

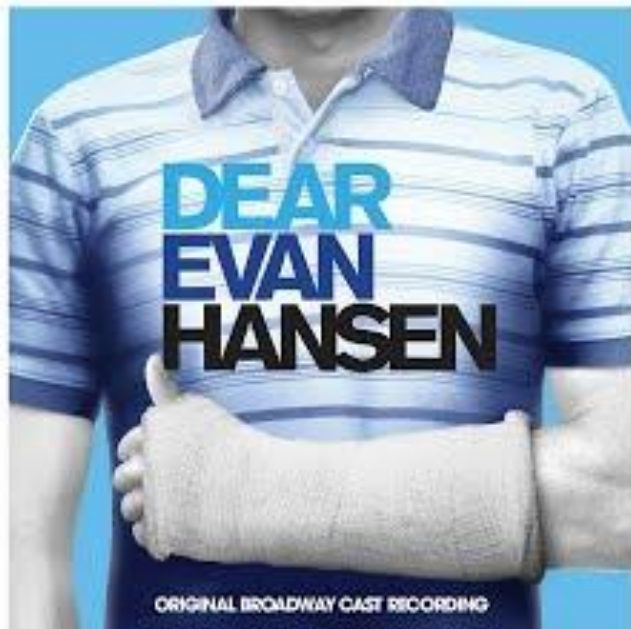


THE ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL

AN INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS IN GRADES 7-12

# How to Create a More Student-Centered Community

Bryan Dunn, Ed.D



**WAVING  
THROUGH  
A WINDOW**

# Workshop Goals

- History of Education (brief)
  - Argument for Student Centered Learning
- Major themes of Student Centered Learning
- How do these themes look in a more 'traditional' school setting
- *Takeaway: How can you instill the major tenets of Student Centered Learning into your own school?*



# Background

- Teaching in all boys schools for 17 years (with a little break)
- Educational background
  - Traditional
  - Found success
  - Fixed mindset
- Coaching and Improv Influence - individualized approach



## Think and Share

What was your educational experience like?

- What were classes like?
- Were people labeled as “good” or “bad” at things ?
- Were there opportunities for choice?

