

January 4, 2018

Indianapolis Charter School Board  
The Office of Education Innovation

Good afternoon.

As you may know, I sent the following commentary to members of the Indianapolis Charter School Board in early September of 2017. As of this note to you, I have not received a response.

I know you are the interim director of OEI, yet since there's still no response, I'm reaching out to you.

Here's the link to the analysis of the closing of Indiana Math Science Academy-South (IMSAS) now published by *Schools Matter*: <http://www.schoolsmatter.info/2017/10/john-loflin-on-gulens-indiana-math.html>

Nationally, Gulen Movement associated charter school management groups like Indy's Concept Schools are under scrutiny. See: "Are some U.S. charter schools helping fund controversial Turkish cleric's movement?" (March 29, 2017). <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/is-turkish-religious-scholar-fethullah-gulen-funding-movement-abroad-through-us-charter-schools/>

Though there are many question in the analysis, the main questions for us voters are: 1) *who's responsible when an OEI school fails?*; and, 2) even though IMSAS failed, people still got paid: *exactly how much and who is accountable for the resources subtracted from the Barrington community by the city/OEI and the local and Midwest Concept Schools organization?*

And, from my perspective, the main question for us taxpayers is: how much of our money was wasted on what I consider an experiment. My analysis shows lots and lots of money swirled around and was braided through this story line.

Oddly, the closing of IMSAS got little press. I found one small story of around 100 words hidden in the *Star*.

<https://www.indystar.com/story/news/education/2017/02/07/low-enrollment-leads-indianapolis-charter-schools-closure/97585552/>

Through my lens as a long-time southsider, the title of the article, "Low enrollment leads to Indianapolis charter school's closure" is misleading because it places the blame on the school or the students and their families. When, from my point of view, the title masks what I consider OEI's poor judgment/decision-making in putting the school there in the first place, and OEI's present lack of accountability by not responding to my concern in almost 4 months.

The news on the street says there is another EMO placed there. Like IMSAS, the "news" says this entity was not asked to come to Barrington and use their empty school No.64. Although this is not an OEI placement, Mayor Hogsett still has a responsibility to the Barrington residents, most of whom are Democrats like I am, to respect their self-determination.

But, we on the Southeast side suspect this scenario continues the years of neglect by both Democrat and Republican regimes, making the present Barrington an economic and food desert of abandoned businesses.

Please review my analysis and get back to me. I request a conversation about the past and future of public education in Barrington.

John Harris Loflin