

# Theodore Roosevelt College and Career Academy, Inc.

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

Gary, IN

## Board Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2014

*Call to Order:* 4:02pm – Laura Hayes (Via Telephone)

### *Board*

*Members Present:* Laura Hayes (Via Telephone), President; Susan Gorman, Vice President; Frank Ippolito, Treasurer

### *Board*

*Members Absent:* Parent Representative (Vacant); Student 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 October 29, 2014 Board meeting presented for approval. Susan Gorman motioned to approve all three sets of minutes. Frank Ippolito seconded. Motion passed.

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

*Introduction:* President Laura Hayes apologized for chairing the meeting via conference call, however, her schedule prevented her from attending in person.

## **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 noted an increase in Title I funding and shared high praise for the leadership team. Primary challenges are presented by increased enrollment in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades, particularly those students with IEPs. Many of those students are transferring from New Tech. There are currently 114 SPED students. May need to hire more SPED teachers. Drew Laskowski said a math intervention teachers has recently been added. Under the category of Learning Environment, Principal Henry noted improved communications between security staff and students. There is a noticeable increase in students taking

pride in the school building and the academy. Still there is a need for more security in the building. There are transportation issues with three busses consistently late including a SPED bus. Under Pedagogy and Curriculum, 9<sup>th</sup> graders are receiving additional support from the newly hired math interventionist. TRCCA is currently providing tutoring in all subjects for all grades. Challenges presented by overcrowded classrooms and changes to the master schedule. Under Assessment for Learning, there are measurable successes evidenced in the upward trajectory in reading achievement. There is also successful administration of the second I-READ diagnostic. The lack of comparative data for I-READY presents a challenge as does the number of students in each class exceeding the fidelity number. She noted the reports are not teacher-friendly. Under Student and Family Supports, Principal Henry reported successes with College Go Week, Parent Night for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders, and the Panther Pearls mentoring program. Challenges include the retirement of the SPED Director and the impending departure of the senior counselor on January 9, 2015. There is concern about the negative impact on graduation rate. Attendance is great and the number of ODRs (8.4 per day) has decreased. The varsity basketball team is having a very successful season. Ben Clement noted the dramatic increase in media coverage and the positive impact on alumni and other stakeholders. The heightened attention should be leveraged to improve the TRCCA brand and to help increase enrollment. President Laura Hayes congratulated the team and the entire school. She offered assistance to help find a new counselor.

*Operations Report:* Karen Raymond presented the operations report. Student enrollment is 602. Teacher attendance rate is 95%. One math interventionist was hired while the SPED Counselor, Senior Counselor, and tech manager resigned. There are currently 6-7 open positions.

*Facilities Report:* Karen Raymond presented the facilities report. There are several classrooms with inconsistent room temperatures. Boiler repairs are required to remediate temperature issues. Heating and water leakage issues have rendered several classrooms inoperable. Note that Room 240 has no heat. There has also been a negative impact on basketball games. Mold remediation still required in some rooms.

*Technology Report:* Karen Raymond reported 17 student laptops need repair and are no longer under warranty. Repair costs estimated at \$319 each for a total of \$5,423.00.

*Transportation Report:*

Karen Raymond reported a new contract with a different vendor.

*Student Liaison Report:*

Alexis Mosqueda was introduced as the new student body president and student liaison for the Board. She is also JAG President and an S3 Officer in JROTC. JAG held a food drive for Sojourner Truth House and a soap drive for homeless shelters. JROTC fed ten families for Thanksgiving and held a blood drive November 25, 2014. They also held a coat drive for Sojourner Truth House and Brother's Keeper. President Hayes

congratulated Alexis for her election and for all of the successful student service projects. Motion by Susan Gorman to install Alexis Mosqueda as student representative for the Board. Motion seconded by Frank Ippolito. Motion carried.

*Education Report:* Dr. Sabrena Davis presented the education report. She presented a strategic plan to improve TRCCA's Indiana School Accountability Grade. Action plan calls for at least 70% graduation rate, increase in percentage of students passing ECA English (From 36.4% to 60%), and an increase of students passing ECA Algebra by 31%. President Hayes noted an increase in graduation rate translates into ½ point grade increase. Total aggregate increase in all targeted areas would produce improvement of one letter grade. Dr. Davis reported successes in I-READY and improvement in the truancy process. TRCCA is orienting new students to the student code of conduct. School is preparing for ECA. Ms. Morgan's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class won Indiana contest for Achieve 3000.

*Finance Report:* Drew Laskowski presented the finance report. There is a \$524,498 deficit reflected on the year-to-date operating statement. One cause is TRCCA is still incurring facilities and maintenance costs that the Gary Community School Corporation should pay. Mr. Laskowski is projecting a \$167,662 deficit going forward.

*Board Report:* Sue Gorman is now a member of the math team at TRCCA.

*Parent/Liaison Report:* No report.

*Student Liaison Report:* See above.

*Friends of Ted:* Ben Clement reported he is working with Gisele Jones to increase participation of Roosevelt Alumni with Friends of Ted.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Policy Adoptions:* None.

*Invoices:* EdisonLearning invoice for November (\$144,767) presented for approval. Frank Ippolito motioned to approve the invoice. Susan Gorman seconded. Motion passed.

## **Old Business**

*Open Discussion:* None.

*Public Comment:* None.

*Adjournment:* 5:10pm

*Next Meeting:* February 18, 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 \_\_\_\_\_