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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Backup Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13772
Folder ID Number: 13772-001

Folder Title:
Blue Ribbon Schools 9/25/91 [OA 8328] [1]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	21	6	4

BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS CEREMONY
SEPTEMBER 25, 1991
SHERATON HOTEL
12:00 P.M.

I KNOW ALL OF YOU WERE DISAPPOINTED BY THE WEATHER TODAY. WE'D PLANNED ON HOSTING ALL 800 OF YOU ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN -- AND HERE I'M THE ONE WHO ENDED UP MAKING THE FIELD TRIP. //laughter

LET ME RECOGNIZE THE MANY CORPORATE CONTRIBUTORS TO THE BLUE RIBBON PROGRAM WHO ARE HERE TODAY -- AND OF COURSE I'M PLEASED TO INTRODUCE TO YOU OUR FIRST-RATE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, LAMAR ALEXANDER. //ad lib...

BARBARA AND I ARE DELIGHTED TO RECOGNIZE THE SCHOOLS THAT REPRESENT THIS NATION'S BLUE RIBBON BEST.
// WE'VE BESTOWED BLUE RIBBONS NOW FOR NINE YEARS.
SOME OF YOUR SCHOOLS ARE NO STRANGERS TO THE WINNER'S CIRCLE: TODAY WE HOST A RECORD 32 TWO-TIME WINNERS. /

WE MEET AT A MOMENT WHEN THIS NATION HAS EMBARKED ON A CRUSADE FOR REAL REFORM IN OUR SCHOOLS -- A CRUSADE WE CALL AMERICA 2000, A REVOLUTION THAT WILL READY US TO ENTER THE NEW WORLD NOW ON OUR HORIZON. //

AS YOU KNOW, RIGHT NOW THE NEWS FOR AMERICAN EDUCATION AS A WHOLE IS ANYTHING BUT GOOD. PART OF THE NECESSARY BUSINESS OF REFORM IS TO SHINE A LIGHT INTO THE DARK CORNERS OF THE SYSTEM -- FOCUS ON THE SCHOOLS THAT AREN'T MAKING THE GRADE; SHAKE PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR COMPLACENCY AND SHOW THEM WE NEED CHANGE. / BUT THERE'S ANOTHER PART OF THE BUSINESS OF BUILDING BETTER SCHOOLS ACROSS AMERICA: SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOLS THAT WORK, AND THE PEOPLE THAT MAKE THEM WORK -- THE SUCCESS STORIES, LIKE EACH ONE OF THE 222 SCHOOLS HERE TODAY. //

LAST DECEMBER -- WITH THE WORLD'S ATTENTION RIGHTLY FOCUSED ON DESERT SHIELD -- I LAID OUT FIVE PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE OUR EFFORTS TO RESTRUCTURE AND REVITALIZE OUR SCHOOLS. WITH THE STATE OF OUR SCHOOLS BACK IN THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT, THOSE PRINCIPLES BEAR REPEATING TODAY. //

RIVETED

FIRST, WE'VE GOT TO RAISE EXPECTATIONS -- HOLD OUR SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT. SECOND, WE MUST DECENTRALIZE AUTHORITY -- CLEAR SOME ROOM FOR OUR TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS TO DO WHAT THEY DO BEST: MAKE LEARNING COME ALIVE. THIRD, WE NEED ^{RESPONSIBLE} RESPONSIVE SCHOOLS -- CUSTOMER-DRIVEN. AND THAT MEANS SCHOOL CHOICE: IF WE WANT TO CREATE A CLIMATE FOR CHANGE, LET PARENTS DECIDE WHICH SCHOOL, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, IS BEST FOR THEIR KIDS. FOURTH, WE MUST MAKE CERTAIN OUR SCHOOLS ARE MARKET-ORIENTED: COMPETITION WORKS IN THE BUSINESS WORLD; IT CAN SPUR EXCELLENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS. FIFTH AND FINALLY, WE MUST MAKE SURE OUR SCHOOLS ARE PERFORMANCE-BASED. WE NEED TO MEASURE OUR SCHOOLS BY REAL RESULTS -- BY THE STUDENTS THEY PRODUCE RATHER THAN THE RESOURCES WE POUR IN. QUITE SIMPLY, BY WHAT WORKS.

TWO YEARS AGO, I MET WITH THE GOVERNORS OF YOUR STATES AT THE EDUCATION SUMMIT IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA. THERE, IN THE SHADOW OF MR. JEFFERSON'S UNIVERSITY, WE SET IN MOTION THE PROCESS THAT IDENTIFIED SIX AMBITIOUS NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS TO PREPARE OUR CHILDREN FOR THE CHALLENGES A NEW CENTURY IS DESTINED TO BRING.

