



ReformEducation
FOR A NEW WORLD

STRATEGY



Outline

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Summary

- RENEW (Reform Education for a New World) is a non-profit organization that promotes a more balanced, holistic and integrated education system that would result in more creative and visionary individuals, leading to a more peace loving and harmonious society for our future generations.
- RENEW programs and methods will augment the existing academic/textbook based learning that over stimulates the left brain, by also focusing on the right brain, that relates to self-awareness, inter-connectedness, creativity, love, compassion, adaptation, respect, and reverence towards nature – where true knowledge resides.
- RENEW will include the following 4 phases:
 1. Develop and launch specialized online programs for elementary school students (K-6).
 2. Develop and launch specialized after-school, weekend, and/or summer classes for elementary school students (K-6).
 3. Open a pilot elementary school based on the principles of RENEW.
 4. Engage with educators, education institutions, and policy makers to bring about education reform at the county, state, and federal levels.

THE CASE FOR EDUCATION REFORM



History of Education in the US

Education has not kept pace with the overall socioeconomic evolution in the US:

- The Agricultural Age (pre-19th century) focused primarily on religious studies.
- Our current education system was developed in the Industrial Age (mid-19th century to mid-20th century):
 - Factory model of education – assembly line approach
 - Standardized learning – one size fits all methods
- In the post-Industrial Age, focus on education accountability led to programs such as “No Child Left Behind” and “Every Student Succeed Act” but with limited success.
- The education system has not evolved sufficiently in the current Information and Knowledge Age driven by technology revolution and globalization and is not transitioning to the education needs of the Consciousness Era.



GERM (Global Education Reform Movement)

The core principles of our current education system or GERM (that emerged in the 1980s), are based on:

- Academics-based learning - focused on core subjects
- Standardization - outcomes-based education with limited individualization
- Competition - among schools, teachers and students
- School Choice - promoting privatization and social disparity and inequity
- Accountability - test-based scoring as the sole measure of learning, accreditation and funding



GERM Results

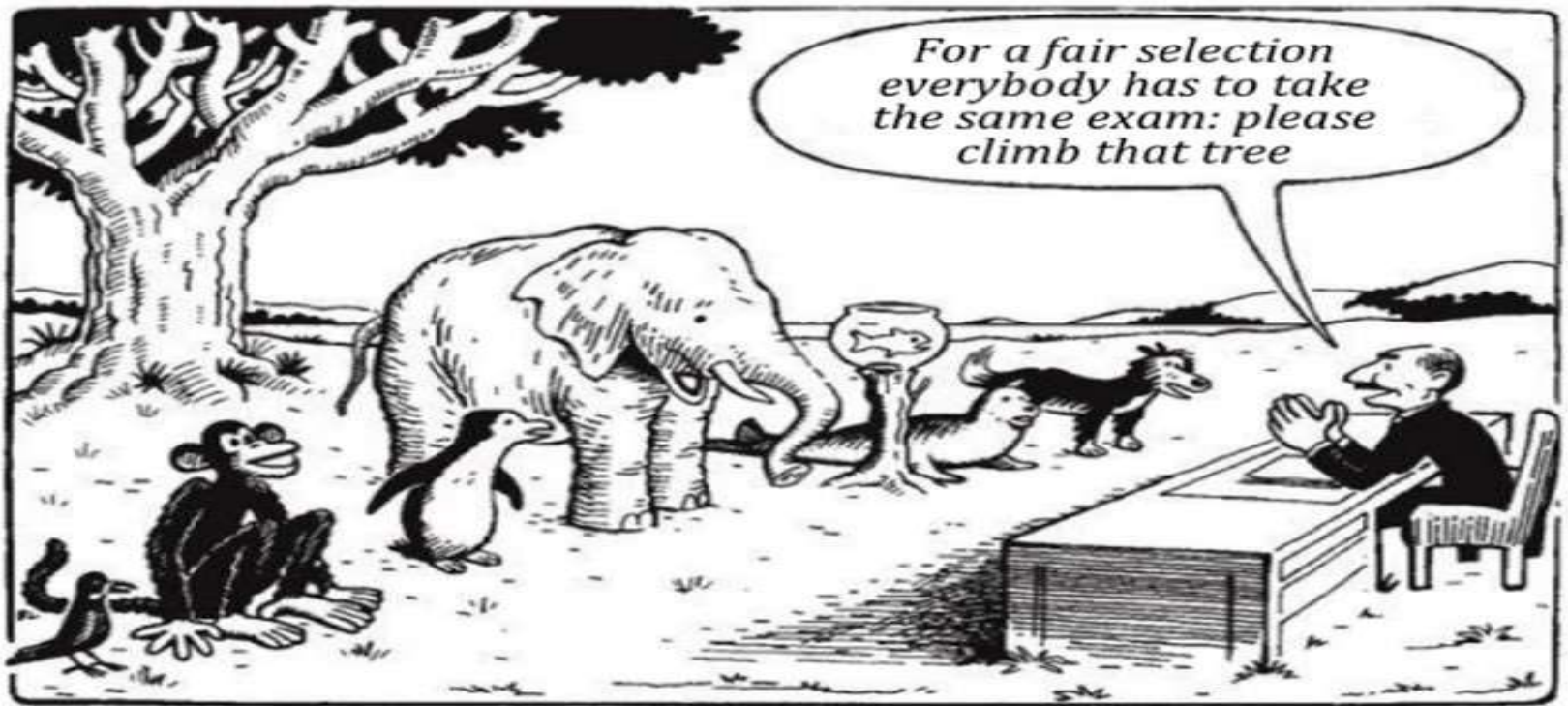
- Mediocre and inequitable education
- Top-down testing and extensive tracking of results and scores has moved focus away from children and their individualized learning
- Weakening the teachers' collective voice
- Encouraging low risk ways to reach learning goals
- Using corporate management models as main drivers of improvement
- Seeking to maximize human capital while abandoning education's role of creating cultural good and social cohesion
- Poses a real threat to high quality public education



