

BEYOND THE BUZZWORDS

AGENDA

Saturday, September 25

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

St. Mary's Anglican Church

3337 15th Ave., Regina

9:00 - 9:30 A.M. WELCOME AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:30 - 10:30 EXPLORING THE LAY OF THE LAND

A panel discussion and question and answer session with Maureen Johns, Executive Director, First Nations, Métis & Community Education Branch; Delphine Melchert, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Community Schools Association; Michael Tymchak, Director, The Saskatchewan Instructional Development and Research Unit at the Faculty of Education, University of Regina.

10:30 - 10:45 COFFEE BREAK

10:45 - 11:45 IS THE STATUS QUO NECESSARY?

Some have argued that community schools need to “evolve” because “the children weren’t learning” in the schools as they exist. We look at the grounds for an argument that community schools can be blamed for student underperformance, and consider alternative explanations. We place this debate in a broader social and historical context to consider how and why existing community school are being changed. Then we look at alternatives to the status quo of community schooling in Saskatchewan as we have known it.

11:45 – 12:00 COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION IN AN ALTERNATIVE SETTING

Kim Weiss, Director of Prairie Sky School, will describe how this small alternative school practices community-based learning.

12:00 - 12:30 P.M. LUNCH / PRAIRIE SKY OPEN HOUSE

A chance to network informally and visit the Prairie Sky space, located in St. Mary's Church.

12:30 - 1:15 WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

We work in small groups with reports back to the large group to identify with as much precision as possible what policy goals and objectives we want to work for (and/or against) over the next year. In community education, what is truly worth working for (and against)?

1:15 - 3:30 BUILDING CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION

It is becoming increasingly clear that students and their communities will have to demand what some people say they do not want - a quality, community-based education. However, any demand will be ineffective without greater citizen participation. We view a film about community groups organizing for education reform and examine effective elements for developing broader engagement for change based on current and historical case studies.

3:30 - 3:45 COFFEE BREAK

3:45 - 4:30 WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

We work in small groups with reports back to the large group, then open dialogue to identify with as much precision as possible what strategies, tactics, and processes should be implemented over the next year to achieve our policy ambitions.

4:30 ADJOURNMENT