

# KLSD Learning Café: Learning from the Pandemic Experience

October 19, 2021

# What is a Learning Café?



A community conversation on a complex issue



Structured to include many voices



Two way sharing of information and understanding





Provides District with feedback for further reflection

# Structure of Tonight's Cafe


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- 3 brief presentations
- 3 rounds of conversations
- Note takers at each table so District holds on to:
  - The conversations
  - The thinking
  - The feedback





# Learning from the Pandemic School Experience



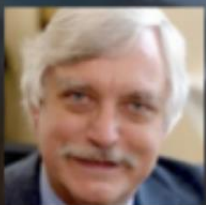
- “Never let a good crisis go to waste” (Churchill)
  - Reflection in education circles has been ongoing since the pandemic’s arrival
  - What’s most relevant to KLSD?
- 





# silverliningforlearning

Conversations on the future of learning



chris dede



curt bonk



shuangye chen



punya mishra



yong zhao

Chris Dede,  
*Necessity is the  
Father of  
Transformation,*  
March 27, 2020

“For more than four decades, I’ve been working to transform industrial-era education (one-size-fits-all teaching-by-telling & learning-by-listening). One insight I’ve gained is people believe they need additional resources to transform standard practices, but—when people have extra assets—they use these to do more of the same: old wine in new bottles.

**Transformation comes primarily when people have no choice, when the current model cannot be sustained and they must do something radically different.**

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Now, civilization is in crisis, and educators cannot make every home into a remote classroom. The issue is whether we will use this opportunity to create a more effective, universal model of instruction based on modern knowledge about learning, a system that provides *every* student the support to reach their full potential through strategies for personalization ...

**If we succeed, when COVID-19 is under control, education will not revert to established suboptimal and unfair practices, but instead will sustain a “new normal” of universal, blended, personalized, lifelong learning.”**



# An Imagining September Report

Justin Reich, MIT Teaching Systems Lab

Jal Mehta, Harvard Graduate School of Education



# Guiding Principles from Mehta and Reich

1

**Don't define this year as a return to normal. For too many students, normal schooling wasn't meeting their needs.**


2

**Amplify key ideas from pandemic schooling, and hospice things that don't need to come back. Have the school year start with a few noticeable changes.**

3

**Engage in a year of reflection to celebrate the successes from pandemic schooling, grieve our losses, and harness the energy from the emergency to continue to build back better.**

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In a minute,  
we're going to  
ask you about  
what worked  
well, what to  
“amplify” ...



But first ...

# Remember...

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- The pandemic has not been a singular schooling or living experience
  - Total shutdown – Fully remote learning (March – June 2020)
    - Device distribution
    - Largely asynchronous with evolving use of Zoom
  - 2020 - 2021 – Evolving hybrid model
    - 2 days in school/2 days at home through much of the year
    - Asynchronous Wednesdays through March
    - Based on need, some students in school more frequently
  - 2021 – 2022 – Return to in-person learning for all
    - Devices and digital learning platforms linger

# Round 1: Amplify

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What worked well for you, your family, and our students during the last 19 months of school?

What ideas would you like to amplify as we move forward?





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Sharing ideas



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Time to move ...

We're going to think next about those practices we should “hospice” and new practices/structures we might want to create.

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Before we do ...





# Ted Dintersmith

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- Author “What Schools Could Be”
- Organizer of the documentary film “Most Likely to Succeed”
- Philanthropist dedicated to school reform





# Round 2: Hospice & Create

What should we “hospice”? What can we let go?  
What do we not want to return to when we  
come back to post-pandemic school?

What opportunities do you see for positive  
change? What can we create in the next year  
which will help us amplify the good and hospice  
what we should leave behind?

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Sharing ideas



Time to move again ...





# Amplification Themes from the “Imagining September” Study

Relationships and Trust

Less Breadth, More Depth  
(Curriculum)

Relevance, Engagement and  
Personalized Learning

Social and Emotional Learning, Self-  
care, Time to Breathe

# Round 3: Relevance for KLSD



Of the ideas you've heard tonight, which do you think resonate most for KLSD? Are there others you want us to capture?



What other questions might we pose to our community to learn most effectively from the pandemic experience?

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Sharing ideas





Thank you for joining  
us