

Theodore Roosevelt College and Career Academy, Inc.

730 W. 25th Avenue

Gary, IN

Board Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2015

Call to Order: 4:01pm – Laura Hayes

Board

Members Present: Laura Hayes, President; Susan Gorman, Vice President (Via Telephone); Frank Ippolito, Treasurer (Via Telephone); Alexis Mosqueda, Student Representative

Board

Members Absent: Parent Representative (Vacant)

Guests Present: Dr. Sabrena Davis, Superintendent; Donna Henry, Principal; Karen Raymond, SOM; Drew Laskowski, Controller (EdisonLearning); Tarry Martin, Transportation and Enrollment Coordinator; Ben Clement, Board Secretary

Minutes: Minutes from December 17, 2014 Board meeting presented for approval. Susan Gorman motioned to approve minutes. Frank Ippolito seconded. Motion passed.

Agenda Approval: Susan Gorman motioned to approve agenda. Frank Ippolito seconded. Motion passed.

Reports & Updates

Principal's Report: Principal Donna Henry presented her report under the auspices of the Five Strand Model employed by EdisonLearning. Under the Leadership Strand she announced that an amendment to Title I funding has been approved. The Third Quarter school improvement plan has been completed. Hiring qualified staff continues to be a challenge due to limited number of applicants. Under Learning Environment Principal Henry noted that Roosevelt was recognized for being “Best Behaved” school after students attended special screening of the movie *Selma*. TRCCA has been approved for a National Honor Society chapter. Increased population in 8th and 9th grades continues to present challenges. Under Pedagogy and Curriculum, there were successes with Second Quarter SLC's. JAG placed second in a regional competition. Schedule changes have been completed and implemented. Challenges include an immediate need for staffing interventionists for 7th-9th grades. Under Assessment for Learning, statewide ISTEP Readiness test has been completed. Testing officially begins on March 3rd. Challenges

include the need to improve the process for evaluating iReady data. Currently there is no predictor for how students will perform on grade level state assessment. Under Student and Family Supports, Principal Henry reported successes with the addition of a new guidance counselor, the positive impact of the JUMP! Mentoring Program for 7th and 9th grade males and 9th and 10th grade females. The Panther Pearls Club for girls is going well and there is interest in establishing Girl Scout troops. President Hayes noted there are scholarship opportunities through Girl Scouts. Challenges include the need for a SPED Coordinator. There is also an increase in students needing self-contained services. Student attendance was 81% in January with 7th and 8th grade having the highest level.

Student Liaison

Report:

Alexis Mosqueda presented the student liaison report. JAG held a soap drive with proceeds going to Brother's Keeper, Serenity House, and Sojourner Truth House. ROTC held a coat drive in December. President Hayes asked if photographs were taken and Ben Clement suggested photos of student activities be archived for future media reports. JAG placed second in CDC competition. JAG also made Valentine's Day cards, and worked with Meals on Wheels. The Panther Pearls sold candy grams and students held a deodorant drive for the homeless. ROTC Ball is scheduled for March 6th. Principal Henry announced students held a Unity Day in honor of a TRCCA student who died. There were homecoming week activities that included a students versus staff basketball game (won by staff). Alexis shared more information about JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) including college tours, internships, summer jobs, and help staying on task. President Hayes noted how Magic Johnson Foundation is helping with academy in Chicago. Ben Clement asked if some of those funds could be targeted for TRCCA.

Operations Report:

Karen Raymond presented the operations report. Student enrollment was 616 for the February count day. Ben Clement noted the closing of Charter School of the Dunes high school presents enrollment opportunities for TRCCA. The data owner position has been filled providing added depth to state reporting. Additional Title I funding and enrollment increases present opportunities to recruit additional staff, provide more resources for instructional programs. There have been two staff resignations. There are open positions for Technology Manager, JA ELA, US History Teacher, Data Screener, and SPED Co-Teacher.

Facilities Report:

Karen Raymond presented the facilities report. There are several classrooms with inconsistent room temperatures and several classrooms and offices are unusable. There is water in the north area of the building. Boiler repairs are required to remediate temperature issues. One boiler is down and need to order parts to repair it. There are unpaid water bills that should be paid by Gary Community School Corporation. Drew Laskowski will contact Thom Jackson about the issue.

Technology Report: Karen Raymond reported installation of new ISTEP/CTB secure testing. Internet safety eCourse has been added. Provost issues have been corrected and system is running smoothly. Challenges include immediate need for repairs to student laptops that are no longer under warranty. Repairs for 17 laptops are estimated to cost \$319.00 each. A239 computer lab is only partially functional due to required electrical repairs. A240 lab is without heat. The server room needs a new air conditioner.

Transportation Report: No report.

Education Report: Dr. Sabrena Davis presented the education report. She presented a strategic plan to improve the school's Indiana A-F Accountability grade. Goals include increasing graduation rate to at least 70% with an internal goal of 80%, increasing percentage of students passing English 10 ECA by 28.6%, increasing students passing Algebra I ECA by 31%, increasing percentage of 7th and 8th grade students passing ELA by 20%. Dr. Davis noted on the Achieve 3000 Performance Report that every 7th, 8th, and 9th grader has an Achieve 3000 class. The I-Ready Reading Diagnostic indicates boot camps and other interventions are working. Dr. Davis said a decision has been made to not purchase Math 180 next year.

Finance Report: Drew Laskowski presented the finance report. He noted on the financial statements a deficit of \$524k. He said a FY15 projection will be completed by the next board meeting. Dr. Davis requested an explanation for the increase in administrative costs. Mr. Laskowski emphasized the importance of weighting expenditures toward instructional programs. Frank Ippolito reported the Form 9 was submitted on time.

Board Report: No report.

Parent/Liaison Report: No report.

Student Liaison Report: See above.

Friends of Ted: Ben Clement reported increased interest on Friends of Ted Facebook page.

NEW BUSINESS

Policy Adoptions: None.

New Contract: Dr. Davis created a new athletic contract to cover non-Roosevelt students playing on school sports teams.

Invoices: EdisonLearning invoice for January (\$151,678.36) presented for approval along with outstanding invoices totaling \$409,239.69. Sue Gorman motioned to approve the invoices. Frank Ippolito seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

Open Discussion: President Hayes asked if administration is prepared for meeting with Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Pruitt. Need to get cost estimates to renovate third floor to accommodate up to 600 middle-school students due to closing of Dunbar-Pulaski.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: 5:22pm

Next Meeting: March 15, 2015

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Ben Clement, Secretary

ATTEST:

Laura Hayes, Board President _____

Sue Gorman, Vice Present _____

Frank Ippolito, Treasurer _____

Parent Rep (Vacant) _____

Alexis Mosqueda, Student Rep _____