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2006
S U M M I T

AGENDA

Thursday, May 4, 2006

7:30 am – 8:30 am **Registration and Breakfast**
Ballroom Foyer

8:30 am – 10:15 am **Opening Remarks and Plenary Session**
Grand Ballroom

Welcome from **Ted Mitchell**, CEO, NewSchools Venture Fund

Plenary Session: Connecting Innovation to System Change

Dramatic reform of public education - which requires a global shift in our thoughts, resources and actions - is difficult and complicated work. In this context, a great number of promising innovations have emerged over the years, offering possibilities for a new approach to public schooling but repeatedly failing to achieve that impact. This enduring paradox makes the work of entrepreneurs and other reformers that much more challenging. In this wide-ranging discussion that will frame the conversations to follow throughout the day, four extraordinary leaders will examine this paradox and offer ideas for how innovation can spark more sustainable change in public education.

Moderator:

Ted Mitchell, CEO, NewSchools Venture Fund

Speakers:

- **John Doerr**, Partner, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers
- **Wendy Kopp**, President and Founder, Teach For America
- **Deborah McGriff**, Chief Communications Officer, Edison Schools
- **Tom Vander Ark**, Executive Director of Education Initiatives, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

10:15 am – 11:00 am **Networking Break**
Ballroom Foyer and Veranda Room

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Breakout Sessions

Turning Around Underperforming Schools: Conditions and Characteristics for Success*Grand Salon*

Federal, state and district policies have increasingly held schools accountable for results over the last several decades. More recently, state accountability legislation and the federal No Child Left Behind Act have accelerated this trend by defining and highlighting the existence of chronically underperforming schools – and by mandating that districts take significant corrective action to address them. Featuring practitioners who have taken on this challenge, this session will explore the complex process of turning around struggling schools so that they deliver significant achievement gains for students. Panelists will cover recent research findings on school turnarounds and examine the critical elements necessary to dramatically improve these schools, including the operational requirements and environmental factors that must be in place.

Moderator:

Vincent Matthews, Educator-in-Residence, NewSchools Venture Fund

Speakers:

- **Andrew Calkins**, Executive Director, Mass Insight Education
- **Matthew Malone**, Superintendent, Swampscott Public Schools
- **Laverne White**, Regional Vice President, Edison Schools
- **Kevin Wooldridge**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Education for Change

District Portfolio Management: Charter Schools as Partners*Blue Room*

In recent years, a number of districts have begun to implement a portfolio strategy in order to increase the number and diversity of quality schools as a means for improving district-wide student outcomes. This approach has provided opportunities for charter school operators to respond to district needs by acting as suppliers and partners. While such opportunities hold promise for both districts and charter schools, they also come with significant challenges in navigating governance, accountability mechanisms, funding levels and facilities agreements in ways that meet the needs of both parties. This session will explore the experiences of one urban district and three charter school operators that have undertaken this work. Panelists will consider whether a portfolio management strategy that includes district-charter partnerships can help accelerate the pace of improvement for students – and if so, what design choices and partnership options promote the strongest results while mitigating potential risks.

Moderator:

Jordan Meranus, Principal, NewSchools Venture Fund

Speakers:

- **Judy Ivie Burton**, President and CEO, Alliance for College-Ready Public Schools
- **Scott Gordon**, Chief Executive Officer, Mastery Charter Schools
- **Hosanna Mahaley Johnson**, Chief of Staff, Chicago Public Schools
- **Elizabeth Delaney Purvis**, Executive Director, Chicago Charter School Foundation

The Future of Teacher Education

Salon I

The vast majority of new public school teachers are prepared in undergraduate or graduate schools of education. However, recent research concludes that traditionally certified teachers are no more effective in raising student achievement than teachers without certification or than those prepared and certified through alternative routes. As public school systems struggle to recruit and retain qualified teachers, many believe it is time to rethink teacher preparation. What do teachers need to know and be able to do in order to be successful in classrooms – and how can we effectively and efficiently prepare them for this task? This session will be an open discussion among experts who have different points of view and are proponents of different models. Our goal is to explore both traditional and entrepreneurial approaches to improving teacher education – from inside and outside the system.

Moderator:

Eugene Garcia, Dean of the College of Education and Vice President of University-School Partnerships, Arizona State University

Speakers:

- **Kate Walsh**, President, National Council on Teacher Quality
- **Larry Rosenstock**, Chief Executive Officer, High Tech High Communities
- **Brian Sims**, Principal, Chicago Academy High School

Creating a New Public Education System: Entrepreneurs in New Orleans

Salon IV

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the city of New Orleans is engaged in a massive rebuilding effort. A crucial piece of this is the building of a new public education system, replacing a district that foundered for years before the storm. In the midst of this complicated scenario, education entrepreneurs are creating both new systems of charter schools and the infrastructure necessary to support those schools in serving the students of New Orleans. In this session, three Crescent City entrepreneurs will share both the current status of their organization and their aspirations. These panelists will also highlight the human, financial and political resources they need to build organizations that can deliver a high-quality public education to New Orleans' students.

