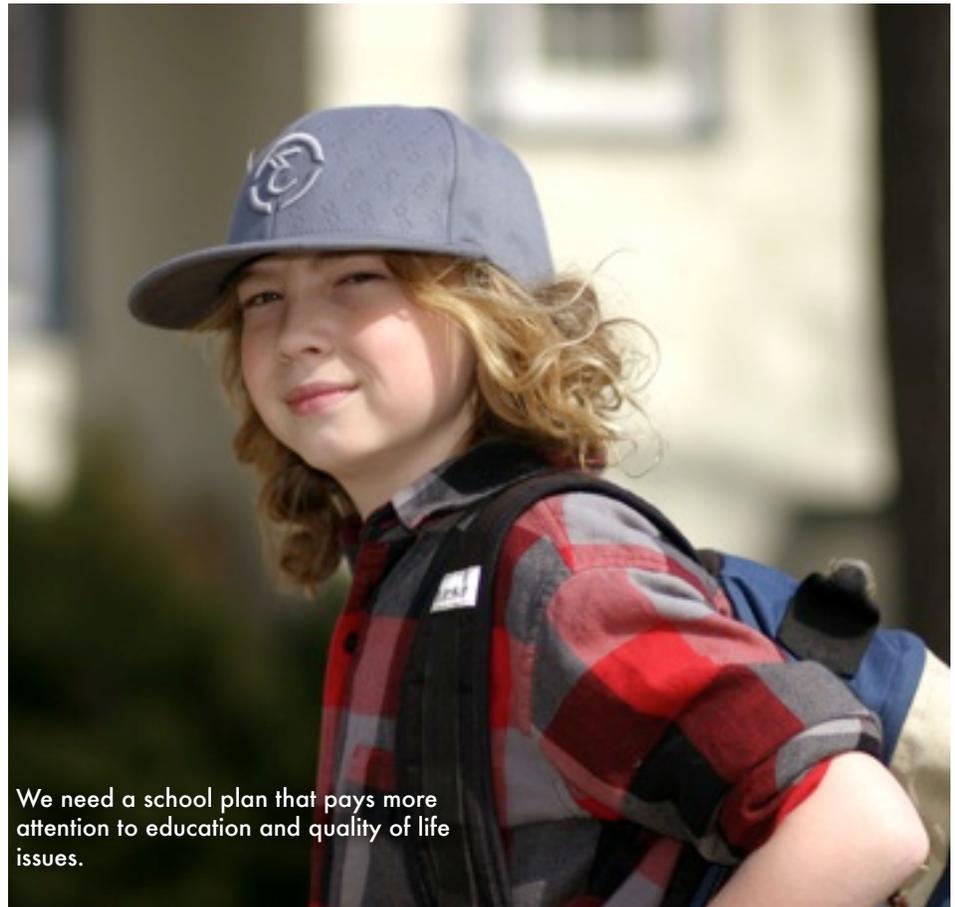


# realrenewal



FOR  
RESPONSIBLE  
CHANGE



We need a school plan that pays more attention to education and quality of life issues.

## Smart Growth, Smart Choices

In 2006/07 the Regina Board of Education met with School Community Councils to find out what parents want in a renewed school system. You had solid, achievable ideas for the future.

### Smaller Classes

Our kids are struggling in overcrowded classrooms, including overly large split grades. We need to invest in more teachers and make full use of classrooms that now sit empty.

### Stronger communities

Parents see schools as part of their neighbourhoods, providing a wide range of services and opportunities. Childcare,

after-school programs and school-based community activities are vital school functions that should be nurtured and expanded.

### Safer schools

Bullying and harassment are significant problems in Regina public schools, especially during the journey to and from school, and after school hours. School safety and neighbourhood safety are joint community-school concerns requiring joint action.

### Schools for everyone

Rich or poor, big or small, every neighbourhood deserves a fair level of investment in its school. Special needs children in particular deserve fairer access, with a more even distribution of special care aides and programs throughout the city.

### Better preparation

Learning expectations should be set high and set fairly across the system.

Students who fall behind should be picked up and assisted with tutoring and life skills coaching, rather than lowering the bar for all. As students grow older, we should widen their horizons with skills training and university preparation.

### Respect

Parents said they often feel school administrators aren't listening to them, and aren't involving the community in genuine decision-making. Information about our schools is hard to obtain, and one-off consultation meetings don't allow meaningful exchanges around the issues that concern us most, or dialogue with the people who actually make the decisions.

[www.realrenewal.org](http://www.realrenewal.org)

Sources:

*Kathleen Donovan. Analysis of the Parent Council Consultations. Dalhousie University, March 23, 2009.*

*H.J. Linnen Associates. Renewing Regina Public Schools: Report on Phase 1 Consultations. Jan. 17, 2007.*

# Re-Imagining Our Schools

May 26, 7:00 p.m.



Information sharing and discussion

City Hall Forum - Darlene Hincks Meeting Room

Smaller classes, more teachers, fewer split classes, neighbourhood school retention. These things are only achieved when parents speak up with a united voice.

## Take the walking challenge

During the Mayor's Commuter Challenge, the Connaught School Community Council is launching a Walking School Bus.

Studies show that walking to school is a very important part of a healthy childhood.

A Walking School Bus is a safe, co-operative way to ensure kids enjoy the benefits of walking. Kids walk or bike together, while parents and older students watch them along the route. Resources to help you choose safe routes and organize your block or neighbourhood are available at [www.walkingschoolbus.com](http://www.walkingschoolbus.com)

Take the challenge! See how many students you can get walking to your school. For information: [carlabeck@sasktel.net](mailto:carlabeck@sasktel.net)



## Success Story

Connaught and Davin parents jointly presented tours of their schools and neighbourhoods during Jane's Walk Weekend, May 2-3. The tours are held across North America to celebrate the ideas of Jane Jacobs, an advocate of sustainable, walkable neighbourhoods. Neighbourhood schools are key to this vision, often called Smart Growth planning. To learn about 'Smart Growth' schools, visit [www.smart-schools.org](http://www.smart-schools.org).

## Change We Can Believe In

Too often we are told we have no choice in the future of our schools. We are told issues like daycare and bullying are not on the agenda for long-term planning. We hear there is only one problem – unused, poorly maintained space – and only one solution: fewer classrooms, fewer schools, more bureaucratic standardization, and increased capital spending on endless cycles of demolition and construction.

Every school plan involves choice. We can achieve the education system we want for our children by speaking up for choices and changes that support our vision of strong, inclusive community-based schools. We can call for balanced investment in teaching resources, smaller classes, stronger academic standards, inclusive programming and vibrant, safe neighbourhood schools.

These are not 'impossible dreams' that cannot be discussed in public meetings. They are choices for change – your choices, smart choices. Together, let's keep them on the agenda.

# Be an inspiration.

Tell us how your school and neighbourhood work together. Send stories and pictures to RealRenewal. Email: [pellioth@accesscomm.ca](mailto:pellioth@accesscomm.ca)