

# Theodore Roosevelt College and Career Academy, Inc.

730 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Gary, IN

## Board Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2013

*Call to Order:* 9:13am – Todd McIntire

### *Board*

*Members Present:* Todd McIntire, President; Frank Ippolito, Treasurer; Lisa Johnson, Parent Representative

### *Board*

*Members Absent:* Jodie Beckley, Vice President; Charles Hughes, Friends of Ted; Dominique Pickett, Student Representative

*Guests Present:* Vanessa Ronketto, Superintendent; Donna Henry, Interim Principal; Drew Laskowski, Edison Learning Controller; Antoinette Edmonds, SOM; Student; Coni Taslim, SA Assistant Principal; Tyneasha Banks, AD; Carmen Purham, Student Support Director; Gisele Jones, SED; Sabrena Davis, DOA; Ben Clement, Board Secretary

*Minutes:* Frank Ippolito motioned for acceptance of the May 9, 2013 minutes. Lisa Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

*Agenda Approval:* Frank Ippolito motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Lisa Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

## **Reports & Updates**

*School Presentation:* Gisele Jones, Student Engagement Director, reported on Student Council. Currently only 1% of students participate in student council. The goal is 25% participation or a total of 192 students. Challenges include teacher sponsorship and organizational support. Ms. Jones will work with administration to build community partnerships, increase student participation and build student leaders. President Todd McIntire requested that a new student body representative be appointed to the School Board.

*School Update:* Donna Henry presented the principal's report. She commended teachers and staff on a successful 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion ceremony and senior graduation. There was modest attendance at 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade parent night and there is much room for improvement. There was tremendous turnout for the community partners meeting and plenty of valuable feedback. President McIntire requested a schedule of upcoming stakeholder

meetings. He then inquired about the status of the student recruitment campaign. Superintendent Vanessa Ronketto reported the campaign was in full swing including weekly conference calls with team members, street teams attending community events and canvassing door-to-door. Currently 331 Intent to Return (ITR) forms have been collected. A student-led “Virtual” tour of the school has been produced and the DVD is being broadcast on cable television and uploaded to social media. Principal Henry announced that “Our Meeting” has been moved to the middle of the school day to increase student participation. Staff development is on track and classroom observations are almost on schedule. Sabrena Davis, Director of Achievement, reported the Achieve 3000 reading program has been implemented. She said students are able to track available jobs in the area and the skills needed to qualify for them. Principal Henry reported that ECA test results are expected next month and ISTEP test score results will be delayed due to a computer glitch. There have been two expulsion hearings. TRCCA received a \$5,000.00 Laura Bush Library Grant.

#### *Operations Report*

##### *Facilities:*

Antoinette Edmonds presented the school operations report. Surveillance cameras have been installed in the alternative education area. Elevator repairs should be completed by July. Air conditioner maintenance continues to be problematic. Some transportation issues have been addressed through a partnership with Eclipse Transportation. Unfortunately the Gary Community School Corporation will not provide alternative education or after school transportation. Ms. Edmonds said the school is seeking to install white boards to support blended learning. President McIntire requested a list of maintenance issues and other concerns as foundational evidence for ongoing litigation with the District.

##### *Education Report:*

Superintendent Vanessa Ronketto presented the education report. Sabrena Davis is preparing a professional development plan. Superintendent Ronketto announced TRCCA has applied for a school improvement grant. The grant is critical to maintaining programs and staffing levels. Sabrena Davis and Donna Henry presented the Blended Learning model that will be implemented at TRCCA. The “Flex Model” will offer online, self-paced learning for students. There will be four learning modes including foundational, conceptual, collaborative, and personal. Blended Learning will be initiated in 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades. Ms. Davis said the blended learning model is supported by 20 professional development models.

##### *Finance Report:*

Frank Ippolito and Drew Laskowski presented the financial report. Mr. Laskowski said the fiscal year 2013 reports have been completed and an end-of-year report has been submitted to the IDOE.

##### *Board Report:*

President McIntire congratulated Principal Henry and staff on a successful graduation ceremony. He reported meetings have been held with the State Board of Education and the Governor’s Education Advisor.

*Parent/Liaison*

*Report:* No report.

*Student Liaison*

*Report:* No report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Personnel Adoption:* Lisa Johnson motioned to accept the Personnel Report including the appointment of Donna Henry as principal. Frank Ippolito seconded. Motion carried.

*Invoice Payment:* Frank Ippolito motioned to approve Invoice No. 13075809 for \$215,229.11 for Edison Learning. Lisa Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

*New Board meeting*

*Schedule:* Vanessa Ronketto proposed Board meetings be moved to the third Wednesday of each month at 4pm to better accommodate staff, students, parents, and board members. Lisa Johnson motioned to adopt the new meeting schedule. Frank Ippolito seconded. Motion carried.

*SIG Plan:*

Superintendent Ronketto requested approval of the 2013-14 School Improvement Grant plan. Frank Ippolito motioned to approve the handbook. Lisa Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

*FY 2014 Budget:*

Board considered adoption of Fiscal Year 2014 Budget as updated by Drew Laskowski. Budget projections are based on enrollment of 770 students. Lisa Johnson motioned to adopt. Frank Ippolito seconded. Motion carried.

President McIntire asked for clarification on staffing level. Mr. Laskowski said the budget should indicate a reduction of 10 employees instead of an increase. Mr. McIntire asked how many staff vacancies remain. Principal Henry reported one vacancy.

**Old Business**

*Open Discussion:* Lisa Johnson inquired about parent access to grades throughout the school year. Principal Henry said access will be available beginning this Fall.

*Executive Session:* Executive Session held prior to the meeting.

*Adjournment:* 11:10am

*Next Meeting:* August 21, 2013

*Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Ben Clement, Secretary*

**ATTEST:**

Todd McIntire, President \_\_\_\_\_

Jodie Beckley, Vice Present \_\_\_\_\_

Frank Ippolito, Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

Chuck Hughes, Friends of Ted \_\_\_\_\_

Lisa Johnson, Parent Rep \_\_\_\_\_

Dominique Pickett, Student Rep \_\_\_\_\_