GERM Outcomes

While there are many merits of the current education system, there are also key shortcomings, as outlined below:

Principles	Results/Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Academic-based learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Limited focus on EQ and character building results in moral and ethical degradation of humanity; Emphasis on curriculum and not the child
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Standardization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Lack of recognition of individual talent, personal and social responsibility, cooperation, compassion, and collaborative conflict resolution
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Results in egos, power struggles, negativity, hostility, and distrust
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ School choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Leads to social disparity and inequity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Distorted definition of success (wealth creation) leads to wealth imbalance, power, greed, and selfishness
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Disconnect from environment and nature results in violence, poverty, suffering, and exploitation.



Our Education System

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

- Albert Einstein



The Finnish Education System

In his book, “Finnish Lessons”, Pasi Sahlberg (a Finnish educator, author and scholar) describes the key principles/features of the Finnish education system:

- Places high confidence in teachers and principals as the highest professionals (similar to physicians and engineers)
- Encourages teachers and students to try new ideas and approaches to put curiosity, imagination, and creativity at the heart of individualized learning
- Promotes the purpose of teaching and learning as the pursuit of happiness of learning and cultivating the development of the whole child

• “Less is more” principle:

Less formal schooling

Less time in school

Less teachers

Less/fewer classes

Less testing

Less homework

Less students per class

Less structure

GERM vs The Finnish Way

GERM	Finnish
Academic	Holistic
Standardization	Personalization
Competition	Teamwork
School Choice	Equal Opportunity
Accountability	Trust



PISA

- PISA (Program for International Students' Assessment) is a study by OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development)
 - Measures 15-year-old students' reading, mathematics, and science literacy every 3 years
 - The most recent results are from 2015
- PISA is different from other international assessments in its:
 - **Policy orientation** – links learning outcomes with backgrounds and attitudes towards learning;
 - **Innovative concept of “literacy”** – links students' knowledge with ability to analyze, reason and communicate effectively;
 - **Relevance to lifelong learning** – questions students' motivation to learn, their beliefs about themselves, and their learning strategies;
 - **Regularity** - to monitor their progress in meeting key learning objectives; and
 - **Breadth of coverage** - encompasses the 35 OECD countries and 37 partner countries and economies.



