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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** FEB. 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING WITH MARK MUSICK: ACTION ITEMS  
**DATE** 2/12/03  
**CC:** FILE

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I met with Mark Musick this past Monday while he was in town. I provided Mark with copies of our press releases from your budget, State of the State and the signing of the appropriation bills, in addition to excerpts from the State of the State where you called for education to be funded first. Mark is going to be sharing the information with the board and with the legislative advisory council. Mark stated in a letter to you that *Schools First* “was a piece of work on the order of Bill Winter and the 1982 Education Reform Act and of Dick Riley’s South Carolina Education Reform Act of 1983.” We discussed a number of items, the following of which need or will need your action:

1. Technology fundraising: Mark will be forwarding us draft materials by March 1 for review by you and the Executive Committee. These drafts will be requests for support for SREB’s technology initiatives and will be sent to foundations and corporations. Mark recognizes that this is a campaign year for you, but would like for you to send letters to those groups that are not on your campaign lists. Other members of the Executive Committee can contact those who might be on your list.
  
2. Possible regional technology idea/initiative for you to lead: SREB is hearing from many states that the number of university courses and classes will be cut back due to budget reductions, which results in some students not graduating on time. Mark suggested that you push for the idea that technology and SREB’s *Electronic Campus* allow SREB states to make certain that a student who needs a course or two that is not offered in their state can take that course electronically. SREB can work on getting agreements on pricing and course transfers to make certain that no student fails to graduate because a course wasn’t available in their state. You can push this idea of students using the *Electronic Campus* to graduate on time among your fellow governors (NGA meetings, DGA meetings, etc.). This would also allow you an avenue for spotlighting *Schools First*, which restored funding to higher ed in Mississippi, in that you can state that you recognize that this could be a problem in other states, but that we’ve taken steps to ensure that classes are available. Do you want the SREB staff to work out the details on pricing and course transfers?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

3. SREB Annual Meeting, June 22-24, Austin, TX: Sandy Kress, chief negotiator/architect of NCLB for the President with Congress, has agreed to participate in the board meeting. Kress is a Democrat and is the former chair of the Dallas school board. The Texas Higher Education Commissioner has also agreed to participate to discuss Texas' efforts at collegiate/high school/middle school levels to raise high school graduation and college attendance.

I warned Mark that we don't want to be too heavy on "Texas is great" or "Texas is the ideal model" because I've been at some conferences where that has happened and everybody in the audience who is not from Texas gets sick of it!! Mark agreed and he said that you can certainly emphasize *Schools First*. As he put it, the appropriation bill "puts in action what is usually only words."

Mark asked if you want to invite Secretary Paige to attend or participate in the Annual Meeting. He said that he understood either way you decide. On one hand, I say no due to the debacle with your NAGB appointment. On the other hand, most states will be implementing their state plans by that time and quite a bit of frustration and concern over NCLB could be voiced to the Secretary.

Do you want to invite Paige?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_