Hello, my name is Annette Johnson. I am a proud product of public education and a former public educator. I taught English at Arsenal Tech High School here in Indianapolis. I graduated from Crispus Attucks High School. I am an elected official and trustee of Pike Township, Marion County.

One way or another, we must stop charter school expansion in Indiana. In the last year, I have helped three campaigns to prevent charter schools from impacting Pike Township.

We got so good at stopping charter schools in Pike and neighboring Washington Township that Paramount Charter Schools tried to trick us. They hid their application from us.

Paramount wanted to avoid facing Annette Johnson and our righteous and rowdy public school supporters, so they had an unadvertised public meeting. They got Trine University, located as far away from Indianapolis as possible while still in Indiana, to be their authorizer.

We know that many have it in for public education. However, I bet if they knew the truth of wasteful spending, Charter Schools would not be opened in communities that have great school districts.

What keeps me up at night, though, is knowing that too many people who don't care about education are sympathetic to the charter school swindlers.

We should support public education--not charter schools; they take public money and have private boards!

We have to fight and bring about awareness! I appauld teachers that work hard every day with their students.

Our strength is in our numbers! I ask you to spread the word! Talk to your neighbors! We can win this battle!

Trustee Annette Johnson