
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: MDE: NON-PROFIT OFFERING TO BUILD A FACILITY ON SCHOOLS FOR BLIND AND DEAF CAMPUS
DATE 4/13/01
CC: PROSPERE
GILBERT

Dr. Thompson, per the direction of the State Board of Education, has asked for your support and/or input on the following. Supporting documentation is attached.

The LifeShare Foundation, a non-profit operating foundation, has offered to construct a facility on the campus of the Schools for the Blind and the Deaf at no cost to MDE and will donate the building to MDE with no restrictions or stipulations attached. The building will be built under the same concept of a Ronald McDonald House – parents of students may stay in the short-stay overnight facility in order to provide for an effective transition of students into the residential school setting.

Although MDE will not incur any expense related to the construction of the building, there will be annual operational and maintenance costs projected at \$100,000 for which the State Board of Education will have to seek appropriations upon construction of the building.

Dr. Thompson has also requested input from Lt. Governor Tuck, Speaker Ford, Senators Gordon and Harden, and Representatives Capps and Warren. The Attorney General's Office has stated that it would approve of the proposition if the above terms (no construction costs to MDE, building donated with no restrictions or stipulations) are met.

Although we do not have a construction cost estimate, it appears as if MDE would receive a significant asset in comparison to the estimated \$100,000 annual operating cost of the building. However, given the budget situation, \$100,000 in new funding will also be a significant expense for MDE. I would suggest that we offer our support to MDE for this facility, which holds great potential for the Schools for the Blind and Deaf, but that we strongly emphasize that the department will have to recognize that the \$100,000 in operating costs for this new facility could mean a decrease in \$100,000 in other program areas.

Please advise as to the response you wish to submit to Dr. Thompson.