
From: Mark Miles [mailto:mmiles@cincorp.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 2:40 PM
To: Todd Huston
Cc: Al Hubbard
Subject: Re: Choice

Al and I have encouraged him to pay attention to ed and he's having lunch soon w D Harris. He knows the Mind Trust has hired commissioned a study that will support Mayor control. Saying this, as you said, we need to be thoughtful about how we work w GB to make sure it all comes together effectively. Looking forward to dinner Wed night.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 11, 2010, at 2:22 PM, "Todd Huston" <thuston@doe.in.gov> wrote:

I had a long, interesting conversation with Mayor Ballard as he dropped by the office today. He wanted to talk about mayoral control and what we should do about Marion County.

Long story short, he said that is becoming interested in it and thinks it might be the next big issue he wants to confront (now that you guys have figured out mass transit for him). He believes that the people are now ready for it based upon conversations he has had over the last few weeks.

I mention this as it directly relates to choice and what we talked about on Monday. If you put the county under the control of the Mayor's office, they could become the back office solution for the community school model that we discussed. You could provide vouchers for students in which the Mayor's office becomes the purchaser of education services throughout the county.

I did mention any of this to him. I think there are some political landmines that would need to be discussed and navigated. It does provide, though, for some interesting scenarios.

Todd

From: Al Hubbard [mailto:ahubbard@eaindustries.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 7:21 AM
To: M Miles; Todd Huston
Subject: Re: Choice

And he wants to find someone who will quietly do the technical work in preparation.

Constitution. Union. Don't pass on

On 2/10/10 5:16 PM, "Mark Miles" <mmiles@cincorp.com> wrote:

Hey, Todd. We need to talk this thru and have reached out to Lubbers to see if he's game. How about dinner at Flemmings on the north side at 7 next Wed?

From: Todd Huston [<mailto:thuston@doe.in.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 12:00 PM
To: Mark Miles; Al Hubbard
Subject: RE: Choice

My thought would be that we can get the momentum going and let MD take the lead when he feels it is time. As soon as he takes ownership of it, whether it is Nov or May, it becomes his initiative. This would allow him to do it after the election but the work is being done prior to his taking ownership of it.

From: Mark Miles [<mailto:mmiles@cincorp.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 11:36 AM
To: Todd Huston; Al Hubbard
Subject: RE: Choice

Not random...good thinking. One KEY question is when the socializing process begins. If its full steam ahead, after we work out the legislative substance and before the November election, how does MED react. He is very likely to want this to be his initiative and yet he may want to wait till after the Nov elections. I want to think about CD as the point person. These thoughts are a very useful starting point.

From: Todd Huston [<mailto:thuston@doe.in.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 10:37 AM
To: Al Hubbard; Mark Miles
Subject: Choice

Sadly, I have no life and spent much of last night tossing and turning about our lunch discussion. Here are some initial thoughts:

- 1) We should designate a single person to lead this effort. There are enough moving pieces that will need to be addressed that someone should be focused on it full-time and coordinating the effort. How about Carol D'Amico?
- 2) I may have discounted the legislative and policy discussions that will need to be addressed. They can all be addressed but it may take a little more time than my initial thoughts yesterday.

3) The socialization component is critical. I had some initial thoughts. First, we should leverage Friedman and their resources. They will want to take the lead and I am not sure that is best path but they must play a huge role. Second, we can bring in Louisiana to an Educational Roundtable meeting and talk about their efforts on vouchers there. Third, we should bring in African-American leaders from New Orleans, Milwaukee and Washington DC (where they have had voucher efforts) to discuss how this benefits that community. We can't just do a meeting or two. It has to be a sustained effort. Also, we must leverage the Choice Trust efforts and promote the children that have been helped through this effort.

4) We have to lead the media. If we respond to the educrats, we will always be on the defensive. Instead, we should begin a strong communications effort focused on the major media markets. Our experience has been that the Indianapolis, South Bend, Evansville and Lake County papers really desire educational reform and those are the markets we have to win in. The rural and small town markets won't care and could even be persuaded that it might mean more money for them.

5) We don't need the politicians to lead it but we need them to support it. They should be providing affirmation of the effort but let's give Bosma and others the chance to respond to it and not lead it. It will put them on record as supporting the idea, which is critical.

6) We are going to have to build capacity during this time. We will have to work with the Archdiocese and other private providers so that we can make the argument that these kids will have choices. Giving vouchers to over 30,000+ kids only works if we can create a market for them. We don't have to have a market for all of them immediately but we have to show that there will be one for some immediately and more to come.

These are just some random thoughts but items that I think we should keep on the list.

Thanks,

Todd Huston
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