

newschools  
venture fund  
2004  
SUMMIT

**AGENDA**

**Thursday, May 6, 2004**

**7:30 am – 8:30 am**                      **Registration and Breakfast**  
*Pre-meeting Area*

**8:30 am – 10:30 am**                      **Welcome and Plenary**  
*Mediterranean I and II Ballroom*

Speaker:

**Kim Smith**, Co-Founder and CEO, NewSchools Venture Fund

**Plenary: Cycles of Urban School Reform**

In large urban districts across the country, forward-thinking superintendents are leading their public school systems toward improved student achievement – particularly for students that are currently underserved. Two important urban school superintendents join us to reflect upon the cycle of change, what they have accomplished and what hurdles remain. Representing the New York City and San Diego school districts, these impressive leaders will also discuss the challenges ahead in creating a sustainable performance-driven school system, including the tools and resources they need to succeed.

Moderator:

**Jim Shelton**, Program Director, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Speakers:

- **Alan Bersin**, Superintendent of Public Education, San Diego City Schools
- **Joel Klein**, Chancellor, New York City Department of Education

**10:30 am – 11:00 am**                      **Networking Break**  
*Pre-meeting Area*

**11:00 am – 12:30 pm**

**Breakout Session I**

**School Finance Redefined: Equity and Adequacy**

*Portofino Room*

In the ongoing debate over education reform, the ways and means of public school finance have again taken center stage. Although it has been a challenge for decades, the struggle over how to define and fund equity – within and between districts – persists to this day. Many states are involved in lawsuits regarding the appropriate level of school spending, some of which may even redefine the meaning and cost of an “adequate” public education. This is all playing out against a backdrop of continuing state fiscal problems and new accountability systems, which are placing added pressure on school budgets. These developments are forcing educators and policymakers to re-evaluate the amount and allocation of school spending, at the student, school and district levels.

Moderator:

**Jim Peyser**, Partner, NewSchools Venture Fund

Speakers:

- **Michael Kirst**, Professor of Education, Business Administration and Political Science, Stanford University; Director of Policy Analysis for California Education; Director of Consortium for Policy Research in Education
- **Marguerite Roza**, Research Associate, Center on Reinventing Public Education
- **Jane Hannaway**, Director, Education Policy Center at the Urban Institute

**Lowering the Barriers: Developing Ecosystems that Support Sustainable Charter School Growth**

*Cyprus Room*

As we move into the second wave of charter school development, leaders in the movement are realizing that in order to create a strong supply of quality charter schools, there must be a robust “ecosystem” of support – where policymakers, philanthropists, thought leaders, entrepreneurial leaders and educators, and parent and community demand all work together to create an environment that enables high-quality charter school growth. This session will bring together representatives of some of the most forward-thinking “ecosystem” players from across the country to discuss what it takes to build a strong environment for quality charter schools.

Moderator:

**Reed Hastings**, President, California State Board of Education

Speakers:

- **Howard Fuller**, Chairman, Black Alliance for Educational Options
- **Phoebe Boyer**, Executive Director, Tiger Foundation; Board of Directors, NYC Center for Charter Excellence
- **Bart Peterson**, Mayor, City of Indianapolis

### **Tools to Support Performance-Driven Practices**

#### *St. Tropez Room*

School systems across the nation are struggling to transform themselves into performance-driven education systems – systems with the information and expertise necessary to track, guide, and improve student achievement. While No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is accelerating the pace of change in this direction, much more importantly, school leaders are learning that the appropriate and frequent use of data leads to better outcomes for their students. Key to this transformation are data-driven decision-making solutions that are enabled by technology. Similar to the experiences of their counterparts in business and other industries, school systems have found that they cannot make the necessary transition without technology and tools to support them. In this session, we explore entrepreneurial ventures and opportunities in the interrelated areas of data, assessment, and professional development.

Moderator:

**Chip Kimball**, CIO, Lake Washington School District, Redmond, WA

Speakers:

- **Leslie Pulliam**, Vice President, ETS Pulliam
- **Martin Brutosky**, CEO, TetraData
- **Louis Gomez**, Chief Academic Officer, Teachscape

### **Cultivating the Next Generation of Excellent Charter School Leaders**

#### *Mykonos Room*

The first decade of growth in the charter school movement relied heavily on the tenacity of passionate individuals and teams who were willing and able to put “superhuman” effort into opening a new school. However, this first wave of entrepreneurial charter school leaders may have reached its limit. As such, the charter school movement is now looking for new solutions to expanding the supply of excellent charter school leaders. This discussion will focus on the different approaches currently being explored to solve the leadership challenge. Participants will address questions like such as: to what extent will expanding the pool of excellent leaders require developing a different pool of individuals with a diverse set of skills and expertise, versus modifying the job and providing leaders with better support and infrastructure?

Moderator:

**Shivam Mallick Shah**, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Speakers:

- **Elise Darwish**, Chief Academic Officer, Aspire Public Schools
- **Allison Rouse**, Director of Recruitment, Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP)
- **Jonathan Schnur**, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, New Leaders for New Schools

**“First to Worst” Screening**

*Bacchus Room*

In the 1950s and '60s, California had one of the best school systems in the country. Now it has one of the worst. What happened over the course of 40 years that led to this decline? And what is California doing to raise its system back up? Hosted by John Merrow, this documentary chronicles the rise and fall of California's public school system, the largest in the nation and home to one of every eight American students.

