

# Theodore Roosevelt College and Career Academy, Inc.

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

Gary, IN

## Board Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2014

*Call to Order:* 4:04pm – Laura Hayes

### *Board*

*Members Present:* Laura Hayes, President; Susan Gorman, Vice President; Frank Ippolito, Treasurer; Lisa Johnson, Parent Representative; Dwayne Hunter, Student Representative

### *Board*

*Members Absent:* Rev. Corey Jackson, Friends of Ted Representative

### *Guests Present:*

Donna Henry, Principal; Karen Raymond, SOM; Tim Ulmer, DOA; Carmen Roberts, Director of Student Support; John Shenberger, Assistant Principal; Tearance Chin, Teacher; Casey Johnson, Staff; Beatrice Ghant, Staff; Laura Chandler, Staff; Lewanda Wyatt, Parent; Dwayne Hunter, Parent; Jo Hunter, Parent; Marolin Milan, Grandparent; Nichole Downes; Ben Clement, Board Secretary

### *Minutes:*

Sue Gorman motioned to adopt minutes from December 18, 2013. Lisa Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

### *Agenda Approval:*

Frank Ippolito motioned to approve agenda. Lisa Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

## **Reports & Updates**

### *Principal's Report:*

Principal Donna Henry reported on implementation of Achieve 3000. Curriculum meetings have been held and professional development delivered on rigor, objectives, and Cornell note taking strategy. Test preparation is underway with "Team 360" tee shirts used as motivation. 82% attendance rate is higher than in the past. Truancy referrals are down and there has been improvement in office discipline referrals.

### *School Report:*

Karen Raymond presented the school report. Students are enrolling in basketball camp. Open house held on Saturday, April 12, 2014. Recruitment team is seeking to leverage free radio advertising to promote enrollment. Challenges to recruitment effort include budgetary constraints, slow submission of intent to return forms, and high mobility rates for Gary families. Efforts continue to increase accuracy of student enrollment by

scrubbing truancy referrals and removing from the rolls students with 15 or more absences.

*Facilities Report:* Karen Raymond presented the facilities report. Difficult to address building maintenance issues due to continued lack of responsiveness by Gary Community School Corporation. Still having problems with HVAC system. The elevator is out of service. Lunchroom equipment is down. Need to consider removing bad equipment from room. There are water leaks in the bathrooms and office. Room C112 cannot be used due to missing or broken ceiling tiles.

*Technology Report:* Karen Raymond reported that laptop carts have been received. Building now has wireless access. Still experiencing software problems with the Evaluate System. Laptops need repair.

*Transportation Report:*

Karen Raymond reported challenges to providing transportation for after school programs due to number of available busses decreasing from 7 to 4. School must pay for bus transportation for field trips. Aetna and Miller busses consistently arrive late. Gary School District has never provided funding for after school transit. After school transportation currently costs about \$800.00 per day.

*Education Report:* Dr. Tim Ulmer presented the education report. There is increased focus on two of the ten school improvement goals including Goal #8: Increase percentage of students passing ISTEP and Goal #9: Increase percentage of students passing ECA. Dr. Ulmer reported progress in the literacy program. 160 students are enrolled in reading intervention program. Information on Math 180 program for 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grades will be presented at the next board meeting.

*Finance Report:* Frank Ippolito presented the finance report. Budget has been strained by loss of 164 students. Total funding loss is \$1.6 million. Some of the loss has been balanced by \$1.5 million in state funded school improvement grants. As a result staffing levels have been maintained. \$406,000 in SIG funds used to purchase technology. Unanticipated expenses due to weather include \$30,000 for snow removal, water mitigation, and mold removal. A \$329,000 budget deficit is projected. Lisa John motioned to approve payment of \$147,265.72 EdisonLearning invoice #14075809 dated April 9, 2014. Sue Gorman seconded. Motion carried.

*Board Report:* President Laura Hayes requested that building maintenance concerns be shared with the Gary School District. She congratulated Principal Henry and staff on reduction in discipline referrals. She asked if incentives are being offered to increase submission of intent to return forms. Principal Henry said a pizza party may be offered to the class with the highest rate of return. President Hayes inquired about low 7<sup>th</sup> grade test scores. Principal Henry said causal factors include normal transition difficulties for that

age group, teachers teaching both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades and ongoing challenges with blended learning.

*Parent/Liaison  
Report:*

No report.

*Student Liaison  
Report:*

Dwayne Hunter reported on student council activities including his attendance at state student council convention, open house, homecoming week, blood drive, Christmas dance and fundraiser, and teacher appreciation activity.

*Friends of Ted:*

Ben Clement reported the FOT is planning a luncheon as part of a membership drive.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*School Calendar:*

Sue Gorman motioned to approve the 2014-15 school calendar. Lisa Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

*Summer School:*

Three summer school programs will be offered including Freshman Success Academy, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade enrichment, and traditional 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade credit recovery. Principal Henry reported that four students recovered enough credits to graduate last summer. President Hayes asked if any incentives are offered to maximize student participation in summer programs. Principal Henry said Roosevelt works with Youth Services to offer the only summer feeding program.

## **Old Business**

*Open Discussion:*

None.

*Public Comment:*

Four parents signed up to deliver public comments. Dwayne Hunter voiced concerns about holding the senior prom outside the City of Gary. He and other parents are planning to hold a separate prom. Marolin Milan is concerned about the handicap access to the school and the elevator being out of service. She said limited access would be a challenge for elderly and handicapped family members wishing to attend graduation. Lewanda Wyatt hoped communications could be improved for students and parents. She is also concerned about transportation issues. Jo Hunter voiced concerns about the dual credit program. She said it is difficult to get documentation from Ivy Tech. She is also concerned about planning for the student awards luncheon.

*Announcement:*

President Hayes announced there would be an executive session immediately following.

*Adjournment:*

5:10pm

Next Meeting: June 18, 2014

***Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Ben Clement, Secretary***

**ATTEST:**

Laura Hayes, Board President \_\_\_\_\_

Sue Gorman, Vice Present \_\_\_\_\_

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

Corey Jackson, Friends of Ted \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dwayne Hunter, Student Rep \_\_\_\_\_