

8 steps IPS must take before closing or opening schools

“8 steps for IPS Board accountability of segregation...”

IPS has a history of re-segregation, in fact has been sued after Brown vs. Board of Education for continued segregating practices, continues the practice of social/economic, racial and disabilities disparities via magnet programs lottery system and recent displacement of Public Policy and Law program with high disparate impact for minorities and special needs students demands accountability on the part of the IPS Board to implement disparate impact studies for any proposed school changes and before those proposals are voted on by Board members. Any process short of this is a severe dereliction of duties of normal and respected business practices of ensuring equitable education for all IPS students and accountability to the tax payers and community it serves.

What the public demands, in this order, is accountability from the elected IPS Board for any and all school changes (openings, closings and program movements):

- 1)** Task forces including only elected students, parents, teachers, community members from neighborhood of effected schools and IPS district, and appointed Union Representative, IPS Facilities Representative, IPS Administrative Representative, IPS Finance Representative. School PTA/PTO, or nearest community center will conduct elections on effected school properties with no less than 30 day public notice for nominations.
- 2)** Task force given at least 2 school-year months and no less than 9 months for research, gather stakeholder input and proposal development.
- 3)** Task force's proposal publicized to students and parents for up to two school-year months and at least 3 public meetings per effected schools, including option of Parent Trigger at each public meeting, if applicable.
- 4)** Two school-year months given to students/parents to choose 1st and 2nd choice options of other IPS schools based on proposal and including options of "We chose no change" or "We would chose to leave IPS".
- 5)** IPS Administration has no more than two weeks to calculate disparate impact studies on social/economic/poverty, racial/minorities and special needs based on choices above in #4
- 6)** At least 3 public hearings held and data of disparate impact studies published on IPS website with non-identifying data per school pre-choice movement and post-choice movement, both 1st and 2nd choices delineated, within one school-year months before vote.
- 7)** If school is an innovative or charter school opening or expansion, specific and detailed school budget, including total budget, per pupil funding and administrative expenses with wages delineated by position, percentage of administrative wages to total budget, include how school will be accountable and transparent to the tax payers concerning financial expenditures and include specific accountability measurements that would lead to probation and closure by IPS all must be posted on IPS website for at least 1 school-year month prior to vote.
- 8)** IPS Board will conduct vote during a school-year month with 30 days public notice and not before all steps above are completed.

Again, without the above transparency and accountability measurements, our IPS students and families will continue to be negatively and disparately impacted by decisions of the IPS Board through the continued and purposeful dis-engagement procedures with the community it serves. The humanity of IPS students deserve no less then these 8 simple steps towards equity for their education.

Signed: One P.O.'d IPS mom, Indianapolis Management Worker, tax payer and human 06.12.17