

For Immediate Release

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Contact: James Scheurich, PhD, 1(979)492-9491



A Call for Expanded Inclusiveness in Gathering Public Input

Over 60% of those attending the public meetings self-identify themselves as affiliated with IPS Innovation schools. They are very public about it at the meetings.

Therefore, without question, Stand for Children and the Mind Trust are working to dominate the attendance at the IPS superintendent search public meetings—Stand and Mind Trust staff members who may or may not live in the district.

This is problematic because Innovation schools are only about 25% of the IPS district schools.

The IPS Community Coalition certainly *wants* Innovation school parents and staff to participate and be heard.

There are issues that everyone seems to agree on, like wanting someone who has ample urban district level leadership that has included a record of raising equitable achievement.

However, there are also issues of disagreement, like whether the current Interim Superintendent has the experience and baseline knowledge to take on the largest school district in Indiana.

We wonder if Herd Strategies, who are being paid to run the public meetings, will include in their report that the meetings are being dominated by these special interest groups?

Also, will the IUPUI School of Education faculty make this point in their assistance to the IPS Board's superintendency search?

The choice of a new superintendent is incredibly important to IPS and to Indianapolis in general.

Thus, the IPS Community Coalition stands for a superintendency search public process that includes equitable representation of the entire community.

To accomplish this, the IPS Community Coalition recommends that the IPS Board expand its methods for gathering input from the community. Therefore, likely causing them to have to extend their early May deadline of finding a new superintendent.

In order to expand its reach for input, the IPS Board could collaborate with some active community, neighborhood, and religious organizations to co-sponsor public input meetings.

For example, a Catholic church that served primarily Hispanic parents could co-sponsor such a meeting. A large Black church could co-sponsor a public meeting. A large, active neighborhood organization could co-sponsor.

The IPS Community Coalition calls for expanded inclusiveness in gathering public input.