

IDEA 3b Urban school reform, and crime and violence: Is IPS school reform really about land development, and not about schools or reform?

” This kind of school reform is not about children, it’s about the business elite gaining access to the nearly \$600 billion that supports the nation’s public schools. It’s about money.”

~ Dr. Leslie T. Fenwick

Recent conversations around the selling of the IPS SCIPS (Coca Cola) building and the IPS Fletcher Avenue (at Calvary St) media center, both enabling the current land development involved in the gentrification of Indy, reflect examples of the collaboration of elected IPS school board reformers and developers. Add to this, the summer/fall 2016 IPS board conversations around the possibilities of closing 1 or more high schools leaves open the question: What will happen with these schools--sold to developers too?

Read below what Dr. Leslie T. Fenwick, dean of Howard University School of Education, says in “Urban school reform is really about land development (not kids).” Fenwick’s main idea is a warning to African Americans in Indianapolis: *Whether solidly middle- or upper-income or poor, neither group of Indianapolis Blacks control the critical economic levers shaping IPS school reform. And, this is because IPS urban school reform is not about schools or reform. It is about land development.*

If *OpportunINDY* wants to reduce crime and violence, it has a responsibility to consider Dr. Fenwick’s assertions: In case IPS school reform and restructuring is about money, not students, this does not bode well for a public school system whose student body is 80% children and youth of color--and with the main purpose of keeping students in school and graduating, not in jail or the graveyard.

<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Urban-school-reform-is-really-about-land-development-not-schools-or-reform.pdf>