Speaker:

**John Merrow**, Executive Producer and Host, *The Merrow Report*

**12:30 pm – 2:00 pm                      Lunch and Keynote Address**

*Mediterranean I and II Ballroom*

Speaker:

**Geoffrey Canada**, President and CEO, Harlem Children's Zone

**Keynote Address**

Geoffrey Canada is the President and CEO of Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) and the acclaimed author of *Fist Stick Knife Gun: A Personal History of Violence in America*. Mr. Canada, who grew up in the South Bronx, has dedicated his life to helping children growing up in similar conditions secure both educational and economic opportunities. Harlem Children's Zone is a nonprofit, community-based organization whose 15 centers serve more than 12,600 children and adults in some of New York City's most devastated neighborhoods. HCZ is now engaged in a multi-year comprehensive community-building initiative that aims to create significant, positive opportunities and outcomes for all children living in a 24-block area in Harlem, by helping parents, residents, teachers and other key stakeholders create a safe learning environment for youth. This work will include the development of a system of new public K-12 charter schools in Harlem, with its first school slated to open this fall with 100 kindergarteners and 100 sixth graders.

**2:00 pm – 2:30 pm**

**Networking Break**

*Pre-Meeting Area*

**2:30 pm – 4:00 pm**

**Breakout Session II**

**Community Support for Education Reform**

*Portofino Room*

Many community organizations share the goal of supporting high-quality schools in underserved communities. Some organizations focus nationally on an ethnic or racial community while others focus locally on a geographic community. Several of these organizations are now embracing new school creation as an approach for affecting public education and improving the opportunities available to children in their communities. For example, The National Council of La Raza has become involved in choice and supports charter schools nationally; St. HOPE Public Schools has focused on building charter schools in one neighborhood to supplement its other community-building efforts; and the Black Alliance for Educational Options has chosen to help parents and community leaders become more informed consumers of choice and quality and is also beginning to create its own schools. In this session, representatives from each of these organizations will explain how their involvement in education evolved, and the lessons they have learned along the way.

Moderator:

**Ralph Smith**, Senior Vice President, Annie E. Casey Foundation

Speakers:

- **Anthony Colon**, Vice President, Center for Community Educational Excellence, National Council of La Raza
- **Margaret Fortune**, Superintendent, St. HOPE Public Schools
- **Lawrence Patrick**, President and CEO, Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO)

**Experiments in Portfolio Management**

*Cyprus Room*

As public school districts work to align their systems and improve student achievement outcomes, some have tried a “portfolio management” approach in which the district oversees a diversity of school models or providers. In this discussion, we will hear from Paul Hill, who first published on this idea, and from former superintendents who led some of the earliest experiments on this concept. In the mid-1990s, Gerry House had all of the Memphis City Schools select or create a comprehensive school design model. Around the same time, Libia Gil, the superintendent in Chula Vista, encouraged a diverse supply of school providers, including education management organizations and charter schools. This session will delve into the different strategies and tactics involved in reinventing the district office as a “portfolio manager” and the conditions for success in this approach.

Moderator:

**Paul Hill**, Director, Center for Reinventing Public Education

Speakers:

- **Gerry House**, President and CEO, Institute for Student Achievement and former Superintendent, Memphis City Schools
- **Libia Gil**, Chief Academic Officer, New American Schools and former Superintendent, Chula Vista Elementary School District

### **Lighten the Load: Entrepreneurial Solutions for Charter School Infrastructure**

*St. Tropez Room*

Opening and operating a single charter school – not to mention an entire system of them – currently demands deep and broad skill sets that few charter school leadership teams can (or should) assemble. This session will explore emerging solutions that begin to provide a common infrastructure that supports school leaders, helping them to tackle some of the biggest collective challenges they face today: facilities development and financing, student data and assessment, and special education. Ultimately, these innovative solutions will enable charter school leaders to focus on their core mission – instructional leadership and student achievement – while helping to jump-start the growth of new, high-quality charter schools by making it possible for more entrepreneurs to take on the task of opening new charter schools.

Moderator:

**James Willcox**, Principal, NewSchools Venture Fund

Speakers:

**David Umansky**, CEO, Civic Builders

**Doug McCurry**, Executive Director, Achievement First

**Jean Hatch**, Co-Director, Shasta County Charter Schools Special Education Consortium

### **Rethinking Human Resource Strategies to Drive District-wide Performance**

*Mykonos Room*

We all know that public education is a “people” business – it can only be as good as its teachers and leaders. One of the ongoing challenges a performance-driven school district faces is recruiting, placing, supporting, evaluating, and compensating high-performing teachers and leaders. To do this right, districts must rethink their human resource (HR) strategies, policies, and systems, which affect student achievement. Ultimately, school systems that are able to align their human resource strategies with their performance objectives will realize greater gains in student outcomes. In this session we will explore how a model HR system can be integrated into the instructional goals of the district, what leading practitioners are doing to overcome systemic barriers to achieving those goals and entrepreneurial opportunities to support these changes.

Moderator:

**Dan Katzir**, Managing Director, The Broad Foundation

Speakers:

- **Chris Cerf**, President of Edison Schools
- **Carol Hauser**, Executive Director of Employee Services, Cleveland Municipal School District
- **Michelle Rhee**, CEO of The New Teacher Project

**4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

*Pool Courtyard*

**Closing Remarks and Cocktail Reception**