

Community Discussion on the Future of Public Education in DC

May 3, 2012



Parents from Bruce-Monroe @ Park View Elementary

21st CENTURY | IMPROVING URBAN PUBLIC
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EMPOWER DC
ORGANIZING COMMUNITY POWER

S.H.A.P.P.E

Teachers & Parents for Real Education Reform

Agenda

Introduction – Daniel del Pielago

Presentation 1 & 2

1. DCPS policies and dramatic teacher and principal turnover
– *Mark Simon & Fred Solowey*
2. Community Schools: A Supportive Educational Environment
– *Jeff Smith & Erika Landberg*

Table Discussions of Presentation & First Report Out

What do you think about what you have heard?

What actions should we take?

Presentation 3 & 4

3. A vision for a public school system not just a system of schools
– *Mary Filardo*
4. Public Voice: putting parents and community back
in public education decisions
– *Cathy Reilly & Daniel del Pielago*

Table Discussions of Presentation & Second Report Out

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What actions should we take?

Closing and Next Steps – Ron Hampton

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. As the past Executive Director of the National Black Police Association, he was involved in designing and delivering community policing and problem solving training and overseeing a project for intervention and crime prevention through alternative community sentencing. Mr. Hampton is director of the Roosevelt Senior High School Family and Community Resource Center (FCRC), a pilot project under 21CSF and SHAPPE, supported by Capital One Foundation. 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. 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.

Mark Simon; DCPS Parent, School Without Walls; Education Policy Analyst at the Economic Policy Institute; Teachers and Parents for Real Education Reform

Mark taught high school in Montgomery County for 16 years and then was the elected president of the teachers' union for 12 years. He is the national coordinator of the Mooney Institute for Teacher and Union Leadership which advises and works with locals and districts across the country on education reform issues. He also works on education policy with researchers at the Economic Policy Institute. Mark is one of founders of Teachers and Parents for Real Education Reform. Mark has lived in Ward 1 for 37 years and his daughter, a graduating senior this year, attended Oyster, Deal and SWW.

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.

Erika Landberg; Program Director, DC VOICE

Erika is a former teacher with a long history of public school involvement in Washington, DC. She was a founder of the Six School Complex, served several times as PTA President at Ward 3 schools, two years as co-chair of Parents United for the DC Public Schools, and eight years as the Ward 3 Representative on the DC Board of Education. She holds education degrees from Augustana College and West Virginia University. Erika and her husband have two sons, both of whom graduated from the DC Public Schools.

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.

Fred J. Solowey is a parent activist and former PTA president of a Ward I elementary school until 2010.

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>

Teachers and Parents for Real Education Reform: An initiative of teachers and parents in the DC Public Schools aimed at improving the quality of teaching and learning. We aim to get the administration and the union focused on what matters -- support for high quality teaching. <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.