

Community Discussion on the Future of Public Education in DC

March 29, 2012



Chicago community in a silent march demonstrating for a clear voice in their public schools.



S.H.A.P.P.E

Agenda

A Fork in the Road:

Will DC citizens commit to maintaining an equitable system of neighborhood schools of right, politically controlled and planned?

OR

Will DC citizens continue to disengage from civic and democratic roles and responsibilities for public education and eventually transfer the governance, decision making and control of ALL public schools to private institutions?

Introduction: Cathy Reilly

Panel 1 – Where We Have Been - Ron Hampton

- Long History of Inequity (in terms of race and wealth)
- Constant Transitions
- Struggle for Local Democratic Control
- Citizen Advocacy

Panel 2- Where We Are Now - Mary Filardo and Daniel del Pielago

- Weakened Civic Voice
- School Choice
- Dedication to High Quality Public Education
- Inequity Quality Programs and Facilities
- Illusive Gains

Panel 3 – Chicago - A Shared Struggle - Jackie Leavy

- History of Struggle
- Loss of Parent and Community Voice
- Advancement of the Private Sector
- Avenues of Redress

Panel 4- Where Do We Want to Go? - Jeff Smith

- Who are we
- Break up into small discussion groups
- Reactions to the discussion
- Initial priorities going forward

Closing and Next Steps - Cathy Reilly

SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, April 28. Join us to continue this conversation and prepare an agenda for action. Time and Place will be posted on our websites and we will notify those that signed in for this evening.

About the Panelists

Ronald Hampton; Roosevelt Senior High School; Director of Family and Community Resource Center

Ron retired from the DC Metropolitan Police Department after twenty-four years as a community relations officer. Outstanding work and long experience in crime prevention, community policing and community relations have developed into education and training opportunities for Mr. Hampton. As the past Executive Director of the National Black Police Association, he was involved in designing and delivering community policing and problem solving training for residents in public housing as well as overseeing a project dealing with intervention and crime prevention through alternative community sentencing. Mr. Hampton is currently director of the Roosevelt Senior High School Family and Community Resource Center (FCRC). The FCRC is a pilot project under 21CSF and SHAPPE. He has volunteered at the school over the past seven years during and after the graduation of his daughter.

Mary Filardo; 21st Century School Fund; Executive Director

Mary Filardo founded the 21st Century School Fund (21CSF) in 1994 to provide the District of Columbia and other urban communities with leadership, innovative financing solutions, research, and public policy analysis of public school facility issues, including public charter schools. In 2002, 21CSF initiated Building Educational Success Together (BEST), a national collaborative of urban education equity and reform organizations dedicated to improving urban school facilities. Mary is a leading national authority on school facility planning, including local school, parental and community involvement, efficient management and capital financing. Mary is a long time resident of Ward I in Washington DC. Her three grown children all graduated from D.C. Public Schools.

Daniel Del Pielago; Empower DC; Education Organizer

Daniel del Pielago is a Ward 1 resident and has been a community organizer in the District of Columbia for the past five years. He is currently the organizer for Empower DC's Education Campaign and also sits on the executive board of DC Jobs with Justice.

Jacqueline Leavy; Pro Bono Advisor – Illinois General Assembly's Chicago Educational Facilities Task Force

For the past three years, Jackie has served as a *Pro Bono* Advisor to the Illinois General Assembly's "Chicago Educational Facilities Task Force" (the "CEFTF"). The Task Force was created by the Illinois Legislature to examine and recommend reform of Chicago Public Schools' facilities decisions about "School Actions" – Closings, Phase-Outs, Co-Locations -- and facility planning, spending and construction. Jackie began her community organizing career in the 1970s as a "street organizer" fighting slum landlords, "Arson for Profit," and the Mortgage Foreclosure Epidemic of that time. Jackie is a consultant and mentor to Chicago non-profit social justice organizations and young community organizers. Her career has been mainly in community organizing and advocacy in Chicago's low-income neighborhoods, around issues of equitable public and private investment, and community empowerment around neighborhood redevelopment. She was the executive director of the Neighborhood Capital Budget Group for 18 years.

Cathy Reilly; Senior High Alliance of Parents Principals and Educators (SHAPPE); Executive Director

Cathy is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Senior High Alliance of Parents Principals and Educators (SHAPPE). SHAPPE has been meeting monthly since February of 1998. She is currently a member of the Roosevelt Local School Advisory Team and has also served on the Coolidge and Wilson High School LSRTs. Her three children attended DC Public Schools; she served as president of the Oyster Community Council and the Wilson PTA during that time. She has taught two and three year old children for 20 years at St. Paul's Nursery School. Cathy is a long-time Ward four resident.

Jeff Smith; DC VOICE; Executive Director

Jeff is the Executive Director of DC VOICE, an independent non-profit based in Washington, DC. Jeff received a Law Degree from Howard University School of Law and is a product of the District of Columbia Public School System. He is a veteran of the United States Military and a former elected member of the District of Columbia Board of Education. Jeff Smith lives in the District of Columbia with his six year-old daughter Andaiye.

Sponsoring Organizations

21st Century School Fund: The 21st Century School Fund (21CSF) was founded in DC in 1994 on the premise that communities are responsible for creating healthy, safe, and educationally appropriate learning environments. 21CSF is dedicated to building the public will and capacity to modernize public school facilities so they support high quality education and community revitalization. 21CSF does research, policy development, advocacy, innovative projects and technical assistance to advance its mission. 202-745-3745, info@21csf.org, www.21csf.org

DC VOICE: DC VOICE was founded in 1999 by activists, teachers, parents and educational decision makers following the Federal takeover of the District of Columbia government and public school system which resulted in substantial leadership instability. Since then, DC VOICE has produced reports on DC Public Schools and has organized the public for an annual community audit of school preparedness which is now in its seventh year. 202-506-6367, www.dcvoice.org

Empower DC – Empower DC's mission is to enhance, improve and promote the self-advocacy of low and moderate income DC residents, in order to bring about sustained improvements in their quality of life. Campaigns include affordable housing, child care, public property and education. 202-234-9119, www.facebook.com/EmpowerDC

Senior High Alliance of Parents Principals and Educators: S.H.A.P.P.E. is an organization of public high school parent leaders, concerned educators and principals in Washington D.C. It has been meeting monthly for 13 years on the last Tuesday of each month at DCPS high schools. SHAPPE originally came together to share frustration and grief at the level of violence in our city. SHAPPE members currently work together to strategically influence policies, practices and budget decisions that impact our city's teenagers. 202-722-4462, www.shappe.org

WEACTRADIO: We Act Radio is a new radio station broadcasting from the heart of historic Anacostia in Washington, DC, beaming truth directly into the corridors of power at 1480AM and on the web at www.weactradio.com. Listeners hear a lineup of talk radio; original live shows, such as the Education Town Hall with Thomas Byrd & Jeff Smith, news and up-and-coming opinion makers including The Inside Scoop with Mark Levine. Daily talk, cultural and music programming reflects our station's diverse character. <http://www.weactradio.com>

Acknowledgment: We would like to thank Mark Simon for his insights and help in preparing for this meeting. Teachers and Parents for Real Education Reform: <http://reaeducationreformdc.blogspot.com/>

Thank you for participating in this important community meeting.

Contributions are welcome to help defray the expenses of our meeting tonight; there is a jar on the table at the rear of the hall or you may contribute to any of the organizations sponsoring this event.