WE CAME AWAY FROM CHARLOTTESVILLE WITH A SOLID CONSENSUS THAT WHAT MATTERS MOST IS RESULTS. // A FEW DAYS FROM NOW, THE GOVERNORS AND MEMBERS OF MY ADMINISTRATION WHO TOGETHER CONSTITUTE THE NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL WILL TELL US JUST HOW FAR AMERICA NEEDS TO GO TO REACH OUR GOALS FOR THE YEAR 2000. WE ALREADY KNOW THE BAD NEWS: THIS NEW "NATIONAL REPORT CARD" ISN'T GOING TO BE ONE WE WANT TO POST ON OUR REFRIGERATORS. THE POINT IS, IT'S A PLACE TO START: FINDING OUT WHERE WE STAND IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS MOVING FORWARD. //

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WE HERE IN WASHINGTON CAN LEND A HAND, BUT THE REAL REVOLUTION TAKES PLACE IN THE COMMUNITIES YOU CALL HOME. WHEN YOU COME FROM AS FAR AWAY AS KALAHEO HIGH IN HAWAII, ALASKA'S EAST ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL OR HAHN AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL ON HAHN AIR FORCE BASE IN GERMANY -- OR AS NEAR TO THIS HOUSE AS D.C.'S OWN BENJAMIN BANNEKER AND HINE JUNIOR HIGH -- YOU SEE AT A GLANCE THAT EACH SCHOOL TRAVELS ITS OWN PATH TO EXCELLENCE. //

[[ONE SAD NOTE FOR THE KIDS ^{sketch} HERE WHO MADE THE SHORT TRIP ^{to} HERE FROM BANNEKER AND HINE: IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL BE BACK IN CLASS BY 7TH PERIOD.]] // laugh

SOME SCHOOLS HERE TODAY MIRROR THE COMMUNITIES THEY COME FROM. THEIR SUCCESSES REFLECT YEARS OF LOVE, INTEREST AND JUST PLAIN HARD WORK FROM COMMUNITIES THAT CARE. SOME OF THE SCHOOLS REPRESENTED HERE TODAY TRIUMPHED AGAINST ALL ODDS -- IN SPITE OF CRUEL SURROUNDINGS. FOR THEIR STUDENTS, THESE SCHOOLS ARE ISLANDS OF CALM IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS. //

THAT DRIVES HOME TODAY'S LESSON: THERE'S NO BLUEPRINT FOR THE ONE SCHOOL THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE -- BUT THERE IS A BLUE RIBBON FOR EVERY SCHOOL THAT WORKS BEST. //

TAKE GENESIS -- AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI. GENESIS BEGAN AS A VISTA PROGRAM BACK IN THE MID-70'S. TODAY, THE VAST MAJORITY OF ITS FUNDS COME FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR -- FROM NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE UNITED WAY, DOWN TO LOCAL BUSINESSES. GENESIS SERVES THE KIDS WHO HAVE FALLEN THROUGH THE CRACKS: THE DROP OUTS, THE TEEN MOTHERS -- CHILDREN COPING WITH BROKEN HOMES AND SHATTERED HOPES. IT TURNS AROUND TWO-THIRDS OF THE TROUBLED KIDS THAT COME THROUGH ITS DOORS, PREPARES THEM TO GO BACK TO THEIR OLD SCHOOLS, OR GO ON TO GET A G.E.D. / FOR THESE STUDENTS, GENESIS IS LITERALLY A NEW BEGINNING -- A SECOND CHANCE THAT GIVES THEM THEIR BEST SHOT AT A PROMISING FUTURE. ///

THE SCHOOLS WE HONOR TODAY COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES, SERVE STUDENTS OF ALL RACES, CREEDS AND COLORS, FROM AMERICA'S MAJOR CITIES TO OUR SMALLEST TOWNS. EACH ONE OF YOU REPRESENTS THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG -- THE COLLECTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, PRINCIPALS, PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITIES YOU COME FROM.

CONSIDER ONE OF THE SMALLEST SCHOOLS HERE TODAY,
CRAFTSBURY ACADEMY -- A 180-STUDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL IN
THE VERMONT FARM COUNTRY, IN A TOWN CALLED CRAFTSBURY
COMMON. TIMES ARE TOUGH IN CRAFTSBURY, BUT ECONOMIC
DIFFICULTIES HAVEN'T STOPPED THAT COMMUNITY FROM GIVING
ITS CHILDREN EVERY POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN. / I
THINK IT SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT CRAFTSBURY THAT WHEN THE
TEACHERS VOTED TO SEND SOMEONE TO TODAY'S CEREMONY,
THEY SENT A PARENT. / GARY HOUSTON -- A PAST GRADUATE
OF CRAFTSBURY, WHOSE FOUR KIDS GO THERE NOW -- PLEASE
ACCEPT OUR THANKS FOR ALL THE MOMS AND DADS WHO
UNDERSTAND WHAT POWERFUL TEACHERS PARENTS CAN BE. //

