

A commentary on the recent showing of clips from the Attucks documentary during the November IPS Presents District Town Hall Meetings

To those producing and attending the IPS Presents District Town Hall Meetings:

Please realize the video on the history of Crispus Attucks shown during the IPS District Town Hall Meetings is misleading. The emphasis on the actions of the KKK, take away from the known history of the late 1922 IPS board decisions and all the actual perpetrators of the creation of Attucks.

For example, the video specifically mentions hate groups like the White Supremacy League and White Peoples Protective Association. Yet, these groups were small and faded away after the 1920s.

Also, the video only implies general white civic organizations and persons were involved in school and city segregation (remember the photo of an overhead view of a large social dinner gathering?), but does not mention any names of these groups.

The only prominent group mentioned specifically is the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce.

What the video didn't mention specifically by name were the other two significant groups noted by Butler U's Dr. Thornbrough in *Indiana Blacks in the 20th Century*: the Citizens School Committee (CSC) and the Federation of Civic Clubs (FCC).

The research on Attucks by the Charles & Virginia Loflin Center on the History of IPS notes specifically the FCC (<http://vorcreatex.com/federation-of-civic-clubs/>) and the CSC as co-conspirators with the Chamber (<http://vorcreatex.com/indianapolis-chamber-of-commerce/>) in the creation of a segregated school district and city.

And what's more relevant, is the part the CSC (<http://vorcreatex.com/citizens-school-committee-2/>) played in not only the 1922 creation of Attucks and its control of the IPS board between the 1921 school board election and up to the 1925 board election (where it lost the KKK candidates), but in the 1930s. During this decade, under the leadership of Judge John Niblack, the CSC continued to perpetuate a segregated IPS after the 1929 school board election (where the CSC defeated the Klan board elected in 1925) up thru the 1960s. All of this is mentioned in *Indiana Blacks in the 20th Century*.

And, this information reveals that it was the 1920s white social, cultural, political, and business establishment influenced by a smaller oligarchy of male leadership which created a segregated school district and city, not the Klan.

It also reveals that over the years, the "grandchildren" of this same 1920s white establishment have continued to run our IPS and continue today via privatization and the corporate/business-oriented IPS portfolio model and its association with the Indy Chamber--as well as the Mind Trust/Eli Lilly and Stand for Children/Teach for America collaboratives.

To validate the point, we can't forget what Thornbrough stated: the segregation of our IPS would have happened without the Klan.

The K-8 IPS schools were already segregated before the Klan arrived and stayed so after its demise.

Indeed, the Klan won the 1925 election and oversaw the building and then the opening of Attucks in September of 1927, but they only carried out the decisions of the 1922 IPS board.

As well, the Indiana KKK was more interested in political power/patronage and community morality than segregation. Besides, Indiana's Blacks were Republicans; the Klan was more worried about Jews and Catholics. For details see *Citizen Klansmen* by Dr. Leonard Moore.

Not until years later, after the state law abolishing school segregation was adopted in 1949, did the city's white establishment want to remove the stigma and lessen their guilt represented by the Jim Crow high school. It was through their efforts to hide their involvement did the urban legend develop that the Klan was responsible for Attucks. See p. 60, *Indiana Blacks in the 20th Century*. From the

perspective of the Charles & Virginia Loflin Center on IPS History, the IPS Town Hall video perpetuates this myth...letting these racists off the hook.

Again, the video's fascination with the Klan leads viewers in the wrong direction. IPS families and Indy citizens must unpack the past/present anti-democratic influences of the Indy Chamber on IPS.

Here's the link to a timeline covering the events leading up to the December 1922 IPS school board decisions to create Attucks and Washington, and move Shortridge from downtown to the north side.

- 1921-1929 Events leading up to and through the creation of Attucks and Washington, and the relocation of Cathedral, Shortridge, and Butler College
<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/1921-1929-Events-leading-up-to-and-through-the-creation-of-Attucks-and-Washington-and-the-relocation-of-Cathedral-Shortridge-and-Butler-College.pdf>
- The “Mind Trust” of the 1920’s: Connecting the dots: The Indianapolis oligarchy of education decision-makers
<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/The-Mind-Trust-of-the-1920s-Connecting-the-dots-Indianapolis-establishment-education-decision-makers.pdf>

For more see: <http://vorcreatex.com/general-ips-resources/>

All of this is covered in the 2 Charles & Virginia Loflin IPS History Center videos:

- Part I-A 1864-1921 A Critical History of the Indianapolis Public Schools 1864-1930
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kKigk3m4kc&t=283s>
- Part I-B 1922-1930 A Critical History of the Indianapolis Public Schools 1864-1930
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqwJKBBoruY&t=996s>

Here are links to the 2 essays I distributed at the IPS Northwest town hall meeting:

- The Mind Trust as whiteness <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/The-Mind-Trust-as-Whiteness.pdf>
- 21 ways to dismantle our IPS
<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/21-ways-to-dismantle-and-de-democratize-our-IPS.pdf>

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