

Town Hall Los Angeles: “2001 – 2101: The Education Century? Rebuilding our Economy through Education Reform”

Executive Summary - By: Kim Anderson

Main sponsor: Corwin Press

Attended by: Kim Anderson, Cecilia Mansfield & Patty Scripter

Commission: State PTA Legislation Team

Date: July 14, 2009

Location: National Center for Preservation of Democracy 111 N Central Ave, Los Angeles.

Overall Summary:

- Conference ran from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- About 200 people were present.
- This event was recorded and being shown live across the US. It will also be available via webcast on the Town Hall website: www.townhall-LA.org
- Focus was on three things:
 - 1) Existing successful education programs within public education systems
 - 2) Training for a 21st century workforce of highly effective teachers
 - 3) Charter schools

SPI, Jack O’Connell gave Luncheon Keynote Address: “California: State of Education.”

The conference was extremely interesting & well worthwhile attending. It provided many different perspectives on public school systems – ranging from Superintendents from other states, to teacher recruitment organizations, to charter school operators and LAUSD administration.

Workshop Titles & Presenters:

Panel 1 – Bright Spots in Education:

Moderator: Eli Broad – Founder, *The Broad Foundation*

Panelists: Gary Mangiofoco, CEO, *LA Universal Preschool*

Peggy O’Brien, Chief of Family & Public Engagement and Chief
Communications Officer, *DC Public Schools*

Honorable Paul Pastorek, State Supt. Of Education, *Louisiana*

Marco Petruzzi, President & CEO – *Green Dot Public Schools*

Panel 2 – The 21st Century Workforce:

Moderator: Frances Lapes, Co-Chair Education Study Committee. *LWV - LA*

Panelists: Lisa Barrett, Partner Teaching Fellow Programs and Training and
Certification, *The New Teacher Project*

Matthew Kramer – President & Chief Program Officer,
Teach for America

Ellen Moir – Executive Director, *The New Teacher Center*

Panel 3 – New Solutions to Old Problems: The Charter School Model:

Moderator: Jed Wallace: President, *California Charter Schools Assoc*

Panelists: Angela Bass: Supt. of Instruction, *LAUSD*

Paul Cummins: Founder & Executive Director, *New Visions Foundation*

Michael Piscal: Founder & CEO, *ICEF Public Schools*

Highlights:

- It's clear that we cannot continue to do things in the same old ways and remain competitive
- Strong need to look at what's working in public schools & what's not
- Lot of talk about "Reconstituting" schools
- Schools thrive when a school's leadership is allowed to take control of the destiny of their school
- Desire for charter schools is to remove institutional barriers
- Charter schools are a key component of the reform movement
- Focus of charter schools is on outcomes
- Students want rigorous instruction & engagement
- Teachers must believe in the abilities of their kids and expect them to do well. Until they believe that, nothing will change
- Have to get union on board with firing bad teachers
- Early learning is not just an academic or social benefit but also an economic investment
- More buy-in now to concept of national standards - 46 Governors have agreed that there is a need for them.

Memorable quotes:

- ❖ Eli Broad – Founder, *The Broad Foundation*: ***"The Obama Administration recognizes the correlation between economic health and the education system"***
- ❖ Gary Mangiofico, CEO, *LA Universal Preschool*: ***"Quality takes place at the point of interaction between the teacher and the student"***
- ❖ Peggy O'Brien, Chief of Family & Public Engagement and Chief Communications Officer, *DC Public Schools*: ***"Every child can achieve at high levels regardless of background and finance"***
- ❖ Honorable Paul Pastorek, State Supt. Of Education, *Louisiana*: ***"There's been a "Reconstitution" ... a new game plan for teachers & principals"***
- ❖ Marco Petruzzi, President & CEO – *Green Dot Public Schools*: ***"We've experienced lots of desperation in low-income communities"***
- ❖ Frances Lapedes, Co-Chair Education Study Committee. *LWV – LA*: ***"50% of the teaching force will leave the profession within first 5 years."***
- ❖ Lisa Barrett, Partner Teaching Fellow Programs and Training and Certification, *The New Teacher Project*: ***"Can't continue to treat teachers like interchangeable parts, the way we do now. We must differentiate between good & bad teachers."***
- ❖ Matthew Kramer – President & Chief Program Officer, *Teach for America*: ***"We need to establish standards for teachers which are linked to outcomes for kids."***
- ❖ Ellen Moir – Executive Director, *The New Teacher Center*: ***"We need to build a career lattice for teachers."***
- ❖ Jed Wallace: President, *California Charter Schools Assoc*: ***"With the upcoming budget cuts, far greater responsibility will be placed on charter schools"***
- ❖ Angela Bass: Supt. of Instruction, *LAUSD*: ***"All of our kids come to us brilliant"***
- ❖ Paul Cummins: Founder & Executive Director, *New Visions Foundation*: ***"We need to hear words like magic, passion, compassion, engagement etc"***
- ❖ Michael Piscal: Founder & CEO, *ICEF Public Schools*: ***"If unions are going to hang on – public schools will go the way of GM within 10 years"***