SO TODAY, YOUR SHINING EXAMPLE MUST SPARK THE REVOLUTION IN AMERICAN EDUCATION -- SPUR REFORMS THAT WILL LITERALLY RE-INVENT THE AMERICAN SCHOOL. EACH OF YOUR SCHOOLS IS WELL ON THE WAY TO WHERE ALL OF US MUST BE. WE'LL REACH OUR GOALS BY CHALLENGING THE BEST MINDS AND BIG THINKERS OUT THERE TO HELP US CREATE A NEW GENERATION OF AMERICAN SCHOOLS -- AND HAVE THESE SCHOOLS UP AND RUNNING IN EVERY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ACROSS AMERICA BY THE YEAR 1996. BY CHALLENGING EVERY CITY AND TOWN TO JOIN THE CRUSADE -- BECOME AN AMERICA 2000 COMMUNITY. AND I'M PROUD TO TELL YOU THAT, SO FAR, 9 STATES, AND 1 TERRITORY ARE ALREADY PART OF THE GREAT AND GROWING AMERICA 2000 COMMUNITY. I ASSURE YOU: THERE IS ROOM FOR EVERY STATE, CITY AND TOWN ACROSS THIS COUNTRY.

WE'VE GOT TO START NOW -- IMPROVE THOSE SCHOOLS THAT LAG BEHIND, AND MAKE OUR BEST SCHOOLS BETTER STILL. / WE WON'T WRITE ANYONE OFF -- WE WON'T WASTE TIME WRINGING OUR HANDS ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE YEAR 2000 IS LITTLE MORE THAN EIGHT YEARS AWAY. LOOK AT IT FROM A CHILD'S POINT OF VIEW: EIGHT YEARS IS A LIFETIME OF LEARNING. LET'S SPEND THE TIME BETWEEN NOW AND THE YEAR 2000 OPENING A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF POSSIBILITY FOR OUR CHILDREN. //

THAT'S THE SPIRIT THAT WILL GET US TO OUR GOALS FOR THE YEAR 2000. ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME, ONE SCHOOL AT A TIME -- ONE STUDENT AT A TIME: FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FUTURE, WE WILL WIN THIS NEW AMERICAN REVOLUTION. //

Add Lib

ONCE AGAIN, CONGRATULATIONS. WHEN YOU GET HOME WITH YOUR BLUE RIBBONS, PLEASE SHARE MY THANKS WITH EVERYONE WHO MAKES YOUR SCHOOLS SO SUCCESSFUL. THANK YOU -- AND MAY GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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Criteria of
solution

America 2000
schools



Gaylin Hooley
401-0404

2000 → SHANE

Blue Ribbon

every year since
mid 80's

220 schools

43 states

DDD schools

Bondur school

Following the President's speech at the Blue Ribbon Schools award ceremony there was no news coverage. The newspapers searched were:

The New York Times
The Washington Post
The Washington Times

In addition, there was no coverage listed in the White House News Summary Bulletin on the morning of September 27.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 25, 1991

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN ADDRESS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

The Sheraton Washington Hotel
Washington, D.C.

12:07 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very, very much. Thank you ever so much, Lamar Alexander. What a job our Secretary is doing. First class. (Applause.) I kind of like the music beyond the wall over there -- (laughter) -- but I don't think they could hold a candle to the Marine Band. I want to thank them very much for being here. (Applause.)

And I know that all of you were perhaps as disappointed as Barbara and I were by the weather today. You see, we'd planned on hosting all 800 of you on the White House Lawn; and here I am, the one who ended up making the field trip, along with Bar. (Laughter.)

But let me recognize, first off, the many corporate contributors to the Blue Ribbon Program who are here today. And, of course, I'm very pleased, again, to introduce or to acknowledge or to thank our first-rate Secretary of Education, Lamar Alexander, who got us over here. And believe me, he is a real taskmaster. He is seeing to it that both Barbara and I mind our Ps and Qs and stay actively involved in this education program we believe so strongly about.

Barbara and I are delighted to recognize the schools that represent this nation's Blue Ribbon best. And we've bestowed blue ribbons now for nine years. Some of your schools are no strangers to the winner's circle. And today, we host a record 32 two-time winners. We meet at a moment when this nation has embarked on what really is a crusade for real reform, revolutionary reform in our schools. A crusade we call America 2000 -- a revolution that will ready us to enter the new world now on our horizon.

As you know, right now the news for American education is anything but good. Part of the necessary business of reform is to shine a light into the dark corners of the system, focus on the schools that aren't making the grade, shake people out of their complacency, and show them we need change.

But there's another part, another part of the business of building better schools across America, shining the spotlight on the schools that work and the people that make them work. The success stories like each one of the 222 schools here today.

Last December, with the world's attention riveted on Desert Shield, I laid out five principles to guide our efforts to restructure and revitalize our schools. With the state of our schools back in the national spotlight, those principles bear repeating today.

First we've got to raise expectations -- hold our schools and students to a higher level of achievement. Second, we must decentralize the authority -- clear some room for our teachers and principals to do what they do best -- make learning come alive. And third, we need responsible schools, customer-driven, and that means school choice.

