



BREAKOUT SESSIONS III

Wednesday, August 5 — 10:45-11:45 am



Building a 100% Culture: The Practical Playbook Knowing you need a stronger school culture is one thing. Knowing exactly how to build one is another. Most culture conversations stop at inspiration but in this hands-on session, **Robyn Jackson** goes deep on the mechanics of school culture: what it actually is, what it's made of, and the specific steps you take to shift it when it isn't working. You'll leave with a clear definition of culture you can actually use, the core components you need to focus on, and a concrete action plan for moving your school toward one where 100% student success isn't just a vision statement, it's the daily reality. If you're ready to stop diagnosing the problem and start solving it, this session is where you want to be. **Grand Ballroom**

Growing Strong Foundations: Early Childhood Program Updates & Collaboration Join us for an interactive session by **Rosy Arizaga**, Southwestern Union Early Childhood Associate, focused on the latest updates and developments in the Early Childhood Program. Participants will learn of the latest North American Division Early Childhood Program adopted changes, explore new resources, share successful classroom ideas, ask questions, and engage in meaningful discussion with fellow educators. Whether you are new to early childhood education or a seasoned teacher, this session offers practical tools, collaborative learning opportunities, and valuable insights to support young learners' growth and development. **Frisco 1**



Fuel for the Journey: Creating Your Educator Sustainability Plan The demands of teaching are daily, which means sustainability must be, too. In this interactive breakout session, participants will create a personalized Sustainability Plan focused on practical, everyday strategies that support energy, presence, and well-being throughout the school day. Grounded in trauma-informed principles, this session by **Ingrid Slikkers** equips educators with simple, realistic practices to help them stay steady, connected, and effective—day by day. **Frisco 2**

Beyond the Bookmark: Discovering NAD Education Tools You Didn't Know You Had Navigate the Adventist Education digital landscape to uncover key NAD resources that support teaching, learning, and school growth. This session guides participants in locating Data Rollup reports, curriculum tools, professional supports within NAD Educators' Corner, and practical school marketing assets. Learn where these resources live, how they connect, and how to use them strategically to strengthen mission, instruction, and visibility. **Martha Aastrup Ban** is a lifelong Adventist educator with extensive experience in instructional leadership and educational technology. After nearly 30 years in the classroom, she serves as Director of Technology for Education at the North American Division, providing strategic oversight for key systems including AEConnect, Data Rollup/Dashboard, eCertification, and AE Educators' Corner. Her role centers on vision setting, cross-functional collaboration, platform governance, and supporting educators and administrators in effective, data-informed use of technology. **Frisco 3**





Introduction to Equitable Services: Expanding Impact for Private School Students This session provides a practical introduction to Equitable Services and how private schools can effectively access and benefit from federally funded programs. Participants will gain clarity on how Title funding works, what services are available, and how to build strong partnerships with public school districts. The session will also highlight real-world implementation examples and actionable next steps for school leaders. **Warren Dillon** serves as a leader in educational partnerships at Catapult Learning, where he works closely with private schools, dioceses, and districts to expand access to high-quality instructional and support services. He specializes in Equitable Services, helping schools navigate federal funding opportunities to drive student achievement and well-being. Warren brings extensive experience in building collaborative partnerships and designing programs that support both academic growth and whole-child development. **Frisco 4**

ADRA International - Your Partner is Local and Global Missional Impact Discover how **ADRA International** partners with churches, schools, and community entities to create meaningful impact locally and around the world. In this session, learn how ADRA's global network and humanitarian expertise can help expand your mission, mobilize your school, and turn compassion into action. Together, we can amplify missional impact! **Dr. Sharon Aka**, PhD, RN is the Director of Adventist Partnerships @ ADRA International, focused on mutually beneficial partnerships with Adventist churches, schools, and community entities. Sharon is also adjunct faculty in the graduate school of leadership at Andrews University, primarily supporting graduate students in dissertation and doctoral project completion. She is also one of the founding members of the Adventist Learning Community. **Frisco 5**



Education as Redemption In this session we will go over the basic philosophy and educational principles which undergird Ellen White's view of Education. Particular attention will be given to her understanding of Education as redemption and restoration. **Endi Stojanovic** was born in Brisbane, Australia. After completing his Bachelors degree in Biomedical Science from the University of Queensland, he felt called to pursue ministry. He completed his Masters of Divinity degree at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He served as a pastor in the Michigan Conference and is currently pursuing his PhD in Systematic Theology. He teaches at Southwestern Adventist University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Religion. **Frisco 7**

