

Teaching & Researching in Support of Public Education

January 24, 2015

At this convening, we aim to work collaboratively as teachers, researchers, and activists to plan next steps in leveraging resources and research in support of public education in Philadelphia. We invite you to engage in 1 of 3 action-oriented "working groups." Please see the list below. You'll find that we have mapped a few issue campaigns within the education justice movement onto each group. We ask that you think about where you would like to commit your time, energy, and experience. *These groups are designed for you to be an active participant in building on & moving forward the organizing and researching that are already happening. Therefore, we ask that you bring your ideas, questions, organizing experience, and research knowledge around the issues covered in the group that you choose to participate in.*

10 – 10:30	Introduction
10:40 – 12	Working groups
12 - 12:45	Lunch (<i>provided</i>) & mingling
12:45 - 1:30	Back in working groups
1:40 – 2:30	Share back from groups
2:30 - 3:30	A Critical Reflection with Michelle Fine
3:30 – 3:50	Back in small groups to hone next steps
3:50 - 4:00	Closing

WHAT SCHOOLS WE WANT

Issues covered:

High Stakes Testing/Common Core Assessment/Opt Out & Climate/Restorative Justice

Facilitators:

Kelley Collings, Sarah Burgess & Edwin Mayorga

GOVERNANCE & DECISION-MAKING

Issues covered:

Local School Control, School Closures, & Electoral Politics

Facilitators:

Diane Payne & Sonia Rosen

EDUCATION IS A PUBLIC GOOD

Issues covered:

Funding/PILOTS, Charter Accountability, & Social Movement Unionism

Facilitators:

Ron Whitehorne & Barbara Ferman

A Critical Reflection

with Michelle Fine

Michelle Fine is Distinguished Professor of Social Psychology, Women's Studies and Urban Education at the Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY). A highly influential educator and activist, her work addresses questions of social injustice that sit at the intersection of public policy and social research, particularly with respect to youth in schools and criminal justice.

Michelle has authored, co-authored, or edited more than 20 books, 70 chapters in key national and international volumes, and 80 journal articles. Her most recent book, with Michael Fabricant, is "The Changing Politics of Education: Privatization and the Dispossessed Lives of Those Left Behind." A recognized pioneer in participatory action research, Michelle's scholarship and activism address critical issues of what she calls "circuits of dispossession and resistance," documenting how youth contend with, are affected by, and resist inequities and the rising "punishment paradigm" in prisons, schools, communities, and social movements.

Her activism includes serving often as expert witness in gender, race, and education discrimination cases, including test-based graduation requirements in urban districts. Most recently, Michelle has been intensely involved with MCAS - Montclair (NJ) Cares About Schools - an activist group of parents working with educators, labor and civil rights groups, in a struggle over corporate reform and testing in a racially integrated suburban school district.

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Who are we?

This convening is a collaborative effort on the part of multiple organizations. A special thanks to the **Education Unit of St. Joseph's University** for hosting us and providing coffee and lunch!

URBAN Philadelphia brings together academics, policymakers, community organizers, and representatives from nonprofit and advocacy organizations to exchange ideas and work together to develop projects that seek to improve Philadelphia. These research-based projects will address the everyday needs of Philadelphians for access to high-quality schooling, decent jobs, healthcare, healthy food, and affordable housing in safe, vibrant neighborhoods.

Urbanresearchnetwork.org

The Caucus of Working Educators (WE) works to defend and transform public education in Philadelphia. As a caucus within the PFT, WE seeks to support and energize the union as well as works alongside the students, families, and communities of Philadelphia. WE works for a member-driven union,

transparency, accountability, and shared decision-making, the defense of publicly funded education, transformed curriculum and autonomy to teach, not test, & education for all.

Workingeducators.org

Teacher Action Group Philadelphia (TAG) works to strengthen the influence of educators within schools and over policy decisions. While partnering with parent, student, and community groups, TAG is committed to fostering positive school transformation, environments where students and teachers can thrive, and community ownership and influence within education. TAG is also a member of the Network of Teacher Activist Groups, a national coalition of grassroots teacher organizing groups. TAG works together to build an education movement for liberation, locally and nationally, through shared analysis, political education, mutual support and learning, and joint projects.

Tagphilly.org

Teachers Lead Philly is a network of teachers leading educational change in Philadelphia. Teachers Lead Philly believes that teachers bring the expertise and experience that are critical to making sound judgments about education policy at the school, district, state, and national levels. Teachers Lead Philly promotes teachers' leadership by sharing expertise and experience, engaging colleagues in shaping the profession, and contributing to educational research and policy.

Teachersleadphilly.org