*Please provide examples*

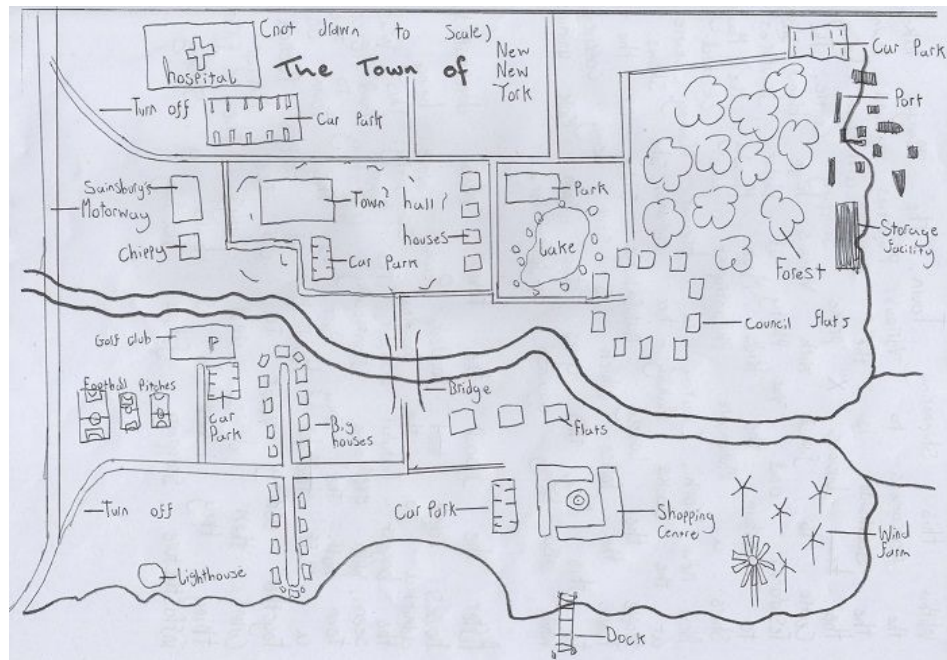


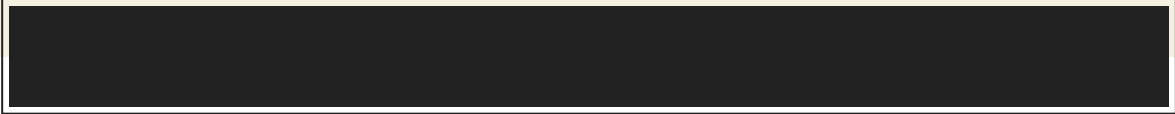


# Utopian Project

- A memorable educational experience

**NOT  
MINE**



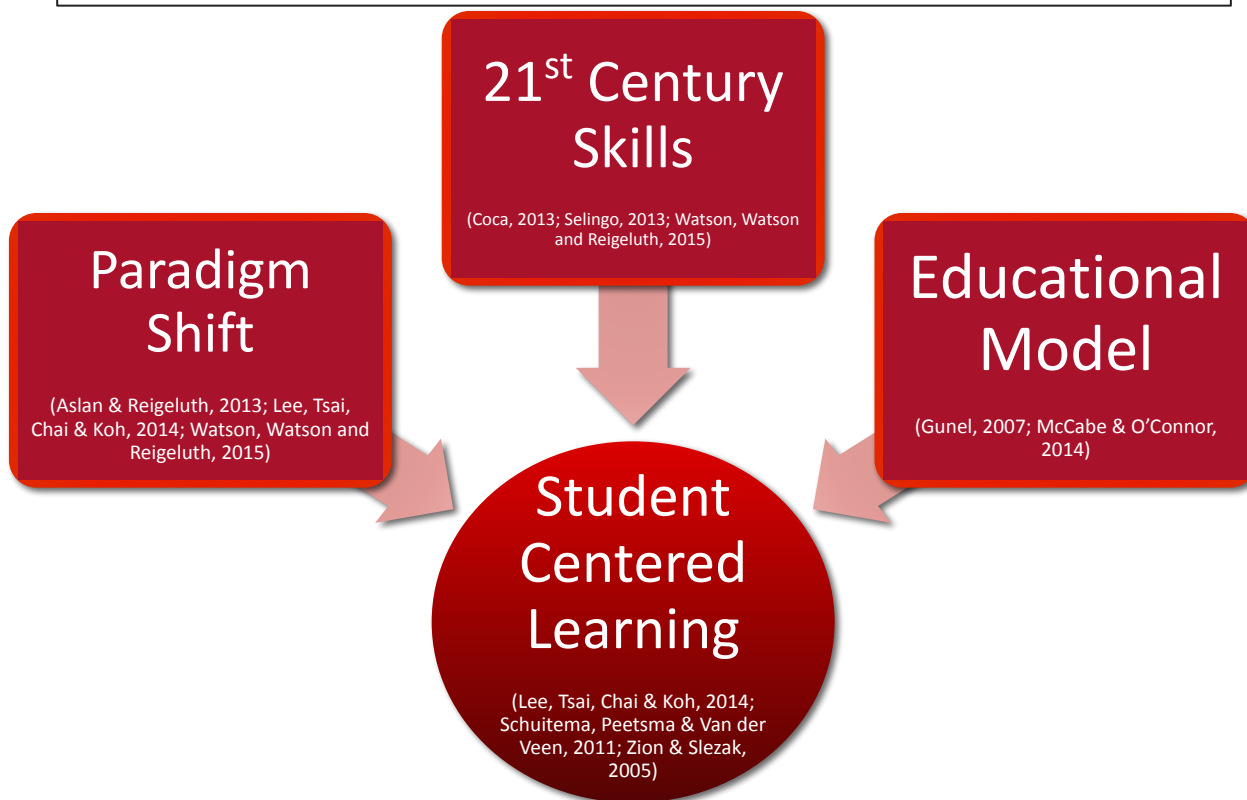


*The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country.*

*- Abraham Lincoln, 1862*



# Problem of Practice





# Paradigm Shift

## Paradigm Shift

(Aslan & Reigeluth, 2013; Lee, Tsai, Chai & Koh, 2014; Watson, Watson and Reigeluth, 2015)

- ◉ Major historical shifts in education
- ◉ Information Age has instigated a new shift
- ◉ Allows us to rethink what to focus on in the classroom

# 21st Century Skills

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

(Coca, 2013; Selingo, 2013; Watson, Watson and Reigeluth, 2015)

- ◉ Skills needed for today's workforce are changing
- ◉ Collaboration, research, critical thinking (just a few)

