

Thanks for writing and continuing a conversation.

From what I gather from your email, I am not sure you understand the situation and why I sent you, the IPS board, particular administrative personal, and Dr. Payne information about rectifying what I see as a misleading narrative regarding the roots of racism in our IPS. I will be continuing to share our conversation with them.

To iterate, here are my concerns:

As stated in the June 25, 2020 IPS news post titled, “IPS Board Approves Racial Equity Policy and Black Lives Matter Resolution” (<https://myips.org/blog/district/ips-board-approves-racial-equity-policy-and-black-lives-matter-resolution/>), IPS stated that the roots of the racism that have affected the district over the past decades, can be found in 3 local white supremacist organizations (the Capital Ave. Protective Association, the White Supremacy League, and the White People's Protective League), the Indy Chamber, and the IPS board itself.

Yes, the 3 groups, the Chamber, and particular IPS boards did enable a Jim Crow IPS as well as a Jim Crow city. Local historians (Dr. Thornbrough, Dr. Warren, and Dr. Pierce) agree on this.

The Klan was also mentioned in this IPS post; however, research shows the KKK had little direct interest in education and/or segregated schools, but concentrated on gaining political power and the right to practice patronage, supporting moral issues around prohibition, as well as their critique of the role of women in the “Roaring 20s” era. *What’s important here is why IPS and the board do not know this.* Please review: <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/The-real-story-about-the-KKK-and-IPS-The-Klans-involvement-with-public-education-was-not-about-segregated-schools.pdf>.

What is just as important is the variety of individuals, organizations, and institutions including the Indy newspapers that were just as or even more influential than the 3 white supremacist groups and the Chamber, yet were not mentioned directly or reference in a footnote in the June 25 IPS post. This would have been done in order to give students, teachers, the IPS board, and citizens the true picture of the matrix around exactly who influenced the racial history of IPS and as well, our city and state.

Regarding the IPS Town Halls, the purpose and what took place at these meetings are examples of the very issues raised here. Although you saw, “*The town halls held last fall were the beginning of the conversation and will continue in the coming months,*” the information shared/will be shared was misleading. And, although the “...goal [of the town halls], in addition to our conversations, is to provide resources for people who want to study this history more deeply as we know shorter town hall sessions won’t be able to completely and thoroughly tell the detailed story, since IPS’s premise is misleading, consequently the information/resources IPS will provide will also be misleading.

Questions:

- What are the details of the districts “goal” here?
- What is IPS’s idea of “resources”?
- What are these resources and who/what is providing them?

I fear IPS does not know what it’s talking about because 1) IPS has been given misleading information/history, and 2) no one in the IPS administration, or on the board, knows any better.

Your idea that “*Showing the excerpt you referenced from the Crispus Attucks documentary, Attucks: The School That Opened a City, was one method we used to share a part of our IPS story*” makes sense. The problems is, the video misleads the viewer by not being specific and not mentioning certain historical facts and specific names of individuals, e.g., the Indy Chamber--facts and names that are mentioned and referenced in “Rectifying the misleading history of the district presented in the BLM Resolution of IPS” at <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/1-Rectifying-the-misleading-history-of-the-district-presented-in-the-Black-Lives-Matter-Resolution-of-the-Indianapolis-Public-Schools.pdf>.

See my critique of the Town Hall I attended at Northwest HS: <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Please-realize-the-video-on-Attucks-history-shown-during-the-IPS-District-Town-Hall-Meetings-is-misleading.pdf>

Can the public trust IPS to write its own history? Although as you stated, “[IPS] will continue to work hard to bring our history as well as our journey to the present into our community’s space for conversation, reflection, and, ultimately, action,” as an initiative, can the public trust IPS to lead this endeavor? Can we trust IPS to write its own history? Can we let the fox that’s guarding the henhouse write the history of the henhouse?

Intersectionality: decolonizing IPS history

Because, from our perspective, current IPS history is colonized, the Loflin Center on IPS History is working with 3rd parties such as the Indiana Historical Society. This is why we suggest IPS join our efforts to take advantage of this unprecedented intersectionality of, for example, 1) the birthday of Indianapolis, 2) CICF’s effort to end systemic racism in Indianapolis, 3) the national critiques of a) southern history and the removal of Confederate statues, b) major league team racists mascots and their removal, and c) the removal of racists stereotypes to promote Aunt Jemima and Uncle Ben products, and 4) a BLM Movement that’s global.

It’s time for our IPS to join local collaborative efforts to decolonize the history of the district and unabashedly connect the dots within the matrix composing its underbelly.

Recommendations

1. Rewrite and publish the paragraphs mentioned in <https://myips.org/blog/district/ips-board-approves-racial-equity-policy-and-black-lives-matter-resolution/>. There are examples on p. 24 of <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/1-Rectifying-the-misleading-history-of-the-district-presented-in-the-Black-Lives-Matter-Resolution-of-the-Indianapolis-Public-Schools.pdf>
2. Establish a Black Lives Matter influenced Department of IPS History that is administered by a variety of persons which for example will include IPS staff and board member/s, public historians, and independent city organizations like the NAACP, the Indiana and Marion County historical societies, the *Indy Star* and *Recorder*, the Indianapolis Education Association, and IUPUI, Butler, and Indy Chamber historians.

In addition, IPS must deal with the history of segregationist George Buck, principal of Shortridge. See: <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/George-S.-Buck-IPS-Shortridge-principal-and-public-school-segregationist.pdf>

The district’s 1800’s-2021 history will be covered in order to expose to the light of day what happened and why. This would include the 2011-2021 influence of the Mind Trust, or the district’s neo-liberal turn in its economics and politics.

This division would unpack such topics as the Citizens School Committee, the Federation of Civic clubs, the Chamber of Commerce, Butler University, and the Capital Ave. Protective Association, The White Supremacy League, and the White People’s Protective League. The group will work with students and alumni to write a critical history of each IPS K-8 school and especially each high school.

The bottom line is that although the Chas. E. & Virginia P. Loflin Center of IPS History prefers to collaborate with IPS, we are going forward with our work with the IHS around IPS history regardless.

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