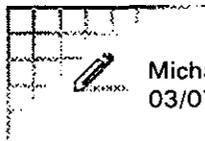


NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 022 - Folder 022

Education - North Carolina Event



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Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Donald A. Baer/WHO/EOP, Kevin S. Moran/WHO/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Department of Defense Schools



Here 030710B6.W is what I have found out about the Defense schools in relation to North Carolina:

1. In general, the overseas and stateside schools are good, and they are doing things world-wide (though not necessarily in NC, that could be pointed to as models. Chief among these are: (1) technology--getting all schools wired by 1998; (2) translating national math standards into classroom curriculum; (3) school report cards and accountability. They are also beginning to talk about providing incentives for teachers to undergo National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification, though this effort will look weak in comparison to Gov. Hunt's proposal in NC.

2. The Defense schools, especially stateside, are basically invisible according to the Defense people. They operate below the radar screen, have tremendous difficulty getting any attention, and feel that most of America, including almost all of the education community, doesn't even know they exist.

3. There are several potential downsides to a defense schools announcement from their point of view:

- The school at camp Legune (sp???) is in a terrible state of disrepair, especially with leaking roofs. There is a plan to fix it, but, in the meantime, their comment was "I wouldn't want the President to visit while it was raining without an umbrella." Not exactly a strong endorsement for the notion that these are model schools.
- The Defense Department is working on a congressionally mandated study of the desirability of turning stateside defense schools over to local school systems, and getting Defense out of that business. The report is at least 6 months late, and will not be completed until June at the earliest. The head of the defense schools did not know the original impetus for this study, and no one from the hill has been bugging them for the report. The Department apparently has not yet taken a position on this, though military families and leadership believe that the defense schools are generally superior to neighboring schools and will want to keep the current situation. So will neighboring local school boards, who will not want to get more students and no additional tax base.
- April is the "Month of the Military Child" and would provide an additional opportunity for this message if we did not make an announcement in North Carolina.
- Marsha Hale was to call Hunt's staff; as of late afternoon she had not done so, and I do not yet know if Hunt is on board with our testing proposal, or what he might think of this announcement overall. As we have discussed, it would be awkward to announce Defense

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participation if we don't get North Carolina's.

Finally, I've attached a couple of pages of suggestions from ED about how we might approach the teaching portion of this speech, since Hunt's main education proposals before the legislature center on improving teaching. The centerpiece of Hunt's plan is a call for a 13% salary increase for master teachers -- teachers who receive National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification -- as a concrete way to reward excellent teachers. The President could challenge every state to take similar steps.