

## AMOS PODCAST: IPS Admits No Written Policy On How Staff Handles Fights; Attucks Leads 500 Parade; New ESide School

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**The Afternoons with Amos PODCAST for Thursday, May 7, 2015** Covered Education, the continuing concern over discipline or lack of safety in IPS and even can you raise chickens in Indy city neighborhoods. Thursday's *Afternoons with Amos* began with the good news that the 1955 Crispus Attucks Basketball Team that made history being the first all Black team to win a state championship, but were denied a chance to celebrate on the Circle, will celebrate in style as Grand Marshals of the 2015 500 Festival Parade. **(Hear At 00:00:56 Mark On Media Player)**.

Then Earl Phalen of Phalen Leadership Academies came to talk about the unique partnership Phalen is doing with IPS and School 103 on the far eastside. Phalen has gotten with the Mind Trust, Glick Properties and other groups to provide funding for additional programs and services for students of School 103 and residents in the far eastside neighborhood. Only 15% of students in that K-6 grade school have passed ISTEP. It's one of the lowest performing schools in the city. Phalen, along with Principal Marlon Llewellyn hope to reverse that trend. Both men talked about an upcoming hiring fair for teachers, teacher aides and others. The fair will be Wed, May 7th at Phalen's Academy 2323 N. Illinois. Phalen also mentioned that 93% of the 3rd Graders at his Phalen Academy Charter passed this year's IREAD 3rd grade reading tests. **(Hear The Phalen/School 103 Discussion at 04:56 Mark On Media Player)**.



*Earl Phalen*

The bulk of Thursday's show was continued anger and reaction to that horrendous fight video earlier this week at Northwest High School.

And IPS' weak public response and confusion over IPS policies of what teachers and administrators are allowed to do to protect students and reduce violent incidents. **(At 25:55 Mark On Media Player)**. During the discussion, Amos read a

statement from IPS that acknowledged that the district really has NO policy governing how teachers reduce violent acts. The Statement reads: *"Indianapolis Public Schools does not currently have a written, districtwide policy directing teacher*



*Source: IPS*



*involvement in student altercations. To our knowledge, there has never been a documented blanket protocol or guideline for all schools issued by the board or the central office. Our elementary schools have crisis teams whose members complete Crisis Prevention Institute training, which focuses on nonviolent crisis intervention including restraint protocol. Single-person restraint is not considered safe or effective if the student is taller than the staff member's chest. Our high school principals advise their staff members on suggested tactics to de-escalate altercations with a focus on the safety of all students and staff. This latest incident has shed light on gaps in our practices that could be improved with intervention standards for all high schools. Our district disciplinary team and administrative leadership are collaborating as we speak on an action plan to address this topic and to create clear standards moving forward. As we continue to make new strides to ensure the safety of the entire IPS family, we will keep the public informed of our progress."* **(Amos read the statement and started a discussion of what it means and doesn't mean at 63:51 On Media Player).**

Finally, a listener called complaining the city wasn't helping him get rid of possums. He also complained about people his neighbor raising chickens in the caller's Butler-Tarkington neighborhood. That led to a lively discussion and the audience learned raising chickens is legal in Indianapolis, even in the most urban areas **(Hear at 47:45 On Media Player).** **Hear the Full *Afternoons with Amos* PODCAST for Thursday May 7, 2015. ©2015 WTLC/Radio One. Runs 9x Minutes. Audio Starts After Brief Video Ad.**

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