

Butler Tarkington/Crown Hill Education Committee

c/o Martin Luther King Community Center

Date: March 15, 2023

To: Dr. Allesia Johnson, Superintendent
Andrew Strope, Deputy Superintendent
Brian Dickey, Director of Innovation Schools

From: Butler Tarkington/Crown Hill Education Committee members

Re: The Future of James Whitcomb Riley School #43

The Butler Tarkington/Crown Hill Education Committee has been meeting for more than eight years to support education efforts in our neighborhood primarily focused on the students at James Whitcomb Riley School #43.

We are writing to outline expectations for the future of JWR School #43 moving forward:

- A JWR Neighborhood School Advisory Committee will be established to implement a community school model, and jointly make decisions as part of the leadership team in the school.
- This JWR Neighborhood School Advisory Committee will assist in the ongoing implementation of the School Improvement Plan, to include monitoring progress and evaluating results, based on the comprehensive needs assessment of the school.
- The JWR Neighborhood School Advisory Committee will incorporate, train, and support volunteers and community partners to fill gaps in the School Improvement Plan implementation.

As the JWR Neighborhood School Advisory Committee is being developed,

- The Butler Tarkington/Crown Hill Education Committee will conduct a search for a community school leader, and IPS will hire our recommended candidate to serve as Principal.
- IPS HR department will post job openings for teachers and staff positions at JWR School 43 for the 2023-2024 school year. The IPS HR Department and the Butler Tarkington/Crown Hill Education Committee will actively recruit personnel for JWR School 43.
- IPS will ensure JWR School 43 is fully staffed prior to the beginning of the school year. Teachers and staff will be trained, qualified, and receive adequate support with continuing education opportunities.

For reference, our committee previously proposed a Memorandum of Understanding with Edison School for the Arts, but no action was taken. A rough draft of that MOU has been attached to this letter, and we look forward to developing a revised one with IPS.

We look forward to a subcommittee of members from our Butler Tarkington/Crown Hill Education Committee meeting with you in person this week. The attendance list from our March 15th meeting is included.

Thank you for your partnership.

Members Present on March 15, 2023

Lacrisha Hollins
Sabae Martin
Israel Shasamni
Allison Luthe
Brenda Vance Paschal
Danita Hoskin
Robin Nichols
Jim Grim
Jasmine Black
Janie Frazier
Susan Appel
Carole Craig
Crissy Smith
Danielle Madrazo
Kimberly Matthews
Douglas Morris
Hannah Mullin
Sarah Gage
Jeffrey Bower
Sheila Long
Terrence Sanford
Lynese Martin

Topics for MOU ~~with Edison School of~~ the Arts

- ~~• The Butler Tarkington and Crown Hill communities will have 5 Seats on Edison's governing Board...2 parents, 1 teacher & 1 community representative from each neighborhood.~~
- The current school #43 population (families) will be automatically enrolled each year until 2032 unless the family selects another school.
- Families residing in Butler Tarkington and Crown Hill neighborhoods will be guaranteed a seat in School #43.
- An "8 in 1" program will be implemented to retain scholars from k- 8th grade.
- The Demographics of teaching staff will reflect the student population.
- There will be a Licensed teacher to student ratio of 1 – 15, grades k-3 plus 1-2 instructional assistants (preferably retired educators).
- There will be a Licensed teacher to student ratio of 1 -20, grades 4 – 6 plus 1 instructional assistant (preferably retired educator).
- There will be a Licensed teacher student ratio of 1- 20, grades 7-8.
- There will be one teacher coach per grade cohort. i.e., K-3, 4-6, 7-8.
- Edison will employ retired educators for 3 hours a day, 3 days a week, for grades k- 6 to assist in the classroom.
- Provide extra resources to bring all students to academic grade level.
- Bus service for all students especially those living south of 38th Street.
- In-school suspension system will be managed by certified teachers to assure disruptive behavior student can continue to be educated during the school day.
- Extra incentives will be available for teachers to remain multiple years to provide stability.
- Active engagement of parents will be an administrative priority making it easier for them to participate in school programs.
- ~~• A plan to merge school #47 and school #43 be created by parents and community resident~~
- The African American history of Butler Tarkington be displayed on the walls throughout the school #43.
- Additional classes such as journalism, robotics, graphic design, aeronautics will be

offered during the first period of the day.

- ~~If the test scores don't improve by 15% or 80% of the student population is performing grade level in 3 years, Edison will voluntarily leave...~~
- Edison will coordinate after school tutoring & behavior modification with MLK and other agencies.
- Scholars will be expelled only after exhausting all available prevention strategies.
- The music room will be named after Mrs. Patricia Mack. She taught music at School #43 for 40+ years.
- The science room will be named after Mrs. Manona Martin, School 43's first African American teacher. She initially taught physical education and then science at school #43 for 35+ years.
- A full-time licensed librarian will be hired.
- In 2020 a section of the library was named in honor of Mrs. Gloria Jones and that will be retained.
- Community volunteers will be welcomed and used effectively in the classroom.
- Dedicated Period/Class Time will be used for Mindfulness and or Meditation.
- Positive School Discipline practices and MTSS, which is a multi-tiered system of supports to promote a positive school climate, will be used. All staff will participate in the required professional development to support these systems.
- Culturally responsive curriculum, instruction and classroom management will be used.
- If the position of Principal is vacant, the search committee will include parent, teacher, and community representatives.
- ~~Edison will meet with the Butler Tarkington Education Committee monthly and provide progress reports with identifiable benchmarks.~~
- Middle School Monday program will be retained. (Our 7th grade scholars visit colleges & universities in the city. The 8th grade scholars participate in classroom activities with college students at universities within 2 hours of School #43).