PISA Results

- Following are the countries and economies that had the 10 highest average scores in science, math and reading in the 2015 PISA.
- US students' performed around average in science and reading but below average in math.
- One in 5 (20%) of students the US are low performers and only 9% are high performers.

Top PISA Science Scores	Top PISA Math Scores	Top PISA Reading Scores
Singapore	Singapore	Singapore
Japan	Hong Kong (China)	Hong Kong (China)
Estonia	Macao (China)	Canada
Taiwan	Taiwan	Finland
Finland	Japan	Ireland
Macao (China)	China	Estonia
Canada	South Korea	South Korea
Vietnam	Switzerland	Japan
Hong Kong (China)	Estonia	Norway
China	Canada	New Zealand



PISA Results

Common themes among countries that ranked in the top 10 for science, math and reading:

- Progressive policies and practices for successful schools focused on the learning environment, teaching methods, and individualized education
- Collaborative schools and collaborative problem-solving
- Enhanced financial literacy programs for students
- Focus on student's overall well being, performance and life satisfaction - in school, at home, and in the community
- Public and private sectors' commitment to and resources invested in education



A Few Education Reform Visionaries

- Albert Einstein
 - Imagination, curiosity, and the strength of character are essential ingredients to a more integrative education and learning.
- Jiddu Krishnamurthi
 - Holistic education should recognize the importance of self-awareness and the need to educate the whole human being.
- Joseph Pierce
 - Integrated education requires redefining the adult-child relationship - the role of parents, families, mentors, coaches, and teachers in the education process.
- Sraddhalu Ranade
 - The core objective of education should be to teach children to be good human beings capable of exceeding his/her humanness and achieving something beyond.
- Rudolf Steiner
 - Education is an art – it must speak to the child’s experience. To educate the whole child, the heart and will must be reached as well as the mind.



The Imperative for Education Reform

- Education should be viewed as a human right
 - Every child should have the right to the highest quality education that is available.
- Our current education system has limitations, such as
 - Limited academic-based curricula;
 - Limited experiential learning;
 - Limited individualized learning; and
 - Lack of connection to the self and nature.
- Education reform is an imperative for our current and future generations
 - Provide holistic learning – including fine arts and self awareness;
 - Focus on individual uniqueness and individualized instructions;
 - Promote and instill basic human values – love, respect, integrity, etc.;
 - Engage teachers and parents/guardians in the learning process; and
 - Enable preservation of natural resources.

RENEW STRATEGY



RENEW: Vision and Mission

VISION

Inspire students through adaptive learning that empowers them to build a more peaceful, compassionate, sustainable, and humane society.

MISSION

Provide excellence in education that promotes individual fulfillment through the holistic development of each student.

We will accomplish this mission by:

- Accentuating self-awareness and celebrating individual talent;
- Achieving balance of IQ with EQ, as well as social and spiritual intelligence;
- Enabling connection with and respect for nature and the environment;
- Promoting learning through observation, questioning and discovery; and
- Instilling human and ethical values as well as social responsibility and welfare.



RENEW: Principles

The path to RENEW begins with augmenting our current education system with a new dimension that will be introduced to elementary school age students.

Principles	Results/Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Accentuate and celebrate individual talent➤ Instill human and ethical values ➤ Develop emotional intelligence and balance➤ Promote expressive arts➤ Introduce spiritual intelligence➤ Enable connection with the self, environment, social awareness and nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ This will result in experiential and indirect learning, creative play, and focus on excellence vs competition➤ This will promote personal and social responsibility, civic duty, health, fitness and nutrition, and respect for self and others➤ This will lead to overall balance, cooperation and compassion, character building, communication, teamwork, and collaborative problem solving➤ This will result in drawing out the best in the child and his/her talents (visual arts, dance, drama, music, etc.)➤ This will result in sharpening intuitive abilities, inner intelligence, integrity and wisdom➤ This will foster mindfulness training, exploration and discovery, awareness of the cosmos and natural environment, understanding the interconnections and interdependencies within humanity, nature, and the universe