MORE

If we want to create a climate for change, let parents decide which school, public or private, is best for the kids. And fourth, we must make certain our schools are market-oriented. By that I mean competition. Competition works in the business world; it can spur excellence in our schools. And fifth and finally, we must make sure that our schools are performance-based. We need to measure our schools by real results, by the students they produce rather than the resources that we pour in. Quite simply, then, measure by what works.

Two years ago, I met with the governors of your state at the Education Summit in Charlottesville, Virginia. There in the shadow of Mr. Jefferson's university we set in motion the process that identified six ambitious national education goals to prepare our children for the challenges of a new century -- the challenges that that century is destined to bring.

We came away from Charlottesville with a solid consensus that what matters most is results. Now, a few days from now the governors and members of our administration, who together constitute the National Education Goals Panel, will tell us just how far America needs to go to reach our goals for the year '2000. We already know there is bad news. And this new national report card isn't going to be one that we want to post on our refrigerators. The point is, it's a place to start, though. Finding out where we stand is the first step towards moving forward.

For a long time -- too long, really -- we spent our time and energy talking about reform rather than taking action. And that is changing now. And, again, I salute our Secretary of Education. We're charting a new course for this nation's schools, and in that effort, your schools are the pioneers -- the ones blazing a trail the rest will follow someday. The levels of achievement we're looking for in the year 2000 are the goals you're shooting for today.

And we here in Washington want to do what we can. Clearly, we can lend a hand. But the real revolution takes place in the communities that you call home. And when you come from as far away as Kalaheo High in Hawaii, Alaska's -- here are a couple of people who have come from as far away as Kalaheo High in Hawaii back there -- Alaska's East Anchorage High School or Hahn American High School on Hahn Air Force Base in Germany or as near to this place as DC's own Benjamin Banneker and Hine Junior High, you see at a glance that each school travels its own path to excellence.

One sad note for any of the kids here who made this short trip from Banneker and Hine, the problem is that right after lunch you'll have to be back in class. (Laughter.)

Some schools here today mirror the communities they come from. Their successes reflect years of love and interest and just plain hard work from communities that care. Some of the schools represented here today triumphed against all odds in spite of tough, cruel surroundings. For their students, these schools are islands of calm in the midst of chaos. And that drives home today's lesson: There's no blueprint for the one school that works for everyone. But there is a blue ribbon for every school that works best.

Take Genesis, an alternative school for kids with special needs out in Kansas City, Missouri. Genesis began as a Vista program back in the mid-'70s. And today the vast majority of its funds come from the private sector, from national organizations like the United Way, down to local businesses.

Genesis serves the kids who have fallen through the cracks, the dropouts, the teen mothers, children coping with broken homes and shattered hopes. And it turns around two-thirds of the troubled kids that come through its doors, prepares them to go back

to their old schools or go on to get a GED. For these students, Genesis is literally a new beginning, a second chance that gives them their best shot at a promising future.

The schools we honor today come in all shapes and sizes, serve students of all races and creeds and colors. From America's major cities to our tiniest town, each one of you represents the tip of the iceberg, the collective accomplishment of teachers and students, principals, parents and the communities you come from.

Consider one of the smallest schools here today, Craftsbury Academy -- a 180-student public school out in the Vermont farm country, in a town called Craftsbury Common. Times are tough out there. But economic difficulties haven't stopped that community from giving its children every possible opportunity to learn.

I think it says something about Craftsbury that when the teachers voted to send someone to today's ceremony, they sent a parent -- Gary Houston -- a past graduate of Craftsbury whose four kids go there now. So please accept our thanks for all the mothers and fathers who understand what powerful teachers parents can be.

So today, your shining example must spark a revolution in American education, spur reform that will literally reinvent the American Schools. Each of your schools is well on the way to where all of us must be. We'll reach our goals by challenging the best minds and big thinkers out there to help us create a new generation of American Schools and have these schools up and running in every congressional district across America by the year 1996. By challenging every city and town to join the crusade -- become an America 2000 community. And I'm proud to tell you that so far, nine states and one territory are already part of the great and growing America 2000 community. And I assure you there is room for every state, city and town across this country.

We really have to start now -- improve those schools that lag behind, and make our best schools better still. We won't write anyone off. We won't waste time wringing hands about the fact that the year 2000 is just a little more than eight years away. Look at it from a kid's point of view, a child's point of view: Eight years is a lifetime of learning. So let's spend the time between now and the year 2000 opening a new world of possibility for our children.

And that's the spirit that will get us to our goals for the year 2000. One community at a time, one school at a time, one student at a time, for the sake of our future we will win this American revolution.

And let me just say that if I ever let up and if I ever don't show the proper leadership or the proper support for America 2000, I get it both ways. I get it coming on me from the Secretary of Education who says, you are committed, now stay that way. --And you-- can bet your neck I get it from the person sitting on my right who's dedicated a lot of her life to helping illiteracy. (Applause.)

