
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: MAYO
RILEY
SUBJECT: PROPOSED 9/11/03 JOINT PRESS EVENT WITH MDE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY RESULTS
DATE: 8/19/03
CC: RENICK, BOYD, KINNEY

We are proposing that you host a joint press event with Dr. Henry Johnson, the State Board of Education and, possibly, MEC/the Public Education Forum on September 11 regarding the district and school accountability results that will be released to the public on September 12. We are recommending a joint event as a result of several NGA conference calls and the recent presentation at the Annual Meeting which discussed how the public's perception of and response to accountability results are much more favorable when they see a partnership between the Governor and the State Chief School Officer regarding the use of such results.

We are proposing September 11th because the State Board will be in town on the 11th and the 12th for their monthly meeting. You also do not have any lunch commitments on that day. This event should get coverage in the Clarion Ledger on the 12th, the day the President is to be in town for Haley. The event would once again highlight your commitment to education and could highlight the partnership between our office, MDE and the business community as to accountability. We think we should see if MEC/Public Education Forum would be interested in participating in the event. Blake Wilson sent emails out last Friday encouraging the business community to recognize the test scores released on that day as baseline scores and to use them for positive work in our local schools, rather than as a means of condemning local schools.

You, Dr. Johnson and Blake Wilson could speak at the event: You to the importance of education and accountability; Dr. Johnson to the results that will be released the next day and the technical points of the state's accountability system; and, Blake to the importance of the private sector's support for public education.

We have not approached MDE nor MEC/Public Education Forum with this idea yet, as we wanted you to sign off on it first. Are you interested in our coordinating this joint press event?

Yes _____

No _____