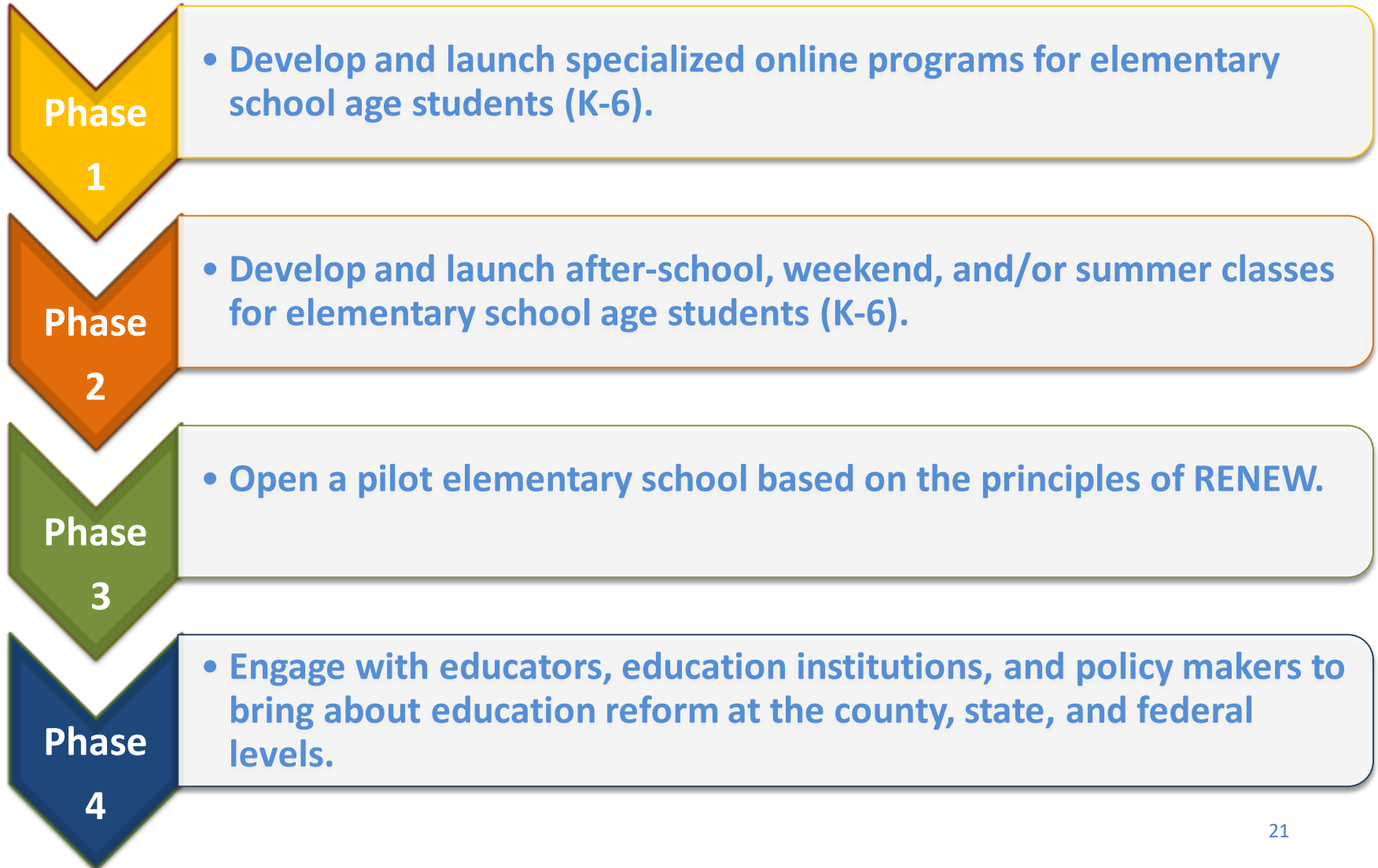


RENEW: Holistic Education





RENEW: Phases





RENEW Phase 1: Key Steps

VISION

Inspire students through adaptive learning that empowers them to build a more peaceful, compassionate, sustainable, and humane society.