So congratulations to all of you. And when you get home with your blue ribbons, please share my thanks with everybody -- it's not just you all -- but with everybody who makes your schools so successful.

Thank you and may God bless the United States of America. Thank you very, very much. (Applause.)

END

12:20 P.M. EDT

BRS. POTUS

September 19, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST
TONY SNOW

FROM: DAN MCGROARTY

SUBJECT: BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS REMARKS

DRAFT

On Wednesday, September 25, you will deliver remarks to an audience of 850 at the Blue Ribbon Schools Program Ceremony on the South Lawn. Sec. Alexander will attend. The audience is primarily composed of corporate sponsors, students, administrators, faculty, and board members.

Your remarks (approximately 10 minutes/cards) acknowledge the Blue Ribbon awardees, and the merits of America 2000.

24 September 1991
10:50 a.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR DAN MCGROARTY

FROM: JEANNIE BUNTON *JB*

SUBJECT: AMERICA 2000 STATES AND COMMUNITIES

Per conversation with Jay Diskey (America 2000 News) through
9/20/91:

10 states and territories (Colorado, Wyoming, Oregon,
American Samoa, Maine, Maryland,
Nebraska, Minnesota, Delaware, and
Vermont)

and

XXX communities are participating in America 2000.

*He hopes to have # of communities
by noon today!*

*For Blue Ribbon
Fill*

McGROARTY/BUNTON
SEPTEMBER 23, 1991
7:00 PM
[RIBBON]

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So today, your shining example must spark the revolution in American education -- spur reforms that will literally re-invent the American school. Each of your schools is well on the way to where all of us must be. We'll reach our goals by challenging the best minds and big thinkers out there to help us create a new generation of American schools -- and have these schools up and running in every Congressional district across America by the year 1996. By challenging every city and town to join the crusade -- become an America 2000 Community. And I'm proud to tell you that, so far, 9 states, and 1 territory are already part of the great and growing America 2000 Community. I assure you:

there is room for every state, city and town across this country.

We've got to start now -- improve those schools that lag behind, and make our best schools better still. / We won't write anyone off -- we won't waste time wringing our hands about the fact that the year 2000 is little more than eight years away. Look at it from a child's point of view: eight years is a lifetime of learning. Let's spend the time between now and the year 2000 opening a whole new world of possibility for our children. //

That's the spirit that will get us to our goals for the year 2000. One community at a time, one school at a time -- one student at a time: for the sake of our future, we will win this new American revolution. //

Once again, congratulations. When you get home with your Blue Ribbons, please share my thanks with everyone who makes your schools so successful. Thank you -- and may God bless the United States of America.

#

ACK: FLORES / LAMAR / ON DIAS

Chris Goodwin
7565



DAVID ANDERSON STAFF HOLDING RM. ^{LEAD}

DAVID T.

DEPT. SEC KEARNS / L. ALEXANDER ^{LATER}
401-1000 (Hiedi) 401-3000

401-0404 → Gaylin Hooley

SEC. ALEXANDER
SCHEDULING OFFICE
Stephanie

9/24/91
5:45 PM

12 mins / telep.

9/25/91

7136 → MRS. BUSH'S PRESS OFFICE - MRS. BUSH IS A YES
SEC. ALEXANDER IS YES
Dept. SEC. DAVID KEARNS IS A NO

McGroarty/Bunton
September 23, 1991
7:00 pm
[RIBBON]

9/25/91
9:25 am

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS CEREMONY
SEPTEMBER 25, 1991
~~THE SOUTH LAWN~~ *SHERATON, WDC*
~~8:00 A.M.~~ *NOON*

I know all of you were disappointed by the weather today. We'd planned on hosting all 800 of you on the White House lawn - - and here I'm the one who ended up making the field trip. // [Introductory acknowledgements: Let me recognize the many corporate contributors to the Blue Ribbon Program who are here today -- and of course I'm pleased to introduce to you our first-rate Secretary of Education, Lamar Alexander. //]

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there's another part of the business of building better schools across America: shining the spotlight on schools that work, and the people that make them work -- the success stories, like each one of the [222] schools here today. //

Last December -- with the world's attention rightly focused on Desert Shield -- I laid out five principles to guide our efforts to restructure and revitalize our schools. With the state of our schools back in the national spotlight, those principles bear repeating today. //

First, we've got to raise expectations -- hold our schools and students to a higher level of achievement. Second, we must decentralize authority -- clear some room for our teachers and principals to do what they do best: make learning come alive. Third, we need responsive schools -- customer-driven. And that means school choice: If we want to create a climate for change, let parents decide which school, public or private, is best for their kids. Fourth, we must make certain our schools are market-oriented: Competition works in the business world; it can spur excellence in our schools. Fifth and finally, we must make sure our schools are performance-based. We need to measure our schools by real results -- by the students they produce rather than the resources we pour in. Quite simply, by what works.

