

**INDIANA CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Fall 2021 Public**  
**Hearings**

<b>Date &amp; Location</b>	<b>Board Members</b>	<b>ICSB Staff</b>	<b>Number of attendees</b>	<b>Schools Discussed</b>	<b>Applicant Representative</b>
October 6, 2021 Virtual - WebEx	1 (MaryAnn Schlegel Riegger)	Bridgett Abston; Sherie Scott; Beatriz Pacheco	13	Edison School of the Arts (Conversion and Replication)	Nathan Tuttle

**Edison School of the Arts  
WebEx  
October 6, 2021**

<b>Comment Type</b>	<b>Edison School of the Arts</b>		
	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Neutral</b>
Public Hearing	0	0	0
Email	0	0	0
Letters	0	0	0
Phone	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Comments from Public Hearing**

No comments were provided during the public hearing.

**Emailed Comments**

No comments were provided via email.

Indiana Charter School Board  
143 W. Market St., Suite 400  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

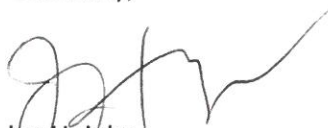
Mr. Betley and Members of the Indiana Charter School Board,

I am writing today to express Shepherd Community Center's support for Edison School of the Arts' charter application to replicate their highly successful arts integration and performing arts model. At Shepherd Community Center, it is our vision to see every child in our neighborhood learn to read and write so they can break the cycle of poverty. Shepherd wants to see students catch up to grade-level and achieve the academic outcomes that are key to breaking the cycle of poverty for their families and communities.

As part of dedication to the educational success of the students in our community, Shepherd has partnered with neighborhood schools to provide wraparound services to students and families, and we are excited at the opportunity to engage Edison School of the Arts in our neighborhood as an Innovation Network School. We believe that Edison's track record of improving academic performance through the additional autonomies of an Innovation Network School status has positioned them to successfully replicate their model and expand their impact for our students.

Shepherd Community Center is committed to supporting Edison School of the Arts in their replication process and we look forward to partnering with them to best serve our students. Thank you for your consideration, and please don't hesitate to reach out if I can offer any additional insights or details.

Sincerely,



Jay Height  
Executive Director



October 22, 2021

To the members of the Indiana Charter School Board:

Edison School of the Arts is currently an Innovation Network School within the IPS LEA, and part of the overall landscape of robust choice offerings for families across Indianapolis Public Schools. We are aware of the applications that the Edison leadership team submitted for a charter for their existing campus (Edison I) and a new, second location (Edison II). We also recently learned that the application for Edison I was withdrawn.

Indianapolis Public Schools is proud to have Edison in our system, and we hope that they can remain so for many years to come. The sole K-8 IPS performing arts program is located at Edison School 47 after being relocated from Mary Nicholson School 70 in the 2016 school year. The school has been able to meet its enrollment goals year-over-year, and families have demonstrated that they appreciate an immersive arts program for their K-8 students.

IPS has recently begun our Rebuilding Stronger campaign - a comprehensive community-driven process to rethink and reinvent how we offer all students across the IPS boundary more of what our families and communities demand and deserve. This will result in a robust plan for implementation, scheduled to be acted upon by our IPS Board of School Commissioners in summer of 2022. We currently plan to begin implementing components of the plan for the 2023-2024 school year.

The IPS leadership team has talked with Edison leadership regarding their desire to replicate the school, and it is an idea that the administration supports. However, we've also made clear to the team that we believe making this transition is best situated within the planning that is happening through our Rebuilding Stronger work, given that this plan is being built based on feedback from our community and in consideration for how we most effectively leverage our public resources to create stronger and better schools in the future.

Being a part of IPS' larger planning work and launching a second campus in formal partnership with IPS would allow the planning for a second campus to be integrated into the broader Rebuilding Stronger plan and would give the Edison team a much greater degree of clarity around resource usage for major expenditures like transportation, facilities, special education services, or food service. It would also allow the Edison leadership team to be fully focused on the learning of its current students in this academic year as we all continue to navigate the impact of COVID-19. In order for this partnering to occur, a replication would be best suited for implementation no earlier than the 2023-24 school year. As such, the submitted application for Edison II is not currently supported by the IPS administration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aleesia Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

Aleesia Johnson  
Superintendent, Indianapolis Public School