From Vision to Value: Aligning Senior Academy Budgets with Academic Goals In this session **Dwayne Mauk** explains the senior academy school budget process, showing how strategic goals become financial reality. Participants will learn how revenues are projected, how key costs like staffing are calculated, and how resources are prioritized to drive student success while meeting community and board approval timelines. **Comanche**



Protecting Your Classroom: Real World Examples This breakout will provide guidelines and best practices for teachers and school administrators to follow to avoid common legal risks and best serve and protect the students they are educating. We will explore real world examples of lawsuits and insurance claims as blueprints for practical "do's and don'ts" in the education realm. **Joseph Doukmetzian** is an attorney with over ten years of experience in the legal and insurance services industries. He provides advice and counsel to church entities with a particular emphasis on insurance claims, coverage issues, and other practical risk management concerns. He works at Adventist Risk Management, where he serves as one of the church's Claims Counsel, handling litigation and insurance claims for Adventist entities in the Western half of the United States and hospitals and other entities in the South American Division. **Marina Shavlakadze** serves the Southwestern Union, ESD, and EUD as Claims Counsel at ARM. Her journey with the organization began with nearly seven years of service as a legal assistant. After earning her LLM as a foreign-educated attorney, she returned to ARM as a Legal Claims Examiner. Now a licensed attorney in Maryland, she leverages this deep institutional knowledge to help protect our schools, focusing on liability claims, coverage issues, and practical risk management concerns to support your vital mission. **Gallant Fox**



SBL in Action: Hands-On Strategies for Elementary Classrooms The goal: Teachers will understand how to implement Standards-Based Learning (SBL) using practical strategies they can immediately apply in their classrooms. Fun and practical. **Regan Pereira** has been teaching since 2010. She has worked in public, charter, private and online schools in Arizona, Texas and Arkansas. She loves learning, which is why she teaches. Regan is the principal at Hot Springs Adventist School. **Ranger**



Every Voice, Every Classroom: Creating a Schoolwide Culture of Literacy A thriving literacy culture emerges when the entire school community shares responsibility for developing strong readers, writers, speakers, and thinkers. Discover practical strategies to unite administrators, teachers, support staff, students, and families in building a campus-wide commitment to literacy. **Dr. Cheryl The** has served as an educator for more than 40 years. She spent 27 years as an elementary teacher in California, Maryland, and Texas and has been at Southwestern Adventist University since 2010. As chair of the education department, her work focuses on developing literacy in the elementary classroom and cultivating strong professional dispositions in future educators. She promotes Seventh-day Adventist education and prepares teachers who inspire a love of learning and service. She enjoys traveling, reading, exploring nature, and spending time with her husband of 43 years, their two adult children, and five grandchildren. **Sea Biscuit**

Cultivating a Culture Where Safety is Everyone's Responsibility Safety isn't just a set of locks; it's a living culture of shared guardianship. This session moves beyond basic compliance to show how administrators, teachers, and support staff can work together to weave safety into the very fabric of school life. By utilizing practical Adventist Risk Management resources and the Swiss Cheese Model, participants will learn how to empower every staff member - from the front office to the bus - to see themselves as a vital protector of their school sanctuary. **Dr. Lawanna G. Williams-McCoy** is an accomplished instructional leader with over 35 years of experience as a conference superintendent, college professor, and school principal. In her current roles as Director of Special Projects for the Southwest Region Conference Model School System and SWRGC Children's Ministries Director, she leverages extensive expertise in developing operational policies, school codes of conduct, and risk management protocols to ensure the highest standards of safety and security. By serving as a primary liaison for safety, security, and administrative oversight, she remains dedicated to protecting young people and fostering a culture of excellence and innovation within church and school communities. **Traveler**



Educator's Wealth **Wirmin Alcantara** shares how to align your personal finances and retirement strategy with your calling to ministry, so money becomes a tool for mission instead of a source of stress. This session will unpack practical steps for Adventist Educators to build long-term financial security while honoring biblical principles of stewardship. **Whirlaway**

Experiencing Prayer Allow students to experience prayer as a genuine conversation with God. This interactive workshop introduces a practical method that guides children through four powerful prayer encounters, helping them develop a deeper and more personal prayer life. **Pat Goffe** is an educator, author, and Children's Ministries leader with more than 20 years of experience helping children grow academically, spiritually, and socially. She currently serves the Southeastern Conference as Associate Director of Children's Ministries and an educator, equipping children, families, and ministry leaders to grow in faith and discipleship. She is a published author of nine books and a curriculum developer, creating innovative resources that make learning engaging and spiritual growth meaningful. Her personal motto is: Faith is the foundation, education is the tool, and love is the language through which we inspire the next generation. **Winchester**