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McGroarty/Bunton
September 23, 1991
7:00 pm
[RIBBON]

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SEPTEMBER 25, 1991
~~THE SOUTH LAWN~~ SHERATON
8:00 A.M. NOON

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~~8:00 A.M.~~ *NOON / LUNCHEON ADDRESS*

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territory

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✓ Once again, ^{congratulations!} ~~welcome to the White House.~~ When you get home with your Blue Ribbons, please share my thanks with everyone who makes your schools so successful. Thank you -- and may God bless the United States of America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

31 SEP 23 P7:00

September 23, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST
 TONY SNOW *TS*

FROM: DAN MCGROARTY *DMG*

SUBJECT: BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS REMARKS

On Wednesday, September 25 at 8 a.m., you will deliver remarks to an audience of 850 at the Blue Ribbon Schools Program Ceremony on the South Lawn. Sec. Alexander is expected to attend. The audience is primarily composed of corporate sponsors, students, administrators, faculty, and board members from the 222 Blue Ribbon Schools.

Your remarks (approximately 12 minutes/cards) acknowledge the achievements of the Blue Ribbon awardees, highlight several schools, and discuss the merits of America 2000. The remarks also restate the five education principles you laid out last December.

24 September 1991
5 p.m.

for Blue Ribbon Insert

MEMORANDUM FOR DAN MCGROARTY

FROM: JEANNIE BUNTON *JB*

SUBJECT: AMERICA 2000 STATES AND COMMUNITIES *|*

DME

Per conversation with Jay Diskey (America 2000 News) through 9/20/91:

C **9 states and one territory** (Colorado, Wyoming, Oregon, American Samoa, Maine, Maryland, Nebraska, Minnesota, Delaware, and Vermont)

X and

too many communities to count most accurate to say "hundreds have expressed interest and many have become..." "

9/19/91

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Full
Blue Ribbon
is stopped.

DMB

See you tomorrow

McGroarty/Bunton
September 19, 1991
2:30 pm
[RIBBON]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS CEREMONY
SEPTEMBER 25, 1991
THE SOUTH LAWN
8:00 A.M.

With apologies for the early hour, it's my pleasure to welcome all of you to the White House. Here you are -- the ultimate field trip. // [Introductory acknowledgements: Let me recognize the many corporate contributors to the Blue Ribbon Program who are here today -- and of course I'm pleased to introduce to you our first-rate Secretary of Education, Lamar Alexander. //]

I'm delighted to start the day by recognizing the schools that represent this Nation's Blue Ribbon best. // ~~This is the ninth year we've bestowed Blue Ribbons.~~ *We've been bestowing Blue Ribbons ever for 9 years.* *(Since 1982)* Some of your schools are *(NOT)* no strangers to this ceremony: today we host a record 32 two-time winners. /

This year, we meet at a moment when this Nation has embarked on a crusade for real reform in our schools -- a crusade we call America 2000, a revolution that will ready us to *enter* ~~meet~~ a new century capable of meeting its challenges. //

As you know, right now the news for American education as a whole is anything but good. Part of the necessary business of reform is to shine a light into the dark corners of the system - - focus on the schools that aren't making the grade; shake people

out of their complacency and show them we need change. / But there's another part of the business of building better schools across America: shining the spotlight on schools that work -- the success stories, like each one of the 222 schools here today.

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^{FORCE}---} Base in Germany -- or as near to this House as D.C.'s own Benjamin Banneker and Hine Junior High -- you see at a glance that each school travels its own path to excellence. //

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Handwritten notes:
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#

18 SEPTEMBER 1991
9:15 a.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR DAN MCGROARTY

FROM: JEANNIE BUNTON
SUBJECT: BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL:
Madison, Wisconsin
Convo with Carolyn Taylor, principal

"We don't think we have arrived at excellence last year or in one year, nor have we achieved it; it's a journey."

FIRST TIME MADISON HAS WON ON NATIONAL LEVEL

Attending: **Mr. Carroll Theobald**, English teacher, Chair of English dept., selected by school staff to attend the event; **Carolyn Taylor**, principal, **Shirley Baum**, ast. superintendent for secondary education and former principal of school

Madison: is small urban city of 200,000 with four large public high schools, all schools are about the same size; increasingly diverse community both ethnically and economically, state Capital, Univ. of Wisconsin main campus located there, called it a small urban setting, increase in crime, increase in violent acts, up from Chicago on interstate.

neat thing is on same graduation stage have students going to Harvard and Stanford and students who are first person from their family to graduate.

