

TO: Frank Feild
FROM: David Merrill
RE: Education Reform Task Force
DATE: 9-25-2003

Since the authorization of the Task Force, there have been three primary activities:

1. A short round of presentations at civic clubs concerning education reform. At Rotary and Lion's Clubs I have introduced the need for increased awareness among business and civic leaders, attempted to instill a modest sense of urgency about the issues, and invited participation in the efforts of the Task Force.
2. From these and other informal discussions, I have been accumulating a list of folks who are interested in the work of the Task Force. My goal is to have about two dozen business and civic leaders who participate in the work of the Task Force.
3. I continue to review the massive amount of information and opinion on the subject of education reform. There are indeed other communities that have gone before us, many more that are undertaking reform as we are.

Next:

1. Organize an internet based communications system for the members of the Task Force.
2. Formalize the Task Force membership.
3. Have an official kick-off meeting.
4. Design a preliminary action plan.

What the Chamber Board can do:

1. Make sure you get quarterly reports from the Task Force.
2. Help us find additional BUSINESS people as members.

The greatest risks:

1. Do nothing and it gets worse.
2. Since we are increasing public awareness, it is possible, even likely, that there will be some half-baked solutions offered to solve specific problems. While the proponents may be well motivated, we are more interested in systemic reform that is well researched and thoughtfully implemented.

Any questions or concerns are welcomed by email at david.merrill@agedwards.com.