will defer to you on how you'd like to handle. They have me on video telling them that the Governor has only authorized us to let invitees into the BH

Also, Gov has invited anyone uncomfortable participating to leave. No one took him up on it.

I think our official line is that the group isn't transacting business. Do you have an agenda for today's mtg? Where might I find that?

I'm going to get back to AG's Office in a bit to tell them our position and that we aren't shutting down the meeting immediate.

Call Georgette at DOE... Not sure what they sent out

"Transacting business" might be a



Type a message

Send

< Messages

Avery

Details

"Transacting business" might be a stretch. It's an informational gathering. Presentations with background information from Mike Allen, Amanda Rector, OPM, university system, community college system and DOE.

They'll likely conclude with some discussions about what they might do together in the future



PAUL R. LEPADE
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
21 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0023

WILLIAM H. BEARDSLEY
COMMISSION CHAIR

April 21, 2016

Dear Blue Ribbon Commission Members:

Thank you so much for participating on the Commission. The stature of Commission members strongly suggests that, if we can find consensus on even a few higher order Maine Public K-20 education issues, we have the potential for arriving at grand bargains and follow-on action plans for transformative educational advancement in Maine. Government expenditures at all levels for Maine's public K-20 education system are now close to \$3 billion per year. This is a very challenging, high makes endeavor with very high potential rewards.

Attached is an agenda for our first meeting. Other information will be handed out at the meeting. The meeting will be held at the Blaine House on Monday, April 25, from 8:30 am until 11:30 am. If there are any questions, don't hesitate to give me a call at (207) 634-6620. I look forward to seeing you Monday.

Sincerely,

Bill Beardsley, Ph.D.
Commission Chair



Send

Blue Ribbon Commission on Maine Education Finance and Achievement

Priority Issues: 1) Public Education Finances and Expenditures

"How do we more effectively and equitably raise and spend over \$3 billion of local, state, and federal tax revenues per-year for Maine's public K-12 and higher education?"

2) Educational Achievement

"What are Maine's overarching public K-12 and higher education student achievement goals and how do we better align them with Maine's prosperity and quality of life aspirations?"

Issues Mentioned in Law: See Appendix 2.

Commission Outcome: A transformative grand bargain/action plan.

Potential: Commission members, together, have the capacity to carry out substantive change where there is "consensus" on desired "outcomes".

1st Meeting: Monday, April 25, 2016, The Blaine House, Augusta, 8:30am-11:30am

Agenda

Opening Session

- Welcome by Governor Paul LePage
- Self-Introduction by Commission members
- Commission logistics with Bill Beardsley
- Overview "micro-briefings" (3-5 minutes) to establish a common base-line
 - Tax structures, revenues and sensitivity analysis with tax expert, Mike Allen
 - Maine demographic and economic trends with state economist, Amanda Rector
 - Maine's labor outlook by sector and education requirements with human capital expert, Pat Lepartulo
 - UMS overview and analysis with Jim Page
 - MCCS overview and analysis with Derek Langhauser
 - Public K-12 enrollment, cost trends and sensitivity analysis with education finance expert, Suzan Beaudoin

Follow-up Session

- Give members an opportunity to report on their commission outcomes
 - Develop/define/implement specific "measurable" outcome goals
 - Identify specific data/analysis needs for subsequent executive discussion, policy formulation and decision making
 - Strategic discussion/recommendations

Preliminary Future Meetings:

- Late May: In-depth strategic discussions relative to priority outcomes, outcomes and identification of follow-on information and analysis required with external expertise, as needed to bring closure
- Late June: Follow-on strategic discussions and initial formalization of a comprehensive strategic action plan
- Late July: Finalize and Release Preliminary Report
- Fall Meetings: Content and dates - TBA

Staff Support: DOE and other state agencies/UMS/MCCS/outside experts, as needed



Take a picture

Send

< Messages

Avery

Details

Thanks

Brenda at AG's Office is completely unspun by this. You in fact going to wrap up by 11:30?

I'm sure she is. Yes, I'll make sure we end by 1130

She asked that the door be opened up to let public in for remainder of today's session. I said I would see but thought it unlikely.

Tell her we are speaking to EPU about the public safety concerns

Can I come over and talk to you so I can say I went over to check on it?