CRAFTSBURY ACADEMY
Craftsbury Common, Vermont

Convo with Richard Shanley, principal

Craftsbury Common is a very rural community (farming community), blend of people, retirees and poor, a bedroom community - some people commute 70-80 miles away to work, in the 1-6 grade programs about 50% of the students qualify for the free and reduced lunch program

Attendees: **Gary Houston**, selected by teachers to attend, he's a parent, a large farm owner, former school board member and member of Craftsbury trustees who build a \$1 million resource center for the school, which includes a telecommunications center (recently students studied Russian Language and Culture through this system and a parent

11mg E
father of 4 children enrolled
Megan — a sophomore a sixth grader — Jesse (male)
Jody (male) — Freshman
Anno — second grader

*Find another largish from remain 5
urban/big diamond in the rough*

1964 graduate of Craftsbury

kids in or thru that school

bd. of large landowner, by far largest farmer not wealthy helped finance

volunteered to take the class and monitor it), computer lab, library, classrooms,

Student **Jason Masse** (Mass EEE) 17 year-old, senior, chosen by faculty and staff because he is a model student, student council member and athlete, currently co-captain of the boys varsity soccer team, member of the 1990 boys varsity soccer team which won the Division 4 State championship (16-0 record) and a member of the 1991 Division 4 boys State Runner-up basketball team,

Principal - Richard Shanley

Walter Gutzman (GOOTZ MAN) a science teacher at the school, is a ~~1959~~ ¹⁹⁵⁸ graduate of the Craftsbury school.

Celebration planned Oct. 11

School open since 1829, mascot "The Chargers" - a charging horse, colors blue and white

FURTHEST/CLOSEST:

East Anchorage High School, AK
Kalaheo High, HI
Ponce De Leon High, PR
Colegio Ponceno, PR

Hine Junior High, DC
Benjamin Banneker High, DC

9/18/91
Gaylin Hoodley 3:45
DOD school
is coming from
Germany
Dr. Dennis
McGuane
(McWayne)
Hahn American High School
496 543 3307
what city?

Craftsbury Academy
Craftsbury Common, Vermont

Rationale

Craftsbury Academy actively involves the local community in its educational programming and offers its students state-of-the-art educational technology. Founded in 1829 and recognized as a Blue Ribbon School in 1990-91, Craftsbury Academy is a public school that serves 180 students in grades 5-12. The region has suffered through an economic turn-down for several years, and as a result its average personal income ranks in the bottom 10 percent nationally. A majority of adults in the area have not continued their education beyond high school graduation.

for area? for the township

Project Description

Craftsbury maintains close ties with community members, graduates, and local institutions. Some parents teach classes to prepare students for annual thematic-study expeditions to locations, such as Washington, DC, New York City, and Canada, that emphasize cultural and ethnic awareness. Craftsbury has access to local college libraries and uses college gymnasiums for physical education classes. The Green Mountain Teen Institute trains Craftsbury students in peer intervention strategies to deal with alcohol and drug abuse. Its students take part in a local college's Outward Bound program for low-income, college-bound youth.

Although it is one of the smallest schools in the state, Craftsbury Academy offers its students access to a wide variety of technologically advanced learning materials. With a \$50,000 private donation, the school purchased a satellite dish that links students and teachers to a number of universities across the country. Students take satellite-transmitted courses

PITUS DID
NASA ON 9/17/91
TELECONFERENCE

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in Russian and advanced math and have held teleconferences with NASA officials. Students use the school's computer lab to develop computer programs in BASIC, Cobol, and Pascal. They can also study meteorology with the help of weather data and photos transmitted to their computers from local weather stations. Music students compose songs using several new synthesizers.

Seventh and eighth grade students at Craftsbury score, on average, 1.5 to 2.0 years above grade level in reading and math on national exams. Students also perform well above average on SAT tests, compared with students from similar backgrounds. The average daily attendance rate is 93 percent, and only four students have dropped out of the school during the last five years. The school estimates that 60 percent of its students continue their education at a postsecondary institution.

last yr. 90% went to college / Shanley
see notes

Contact

Richard Shanley
Principal, Craftsbury Academy
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Craftsbury Common, VT 05827
(802) 586-2541

9/17/91 |
called @ 4:30 pm
Jane Link
farming community ->
unemployed, retired,
bedroom community
rural - small
place ->

called 9/18/91 @ 3:40 p.m.

spoke w/ Jane Link
re update on Gary Houston

Craftsbury Academy

11:30 9/18/91

Cono w/ Richard Sharley

very rural community (farms on desktop) principal
Dvt. School

- blend of people, retirees, and poor
- commute 70-80 miles away
- 1-6 prog. free & reduce lunch at 50% participate and qualify

who attending?

