



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

To: Indiana State Board of Education
From: Ron Sandlin, Senior Director of School Performance & Transformation
Date: November 6, 2019
Re: Recommendations related to Theodore Roosevelt College & Career Academy at the Gary Area Career Center

I. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DIRECTIVE

At the request of Dr. David Freitas during the Indiana State Board of Education's ("Board") October Business Meeting, staff has prepared the following recommendations to address concerns related to temperature control in classrooms at the Gary Area Career Center that are currently being used by Theodore Roosevelt College & Career Academy ("TRCCA"). In order to ensure the Board has a comprehensive understanding of the current issues and challenges facing TRCCA, staff has expanded the scope of these recommendations to address both the short-term concerns associated with temperature control at the Gary Area Career Center as well as the ongoing issues associated with the relocation of TRCCA to the Gary Career Center.

II. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bay areas at the Gary Area Career Center are being used for classroom space by Theodore Roosevelt College & Career Academy. There are concerns these bays are not temperature controlled, which will lead to further disruptions to student learning as temperatures begin to fall below freezing.**

RECOMMENDATION: No immediate action should be taken by the Board. After reviewing building specifications and analyzing information about heating capacity throughout the facility, staff has confirmed that the bay areas have access to heat. Staff will continue to support ongoing collaboration between Gary Community School Corporation and TRCCA aimed at supplementing the current heating capacity.

SUMMARY: Since February 2019, TRCCA has co-located with Gary Community School Corporation career and technical education programs at the Gary Area Career Center. The following table outlines details about current facility usage for instructional purposes between the two programs:

| | Theodore Roosevelt College & Career Academy | Gary Area Career Center |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Students | ~420 | 168 |
| Classrooms Used | 20 | 11 |
| Bays Used | 4 ¹ | 4 ² |
| Additional Rooms Used | 2 ³ | - |

Approximately 40% of the heat supplied to Gary Area Career Center is dedicated to the bay areas (twelve of the thirty-three air control units). Representatives from TRCCA have expressed concerns about whether or

¹ Roosevelt is currently using one bay for JROTC, one bay for physical education, and the other two are divided into classroom space.

² Two of these bays are used by Gary Area Career Center programs and two are used by Ivy Tech.

³ Roosevelt is currently using the Resource Center/Library and the Industrial Clinic as classroom space.

not the current heating capacity is sufficient to maintain comfortable temperatures in the bays throughout the winter. Both parties are working to identify practical solutions to supplement the existing heating capacity.

As they did last year, Gary Community Schools will winterize the building in the coming months, including the bay areas, to increase the likelihood that reasonable temperatures are maintained throughout the entire building.

2. Gary Community School Corporation has indicated its intent to expand current offerings at the Gary Area Career Center for the 2020/21 school year. As a result, Theodore Roosevelt College & Career Academy will no longer be able to co-locate in the facility.

RECOMMENDATION: Direct staff to execute a comprehensive community engagement plan and bring back a final recommendation to the Board in February that addresses the instability and uncertainty stemming from the emergency relocation of TRCCA from the original facility.

SUMMARY: The current co-location arrangement at the Gary Area Career Center is a temporary solution for TRCCA. The school was moved to the Gary Area Career Center in February of 2019, after a flooding incident rendered the school's original facility unsafe for students and staff. Gary Community School Corporation have expressed its intent to expand career and technical education offerings at the Gary Area Career Center next school year, and that there will no longer be adequate space to co-locate both programs. Therefore, TRCCA's future is uncertain.

In developing the recommendation, the Board should give significant consideration to the following:

- Historical student performance at TRCCA – specifically student academic growth and graduation rate.
- Available educational options in the surrounding area, including public charter, traditional public, and choice scholarship schools, with a particular emphasis on schools that provide transportation and are rated in the top three performance categories.
- Financial impact, including costs associated with supporting students, families, and staff throughout any transition; and, the cost of securing an alternative facility for the remaining two years of the innovation agreement.

Prior to making a final determination, Board staff should execute a comprehensive community engagement plan that includes:

- One or more public hearings to share data about school performance and financial indicators, and solicit input from community stakeholders;
- Meetings with students, families, staff, and other community stakeholders who will be directly impacted by the Board's decision and,
- Analysis of key data including student performance metrics, financial indicators, and availability of high-quality seats.

III. TIMELINE & NEXT STEPS

If directed by the Board to develop a recommendation, staff will continue to conduct an analysis of key indicators and begin to execute a community engagement plan based on the following timeline:

NOVEMBER:

- Meet with representatives from TRCCA and Gary Community Schools to identify potential facilities that may house the program beyond the 2020 school year and determine total costs associated with getting the facility into operational condition.
- Meet with representatives from TRCCA and Gary Community Schools to determine the estimated costs associated with rehabilitating Theodore Roosevelt High School back to an operational condition.
- Review historical student performance at TRCCA, including progress towards Board-approved benchmarks, with an emphasis on student academic growth and graduation rates.

DECEMBER:

- Conduct public hearing(s) to share findings from the Board's initial analysis and solicit community input.
- Meet with students, families, and staff at TRCCA to share information about the Board's analysis and solicit input from those individuals who will be directly impacted by the Board's decision.
- Generate a summary report that captures input and key takeaways from the community engagement events.

JANUARY:

- Meet with representatives from TRCCA and Gary Community Schools to address any unanswered questions that have emerged over the course of the planning process.
- Coordinate with representatives from TRCCA and Gary Community Schools to generate a transition plan to accompany the final recommendation that prioritizes the needs of students and staff at TRCCA.
- Present the final recommendation to the community at a scheduled public meeting prior to the Board's February Business Meeting.

FEBRUARY:

- Present final recommendation to the Board, along with a detailed transition plan that outlines how students, families, and staff will be supported throughout the process.