
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MS COUNSELING ASSOCIATION
DATE 12/26/01
CC: FILE

I met with six representatives of the MS Counseling Association on Dec. 14th. We discussed the following three items:

1. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards: The counselors are afraid that communication between the National Board for Certified Counselors and the NBPTS has broken down and wanted to make you aware of their concerns in light of your service on the NBPTS. The counselors are concerned that NBPTS is moving ahead with its development of a certification process for a Master Teacher certificate for school counselors without input from the National Board of Certified Counselors. State law provides that the salary supplement for counselors earning a National Certified School Counselor endorsement from the National Board of Certified Counselors shall be discontinued two years after the date on which the NBPTS offers a certification process for a Master Teacher certificate for school counselors and counselors will be required to earn the NBPTS certificate in order to earn the supplement. The counselors feel as if the NBPTS is looking at counselors as being teachers first and foremost, when probably 75-80% of counseling graduate students enter the profession without classroom experience, but with a psychology/counseling background. The counselors support professional development but they are seeking more input from counselors into the development of the NBPTS' certification process for a Master Teacher certificate for school counselors.
2. Recognition of National Board Certified Counselors during National Counselors Week (First Week of February): National certified counselors feel a little overlooked when compared to the attention that is given to National Board Certified teachers. Mississippi has 193 national board certified counselors. The representatives mentioned the reception that we hosted for National Board Certified teachers last year. Counselors will be at the capitol on February 6 and the group was hoping that you would issue a proclamation and/or host a celebration for the counselors. You could issue a proclamation and present it to the group in the rotunda on the first floor at some point that day. We could also have a cake and coffee for them in the rotunda on the first floor if you would like.

Proclamation _____

Cake/coffee _____

3. Proposed 2002 Legislation for Counselors: The counselors will be seeking to have the attached legislation introduced during the session. Rep. Eloise Scott supported similar legislation last year and the group is seeking a meeting with Chairman Joe Warren. Claire Hester is their lobbyist. The legislation defines ten comprehensive counseling services that school guidance counselors will provide. The legislation also provides that school counselors abide by the American School Counselor Association Code of Ethics. They asked that I present the draft legislation to you for any comments or concerns that you have. They would like to have your support and will be happy to consider any changes that you would recommend.