

IPS Policy on Black History / Multicultural Education

In 1975, Pat went to the administration with a plan to establish the IPS Black History Committee. The committee was co-chaired with Dr. Victor Smith, Supervisor of Social Studies. The purpose of the committee was to give teacher the resources and training needed to teach children about the history of Africans and African Americans, a history intentionally excluded from textbooks

In 1979, Pat went before the Board with a resolution on the teaching of Black History in IPS. This was unanimously passed and in part read,

Whereas, the need exists to increase awareness and stimulate thought for the teaching and learning of Black History as an integral part of the total curriculum of the Indianapolis Public Schools;

Whereas, the attention of educators, students, parents and the community must be focused on the importance of putting forth a continuous effort to create a learning environment that accurately portrays the rich history of Black America and its impact on shaping and maintaining America's progress and growth;

Be it resolved that,

The Board of School Commissioners endorses the practice of teaching black history in the Indianapolis Public Schools. Further, the Board urges that a Black History Curriculum be developed and implemented to the extent that it becomes an identifiable part of the Indianapolis Public Schools curriculum in grades kindergarten through twelfth.

The IPS Board of School Commissioners approved a policy on the teaching of Black History in 1979. In 1996, the policy was revised by the Office of Multicultural Education to be more reflective of the diverse groups represented in the IPS student population and the society-at-large. The most recent revision is dated December 5, 2005. Compliance is not an option.