# Educational Model

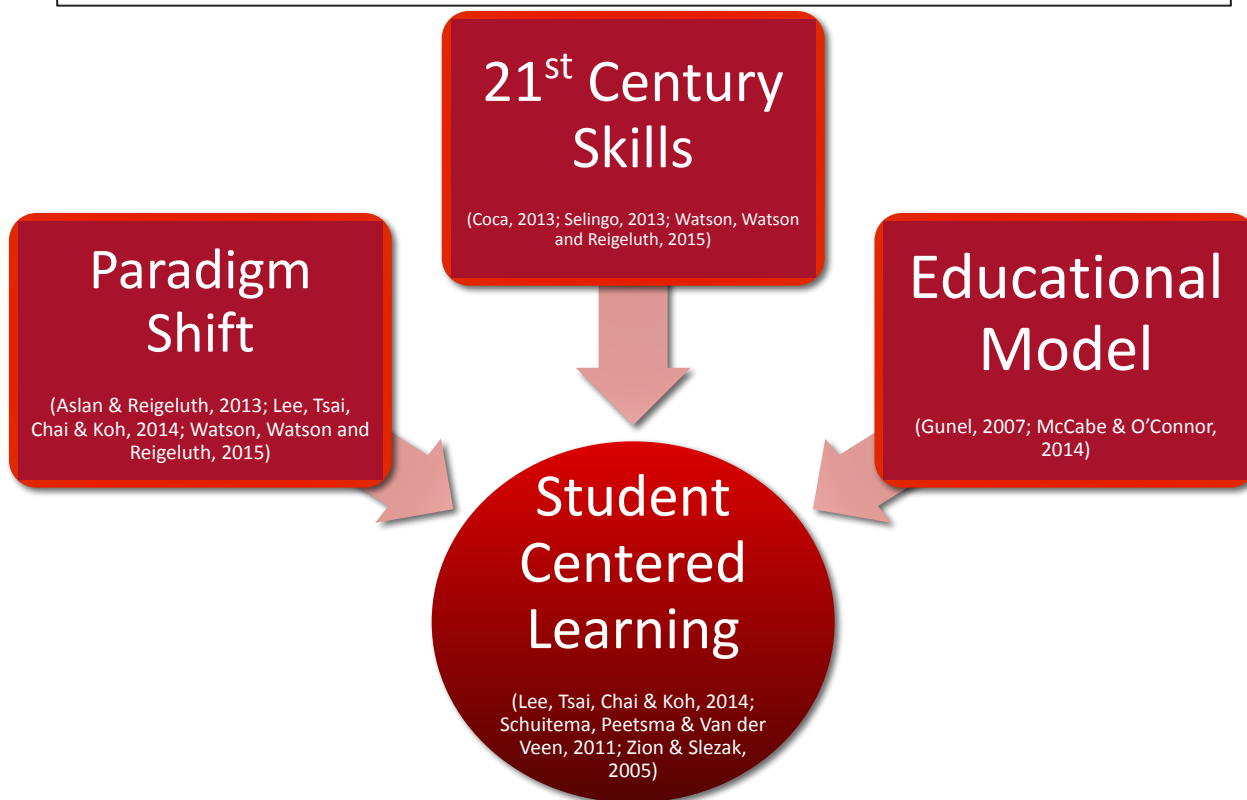
## Educational Model

(Günel, 2007; McCabe & O'Connor, 2014)

- Traditional model of education (assembly line)
- New technology allows for adaptations to the model
- Can bring elements of the “real-world” into the classroom



# Problem of Practice





## Different Type of School

- ◉ One cohort, 16 students
- ◉ 3 days of classes, 2 days of internships
- ◉ Student Passion - focused on from Day 1
  - “Who am I” project
  - Finding internships
  - Student directed learning
- ◉ Mostly Student Driven
  - Positive outcomes
  - Challenges
    - Most educators and parents are used to traditional schooling
      - Can be hard on the educators
      - Families may not see how the learning happens
    - Students don't just magically 'lose' habits from traditional schools



# Major Takeaways

- ◉ Find Student Passion
- ◉ Practice 21st Century Skills in real and authentic ways
- ◉ Build Strong Community and Relationships
- ◉ Importance of Educators
  - Need the right people to meet the mission goals
  - Effective hiring/training process



## What does this look like in 'traditional' schools?

- ◉ What aspects of the takeaways do you see already in your schools?
  - ◉ (Student passion, embedding 21st century skills, community and relationships, Importance of Educators)
- ◉ How can you build on what is already happening?



# Examples of Successes

- ◎ **Finding Student Passion**
  - Ways for students to access material in ways that are unique to them
  - English Class Example - by Sarah Demers
  - Math Class Example - by Jackie Salas





# Examples of Successes

- ◎ **Practice 21st Century Skills in real and authentic ways**
  - Physics Class - Wind Turbine Project
    - Project
    - Questions



# Examples of Successes

- ◎ **Community and Relationships**
  - Advisory System
  - Summer Internships
  - Senior Projects



# Examples of Successes

- ◎ **Importance of Educators**
  - Hiring the right people
  - Providing support for current faculty



# Looking Ahead

- Still need to make this more 'normal'
  - Students need to see it in more places
  - Should look to assess effectiveness of the practices
- Coordinate things across disciplines and the school



# Questions/Thoughts

**What do you think?**

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