↓
 Gary Houston, selected by teachers - parent, a busman owns several farms, in com form to. inter.; Craftsbury Trustee who helped bring new \$1 million Oly. computer lab, library, science, classrooms' telecommunications system (Massey)

student Jason Masse, (a sr. → 17) ~~17~~
 Aug 4, 1974 - chosen by faculty's staff as representative - sports, student council member & b-ball

b. May 12, 1941 - teacher - Walter Gutzman (GOOTZ MAN)
 science - graduate of Craftsbury Academy (1959)
 and principal - in 3rd yr. @ school

Go Division 4 state championship
 - boys varsity soccer 16-0
 first loss in 20 games
 celebration planned Oct. 11th
 1829 - mascot the Chargers → horse blue & white

state
91- Don 4 Boys run of
on both team

this yr. Co-captain of Soccer team

9-12 80 kids; 40 play sports yr. round

Russian language & culture → telecam
parent monitored; took course w/ students

70% last yr. went to college

(16)

Genesis
Kansas City, Missouri

Rationale

Genesis is an independent alternative middle school serving youth aged 11-19 with special needs. The school improves the academic and living skills of its disadvantaged population through partnerships with community service agencies, family literacy and counseling programs, and an interdisciplinary curriculum that draws on students' interests and backgrounds. Begun in 1975 as a federally-funded VISTA program, the nonprofit school now receives 75 percent of its funding from private sources, including businesses, foundations, and the United Way, and 25 percent from local government sources.

Genesis enrolls approximately 60 basic skills students and 30 G.E.D. students at any given time, with a total of 300 students enrolled throughout the 11-month school year. In addition, the school serves 200 teenage mothers and family members annually through the Family Unit Literacy program. Eighty-five percent of Genesis students come from single-parent, minority families living below the poverty line, and 35 percent of the female students are unwed mothers. Recognized as a Blue Ribbon school in 1990-91, Genesis' student population is over 80 percent black, 11 percent white, 4 percent Hispanic, and 3 percent Native American.

Project Description

Genesis has created an elaborate collaborative network with community agencies, health and social service providers, businesses, and other local organizations. These collaborative efforts provide financial support to the school, raise public awareness of its mission, and increase the ability of the

(17)

school to deliver varied services. The Family Unit Literacy program for teenage mothers and their children unites child care providers, public transportation, social services, and employment training agencies in an effort to help young families function effectively and become self-sufficient. Another collaborative effort, the At-Risk Task Force, brings together 200 community agencies and 300 local businesses to help reduce the dropout rate and provide support for teenage parents.

Genesis' goals reflect its commitment to preparing at-risk youth and families for a successful and productive future. Its objective is to ensure that each student either returns to public school, earns a GED, enrolls in college, or obtains employment. The school uses a mix of basic skills and critical thinking skills instruction, cultural and artistic programs, and counseling to help its students. One of Genesis' most important elements is its use of a service delivery model that emphasizes the holistic treatment of families and their interrelated needs. A case manager works closely with each family and with school personnel to guide and support youth and their families. Afterschool and Saturday programs provide an opportunity for teenage mothers and children to work with school staff and for teenage fathers to participate in child-rearing.

Staff involvement in decision making is another hallmark of Genesis's educational program. Each teacher is responsible for planning and implementing a schoolwide program; examples include Ethnic Awareness Month, the Writers' Program, Women's and Men's Groups, Read-A-Thons, student radio shows, and student government. Faculty members developed a multicultural, thematic curriculum to enrich students' academic experience. Teachers also

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conduct local and national workshops on strategies for educating at-risk children and youth.

Based on its stated goals, Genesis achieves a 65 percent success rate, a remarkable record given its high-risk population. Average daily attendance is 81 percent, with 16 to 21 percent of students dropping out. Students show modest academic improvement on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and on special reading tests designed to measure their progress in the Writers' Project.

Contact

Hill - Resource Development

Mamie Isler - (Susan ast.)
Executive Director, Genesis
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AVIATA PROJECT

- heart of inner city - alternative inner city school for at risk youth
- located in 38th district - mostly African Am in Af. Am. community
- lower class, working class neighborhood
- family oriented school

no mascot no school colors

most students do return to public schools -

some get GED there; majority return to public school 1-2 yrs or less - students for one reason or another have not achieved success in public school

first award

Administrative Staff

- ALAN M. DUBOIS - ~~Chairman~~ ^{first and only} chair div. of school
- MAMIE ISLER (ISS VER) NOT (IZ) program director
- John OFFICER - ^{Coor.} ~~Dir.~~ of youth services

(enrollment) - 450 youth/yr.

65% of students are positively placed - don't go back to courts don't drop out
considerable # for people considered ³ losers

Anecdotal: when a story is award; appeared in ^{a local} the paper
one parent wrote a letter wanted to know why it didn't
make front page

story on news at school - image
my family is a part of something so pros.

staff - committed -
team management approach

Genesis - new beginning

Success stories:

- 15 □ Trent, troubled student in 2 yrs. now host² radio show
has a ^{full} scholarship to an area private school
Janae Gaston
Student Hostess
Genesis on air
 - 17 □ 1 out of school 4 yr. has received her GED and now secretarial
work at Genesis. You to copy in Jan.
Debbie Wade
 - 18 □ Joseph Newton - was failing, told he had learning disabilities,
the 1/1.5 yr. graduated 1st school; given scholarship
to Art Institute (Kansas City) now in ^{Fr.} College -
- One
have given students a voice - it's about empowerment
help them find their voice - so they can help others find theirs. 11