

# Cincinnati Education Panel Report

*June 2021 – January 2022*

Beginning with our June 2021 meeting, the Cincinnati Education Panel is working to identify a core issue upon which to take systemic action. Through an online survey and then dialog during our June Zoom meeting, we generated the possibilities listed below. With help from several panel members in finding relevant speakers, we have been using most of our meeting time to learn about these issues. As we move forward in 2022, our goal is to keep learning, then choose a focus area for action in 2023.

## Potential Issues for Action

1. Social/emotional learning (KIM & TARA)
2. Re-Visioning education (SAM)
3. Teaching issues (KIM)
4. Diversity and inclusion
5. Vocational education – link to jobs, job training (SAM)
6. School finances (ELLIOT)
7. School choice/vouchers
8. Low-income family issues
9. Preschool: getting preschool in other districts
10. Arts as critical to whole-student learning
11. Tech and challenges of screen time
12. Childcare's impact on education

## Recent Panel Meeting Topics

June Brainstorm core issues

July No panel meeting

(General member meeting.) Critical race theory (CRT) discussion with Kim Haverkos, David Childs and Brittany Mention. The skinny: CRT is being wildly mischaracterized in the press and by politicians. Its purpose is to explore a question (how does race and the legacy of slavery affect today's society), not push an ideology. However, in future meetings several panel members asked that we explore more deeply how race "should" be taught and managed in public schools.

August No panel meeting

Sept Emily Campbell discussed how Cincinnati Public Schools is modifying its curriculum to better address issues of diversity and race. The skinny: the district has very active teams for each academic subject (e.g., English, social studies, math, etc.) composed of teachers and administrators who research best practices and help implement them in the classroom.

Oct Sam Brewer facilitated a discussion with Rita Graf about the state of vocational education in Ohio as a potential core issue. We also heard from Elliot Grossman about how the Education Panel influenced his decision to run for school board in Loveland.

- Oct (Ad hoc committee meeting.) The Cincinnati executive committee requested that the Education Panel make a recommendation regarding Ohio House Bills (HBs) 322 and 327. We formed an *ad hoc* committee of several members to study the bills, which generally restricted the ability of educators to discuss “divisive issues” in class. The committee recommended that these bills NOT be passed.
- Nov Reviewed and approved the *ad hoc* committee’s recommendation regarding HBs 322 and 327. Heard a presentation from Nina Carter about the Northwest Dayton Partnership, which seeks to improve educational outcomes through integration with a wide range of neighborhood non-profit organizations.
- (General member meeting.) Jeffrey Stec facilitated a panel discussion about the future of education post-pandemic, especially how classroom education has been impacted. Panelists were Mary Boat, dean of the UC College of Education; Susan Bunte, CPS assistant superintendent; and Julie Sellers, president of the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers.
- Dec No panel meeting
- Jan Amanda Hendricks, a CPS teacher at Parker Woods Montessori, provided an overview of the social and emotional needs of today’s students, and how educators are seeking to meet those rising demands. This is a critical issue that dramatically affects all levels of learning. Thanks to Tara for finding such a great presenter.

#### Future Meeting Topics

- Feb Jeff Brokamp and others on “re-visioning” education (facilitated by Sam Brewer).
- March More social emotional learning with Kim Haverkos as facilitator.