Yes. Come in the back foot

*back door

Mon, Apr 25, 2:02 PM



Send



4:51 PM

↑ 64%

Messages

Sara

Details

iMessage
Monday 6:51 AM

Hi Aaron, it's Sara again. I am extremely concerned about violating the open meeting law. How about we find a way to do what the governor wants and to still be in accordance with the law? For example, we could start with social hour/breakfast which would include just getting to know each other and socializing. Then we could open the doors when we begin the published meeting agenda? Trying to find a way to make this work. We should not start this whole process off on the wrong foot. Let's give this commission the credibility it deserves.

I broached that with him and he was not receptive. Probably a good discussion when you get here.

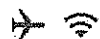
Delivered

Ok, thanks



Messages





5:29 PM

49%

Messages

Group MMS

Details

To: Avery, Kathleen, Peter

Text Message
Monday 7:06 AM

Spoke to Governor. He says it's an advisory group with no decision making authority. All of their recommendations will be fully vetted by the Legislature in Jan. If anyone is uncomfortable then they don't need to participate.

MEA videoed me talking to them about who is on the guest list, what the group would be doing, etc. I expect they'll post it



New Message

Send

Chadbourne, Aaron

From: Kielty, Brenda
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 10:59 AM
To: Chadbourne, Aaron
Subject: FW: Blue Ribbon Commission Meeting

Aaron,

I spoke with Avery on the phone and I'm forwarding my email to him from earlier. I've looked at the agenda for this morning and this meeting should be open to the public. I am requesting that any interested members of the public be allowed to attend this meeting or the meeting cease and be reconvened in an appropriate public space with proper notice.

I'm happy to discuss this with you.

Brenda

Brenda L. Kielty
Assistant Attorney General
Public Access Ombudsman
6 State House Station | Augusta, ME 04333
207.626.8577 (direct) | 207.287.3145 (fax)
brenda.kielty@maine.gov | www.maine.gov/foaa

Correspondence to and from this office is considered a public record and may be subject to a request under the Maine Freedom of Access Act. Information that you wish to keep confidential should not be included in email correspondence.

From: Kielty, Brenda
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 10:02 AM
To: Day, Avery T
Subject: Blue Ribbon Commission Meeting

Avery,

I understand that the Blue Ribbon Commission is meeting privately this morning and that interested members of the public have been denied access. Would you mind giving me a call to confirm this information? I see no provision in chapter 389 exempting the Commission from the FOAA public proceedings requirements and this meeting should either cease immediately or the public should be allowed to attend.

However, is there is a legal rationale for exemption please let me know.

Thanks,
Brenda

Brenda L. Kielty
Assistant Attorney General
Public Access Ombudsman
6 State House Station | Augusta, ME 04333
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Chadbourne, Aaron

From: Day, Avery T
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 11:19 AM
To: Chadbourne, Aaron; Fenton, Hancock; Newman, Kathleen; McGough, John
Subject: FW: Blue Ribbon Commission Meeting
Attachments: Agenda for 4-25-16 Mtg.pdf

Avery Day
Office of the Governor
207.287.3535 – office
207.458.4224 – cell
Avery.T.Day@maine.gov

From: Day, Avery T
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 11:18 AM
To: Kielty, Brenda
Subject: RE: Blue Ribbon Commission Meeting

Brenda –

Following up on our phone call, I wanted to close the loop on a couple of issues.

First, as discussed, a copy of today's agenda is attached.

Second, I went over to the Blaine House just now to discuss opening up the remainder of today's meeting with EPU and others. Given the compressed time frame (they are going to wrap up in 20 minutes) and the security logistics, it is not possible to open the remainder of today up.

I also appreciate that you have concerns regarding this morning's meeting. That being said, the purpose of today was introductions and some short briefings. There are no deliberations or decisions being made to trigger a public proceeding. While you may not advise the group to meet this way for various reasons, we don't agree that inviting the public in is necessary.

Avery

Avery Day
Office of the Governor
207.287.3535 – office
207.458.4224 – cell
Avery.T.Day@maine.gov

From: Kielty, Brenda
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 10:02 AM
To: Day, Avery T
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Brenda

Brenda L. Kielty

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