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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** RENICK  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** STATUS OF EDUCATION & TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS  
**DATE** 6/4/02  
**CC:** BOYD  
POLICY INTERNS

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*Education*

- **Renegotiation of IHL Guarantor:** As you know, we met with Suzanne Sharpe last week on this matter. We need to address Lee Abraham's concerns and then begin to redesignate Mississippi guarantor. Mississippi's designated guarantor is selected via the Governor signing an Executive Order designating said guarantor, IHL approving a contract with the guarantor and the US Department of Education approving such contract. The file for this is on my desk and copies of the old contract are in the file.
- **NGA Joint Workgroup on the Reauthorization of IDEA:** Fred and I have attended the workgroup meetings and participated in the conference calls on behalf of the Governor (who co-chaired the joint workgroup on behalf of NGA). The workgroup is currently receiving public comments from stakeholders and educational organizations on the staff's working draft. Fred or Elizabeth will brief the Governor on the final draft prior to the NGA Annual Meeting where it will be presented.
- **Jobs for Mississippi Graduates (JMG) 2002/2003 Funding:** Dr. Haynes, JMG Executive Director, has requested \$500,000 from DHS in TANF funds and \$500,000 from MDA in WIA funds. I have reviewed his budget, spoken to Jessie at DHS and Jim Lott at MDA, and asked Haynes some follow-up questions regarding his anticipated expenses. Jessie said that DHS has budgeted \$250,000 to JMG. Lott said that we have about \$1.5 million left in discretionary WIA funds until next June. I'm submitting a memo to the Governor recommending that we allot \$250,000 from DHS and \$250,000 from MDA to JMG. JMG has not budgeted any revenue from MDE federal Title funds in next year's budget and MDE provided \$300,000 this year. Haynes will have to be responsible for securing the Title funds.

Boyd: I'm going to direct the interns to give the Governor's response to you. If the Governor approves this recommendation, will you please contact Joe Haynes (978-1711 or [JHaynesJMG@aol.com](mailto:JHaynesJMG@aol.com)) and convey this information? I've already told him that times are tight and agencies are experiencing cuts, so he can't expect \$1 million from us. He said that he has ranked the program's according to their strengths/weaknesses, so he has an idea of what program(s) can be cut.

- **Early Childhood Initiative:** We are still awaiting word from Dr. Lynn Kagan as to if she is going to accept our invitation to work with us in developing universal funding for an early childhood care and education system here. Kagan is still awaiting word on funding from the Carnegie Foundation. Even if she receives the Carnegie funding, Kagan has estimated that her work here would run about \$300,000. Dr. Cathy Grace is working on obtaining private funding for this. Claiborne Barksdale has pledged \$20,000 and Grace thinks a Memphis foundation will put up about \$50,000, which still leaves about \$230,000. Grace has asked Kagan for numbers and a work proposal so that she can approach other foundations (such as Hardin) to contribute. Grace once again volunteered to provide any assistance necessary in this initiative.
- **ARC October Conference in Knoxville:** I've put a letter in your box for you to sign and send to ARC in DC designating 2 superintendents (one that we chose and one that Mabel recommended; Mabel's second choice – Mr. Jones in Noxubee County – never returned my calls or responded to the fax), an MDE rep and myself. Mabel wanted a letter from the Governor inviting all of the other ARC superintendents to the meeting via a technical assistance grant from her office. I left voicemail for her this morning that I would most likely not get such a letter drafted today, so she needed to draft it and send it to you for approval and then send it out.
- **Summer Meetings with Teacher Organizations (MAE, AFT, MPE):** The Governor met with a representative of each organization last week and requested that we coordinate his meeting with each executive board at their next meeting. I have secured dates from AFT and MPE, but MAE has not returned my call. I've got a memo into the Governor for his approval of the AFT and MPE meetings and will leave instructions for the interns to follow-up with Jill on confirming the dates and completing the event sheets. Contact info for the organizations is as follows:

Mary Ann Graczyk, AFT: 288-868-1397  
 Mel Buckley, MPE: 355-5517  
 Frank Yates, MAE: 354-4463

- **Norwood Kids Foundation:** I have sent the letter to Sonja Norwood, Brandy's mother, from the Governor expressing our interest in working with them and our ideas to implementing the pilot program. The letter stated that Armerita would be contacting her to discuss these and other ideas in greater detail.

### *Transportation*

- **I-59 Reverse Laning for Hurricane Evacuation:** The Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness is now considering a partial evacuation that would only require reverse laning from Louisiana to mile marker 21 in Pearl River County where MDOT has constructed a crossover. This poses a much more workable solution for the 2002 hurricane season. Mr. Latham is obtaining confirmation of this proposal in writing from Col. Brown at the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness and is to provide it to the Governor.

### *Other*

- **Intern Assignments:** I am preparing a memo for our two interns (Rachel and Patrice) of activities that I need to cover in my absence, as well as several immediate items that I need them to take care of once correspondence comes out of the Governor's office.
- **Email to Educational Organizations as to Who to Contact in My Absence:** I'm emailing the national organizations that I work with, as well as the educational agencies and organizations here, asking them to contact Boyd (until his expected absence in mid-July) in my absence on any programmatic activities and Rusty (per his request given Marilyn being out) regarding any meeting arrangements or travel involving the Governor.