MISSION

Provide excellence in education that promotes individual fulfillment through the holistic development of each student.

Develop specialized online programs for elementary school age students (K-6)

Raise Funds

Enlist Volunteers

Raise Awareness

Develop Content

Launch Program

RENEW PROGRAMS – PHASE 1



RENEW: Program Concepts

Awareness of and shift towards such integrated learning can begin the process of transforming children's behaviors at an early stage of development.

Current Education Concepts

- Competition with others
- Exploitation of nature
- Individual success
- Isolation
- Past/historical knowledge
- Fixed answers
- Memory-based learning
- Object-awareness
- Short-term gratification
- Rights
- Solving symptoms of problems
- Quantitative ranking
- Reward and punishment
- Job skills

RENEW Concepts

- Cooperation; competition with self
- Reverence for nature
- Collective welfare
- Inter-connectedness
- Discovery of new knowledge
- New questions
- Inquisitiveness
- Self-awareness
- Long-term vision and prosperity
- Responsibilities
- Preventing /solving root causes of problems
- Qualitative assessment
- Encouragement and support
- Integrative intelligence



RENEW: Program Themes

- Self-Awareness
- Environment and Nature Discovery
- Civic Literacy
- Life and Career Skills
 - Leadership and responsibility
 - Productivity and accountability
 - Social and cross-cultural skills
 - Initiative and self direction
 - Flexibility and adaptability
- Learning Skills
 - Critical thinking
 - Creativity
 - Cooperation
 - Communication skills



RENEW Programs – Phase 1

Phase 1 - Develop and launch specialized online programs for elementary school age students (K-6). Programs to cover the following topics:

- **SAME** (Self-Awareness and ME) – Focus on the child and his/her uniqueness as an individual while promoting a sense of self-awareness
- **SHINE** – (Society, Humanity, Interconnectedness, Nature, Environment) - Promote connection and responsibility to society, humanity, environment, and nature
- **VALUES** – Focus on basic human and ethical values that are innate within every child as a foundation for better citizenship
- **SEAS** (Social, Emotional And Spiritual intelligence) – Support the importance of social, emotional, and spiritual intelligence in character education
- **DOVE** (Drive to Overcome Violence through Education) – Promote peace, prosperity and personal fulfillment



RENEW Programs' Structure – Phase 1

- Programs will be modular and pre-recorded with scheduled webcasts for interactive discussions and learning.
- Some programs will include multiple modules.
- Programs will incorporate situation-based testing/reviews to assess student comprehension and understanding of the subject-matter.
- Pricing will be per program with a nominal discount to access all programs.



RENEW Programs: SAME

SAME (Self-Awareness and ME) - Focus on the child and his/her uniqueness as an individual while promoting a sense of self-awareness.

- This program will cover various topics including:
 - Self-knowledge: awareness, acceptance, observation, understanding and expression of self;
 - Contemplative practices to remind children of their calm center and sense of connection with life, nature, and the universe;
 - Time for inner reflections on life's meaning and bigger questions of existence;
 - Physical fitness: experiencing the body's potentials and capacities, and creating the foundation for life long health;
 - Support in the pursuit of passions and interests to promote creativity and personal achievement;
 - Introduce yoga and meditation techniques encourage self-discipline and energy management in order to to cope with stress and anxiety;
 - Review simple techniques to bring the Body, Mind and Spirit into alignment; etc.



RENEW Programs: SHINE

SHINE - Promote connection and responsibility to society, humanity, environment, and nature.

- SHINE 1 – Introduction - Content will cover oneness, interdependence and interconnectedness with the society and our surroundings:
 - S – Society
 - H – Humanity
 - I – Interconnectedness
 - N – Nature
 - E – Environment
- SHINE 2 - Connection to the Society will include:
 - Connecting school and home through parent involvement and parent education;
 - Being of service – volunteerism and helping others;
 - Introduce civic literacy and tips on how to actively participate and initiate change; in the community and the greater society; etc.