Moderator:

Greg Richmond, President, National Association of Charter School Authorizers

Speakers:

- **Gary Robichaux**, Principal, New Orleans West (NOW) College Prep
- **Brian Reidlinger**, Interim Director, Algiers Charter Association
- **Sarah Newell Usdin**, Founder, New Schools New Orleans

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm **Lunch**
Grand Ballroom

Putting Students Front and Center: Voices of the Future

During lunch, we will hear from three high school students who attend two different charter schools in the San Francisco Bay Area. Together with one of the top leaders of California's school system, the students will reflect on their academic experiences, highlight what makes their schools special to them, and share their thoughts about what they believe future generations of students need in order to be fully prepared for college – and beyond.

Introductory Remarks:

Alan Bersin, Secretary of Education, State of California

Student Speakers:

- **Derin Coleman**, 10th grade student, Aspire Public Schools' Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy
- **Tomas Marquez**, 12th grade student, Aspire Public Schools' Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy
- **Amanda Wyatt**, 11th grade student, Leadership Public Schools-Richmond

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm **Breakout Sessions**

Charter School Performance: What Are the Measures of Success?

Grand Salon

Over the last decade, charter schools have grown to be an important component of the public education landscape, providing a diverse supply of options to students, parents and communities. However, recent studies regarding their effect on student achievement have yielded conflicting results. This session will attempt to uncover why the same research is revealing different conclusions. The panelists will also explore how charter school quality should be evaluated and discuss what indicators charter schools – and the movement as a whole – should be using to measure their impact and success.

Moderator:

Anthony Bryk, Spencer Professor of Education, Stanford University School of Education, and Professor of Organizational Behavior, Stanford University Graduate School of Business

Speakers:

- **Paul Hill**, Director, Center on Reinventing Public Education; Chair, National Charter School Research Project at the University of Washington
- **Thomas Joseph Kane**, Professor of Education and Economics, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Rethinking Teacher Unions for the 21st Century

Blue Room

Today, more than 90 percent of all public school teachers are members of a teacher union. Further, the collective bargaining agreements these unions negotiate are extraordinarily influential in determining how teachers are compensated, promoted, supported, and placed. However, much has changed in public education since these unions gained the right to bargain collectively in the 1960s. This session will explore how teacher unions have responded to the needs of schools in the 21st century, including the impact of the accountability and choice movements. The panelists will also delve into the complicated issue of how to balance unions' interests with the need to improve student achievement.

Moderator:

Michelle Rhee, Chief Executive Officer and President, The New Teacher Project

Speakers:

- **Brad Jupp**, Senior Academic Policy Advisor, Denver Public Schools; former Teacher/Coordinator, ProComp Initiative
- **Dan Weisberg**, Executive Director, Labor Policy, New York City Department of Education
- **Roger Erskine**, Policy Director, League of Education Voters; former president, Seattle Education Association

Town Hall Meeting: Entrepreneurs' Ideas for Improving No Child Left Behind *

Salon I

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act created myriad opportunities and challenges for the new schools sector and for education entrepreneurs. In advance of the law's scheduled reauthorization next year, this working session will gather input on how NCLB can better support the creation of new high-performing schools and the next generation of school systems. Topics to be tackled include the law's measurement of adequate yearly progress, its school choice and tutoring provisions, its approaches to restructuring, and its mandates for highly-qualified teachers. The session's discussion will be translated into a policy brief for Congress as it works to update the law.

Moderators:

- **Michael Petrilli**, Vice President for National Programs and Policy, Thomas B. Fordham Foundation
- **Jim Peyser**, Partner, NewSchools Venture Fund

** Please note: because of the interactive nature of this session, attendance will be limited to those who sign up in advance. If you'd like to participate, visit the registration area in the Ballroom Foyer to find out if there is space available.*

Working Session on Data-Driven Decision-making: How Ready Are You? *

Salon IV

This is a hands-on, interactive working session designed for academic leaders from both charter and traditional school systems who wish to better incorporate the use of data into a cycle of instructional improvement. Using a newly-developed, research-based self-assessment tool, participants will examine their own school system's use of data-driven decision-making and share relevant promising practices with colleagues and experts.

Moderators:

- **Amanda Datnow**, Associate Director, Center on Educational Governance at University of Southern California; Associate Professor, Rossier School of Education
- **Joanne Weiss**, Partner and Chief Operating Officer, NewSchools Venture Fund

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