RENEW Programs: SHINE

- SHINE 3 - Connection to Humanity will include:
 - Multi-cultural, multi-age, multi-generational education that fosters respect, tolerance, and appreciation for human diversity;
 - Communication skills;
 - Leadership and team work; etc.
- SHINE 4 - Connection to Nature, Environment, and the Planet will include:
 - Stewardship as caretakers and guardians of the earth and animals;
 - Individual and group learning about the world through an integrated, in-depth curriculum;
 - Personal relationship to nature;
 - Ability to experience qualities and invisible sources of energy available in the natural world;
 - Environmental and outdoor education;
 - Life skills for a simple and sustainable living; etc.



RENEW Programs: VALUES

VALUES – Focus on basic human and ethical values that are innate within every child as a foundation for better citizenship

- Content for this program will include topics such as:
 - Honesty;
 - Love;
 - Compassion;
 - Respect for self, others, and nature;
 - Collaboration and peace;
 - Appreciation for diversity and global awareness;
 - Social behavior;
 - Conscious choice – Stop, Think, Notice and Choose exercises; etc.



RENEW Programs: SEAS

SEAS – Social Emotional And Spiritual intelligence

- This program will include emotional, social and spiritual intelligence in character education, and will cover the following:
 - Multiple intelligences;
 - Intuitive abilities;
 - Inner intelligence;
 - Techniques to help identify, evaluate, control and express emotions;
 - Emotional vocabulary;
 - Morality and living righteously;
 - Balancing perception and expression;
 - Self-discipline and self-regulation; etc.



RENEW Programs: DOVE

DOVE – Drive to Overcome Violence through Education - Promote peace, prosperity, and personal fulfillment.

- Content will be modeled through SHANTIR (Sanskrit word for “Peace”)
 - S – Social Responsibility
 - H – Human Values
 - A – Appreciation
 - N – Non-Violence
 - T – Tolerance
 - I – Individual Fulfillment
 - R – Role Models
- Program will cover topics such as:
 - Impulse control and anger management;
 - Collaborative problem-solving and conflict resolution;
 - Communication and negotiating skills;
 - Stress management; etc.

ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE – PHASE 1



RENEW Governance and Leadership

- Officers:

- Mr. Dhananjaya Kumar – Co-Founder and Chairman
- Ms. Usha Chaudhary – President
- Ms. Neha Patel – Vice President
- Mr. Jeffrey Rosenfeld – Secretary

- Advisors:

- Ms. Cindy Fisher – Operations Reengineering and Change Management Expert
- Dr. Terryn Foster – Psychologist and Teacher
- Mr. Brij Mair – Technology Expert
- Dr. Harish Naval – College Professor and Author
- Dr. Katia Petersen – Author and Training Expert
- Mr. Bob Ross – Fairfax County School System Executive
- Ms. Anjali Sharma – Program and Sales Expert

RECAP

RENEW: Recap

- RENEW is not an “either/or” choice between the current education system and proposed concept but adds a new dimension to the education system, to augment and complement the existing system.
- RENEW will not add a layer of infrastructure and cost to the current education system but will integrate and enhance the existing system with modest incremental resources required to increase awareness, augment teaching methods, and engage parents/families in the education process.
- Future phases of RENEW will include programs and modules for learning with simple/practical “how to” methods geared to parents/families and teachers/educators.

APPENDIX

QUOTES ON EDUCATION

Quotes on Education

- “No problem can be solved by the same consciousness which has created it.” (Albert Einstein)
- “Children are not vessels to be filled, but lamps to be lit.” (Swami Chinmayananda)
- “The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity.” (Ellen Parr)
- “Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.” (B.F. Skinner)
- “The end and aim of all education is to help the man grow.” (Swami Vivekananda)
- “The educated do not share a common body of knowledge, but a common state of mind.” (Mason Cooley)
- “Give your children two things – one is root and the other is wing.” (Unknown)
- “There are two educations. One teaches us how to make a living, and the other how to live.” (John Adams)
- “Education is not learning of facts, but training the mind how to think.” (Albert Einstein)

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THANK YOU!

