

**RICHMOND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES MEETING  
BREAK-OUT SESSION NOTES  
MARCH 13, 2013**

Competition in the Preparation of College and Career Readiness

*What are the elements of quality in today's schools?*

- Diverse Programs (Arts, Logos, Early College, WINGS, Advanced Placement, Career Education, Project Lead the Way, MicroSociety, Indiana Science Initiative, STEM, Online Academy, Dual Credit, Academic Teams)
- Positive Behavior Intervention Support
- Safe Schools/Healthy Students and History Grants
- Freedom for innovation, teacher and student
- High student engagement and expectations
- Complimentary extra-curricular activities (music, art, newspaper, yearbook)
- Sense of community and global view
- Technology for staff and students (individualized professional development, continuous support, PowerSchool, and up-to-date equipment)
- Flipped classroom model
- Study Buddy/Mentors
- RISE Model Implementation
- Real world problems/relevance
- Project Based
- Community partnerships
- Partnerships in schools as part of the curriculum
- Common Core Standards
- Good Website/Facebook/Twitter/Social Media Presence. Board meetings broadcast.
- PAL Academy
- Research-based decision making
- School/Community Collaboration
- Teachers involved in learning communities and learning connections
- Tuesday professional development days
- Literacy Nights/Family Nights/Open Houses

*How do we best compete in this environment that demands not only quality instruction using 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills but also enrollment growth?*

- Continue to improve academic achievement
- Engaging students early
- Thematically organized schools
- Offer unique programmatic choices
- Charter all of Richmond Community Schools
- Language immersion
- Technology
- Expand orchestra to lower grades
- Convenience (transportation, child care, etc.)
- Market our assets/strengths/positive stories, celebrations, have successful alumni come back to share stories
- Mail information concerning RCS to all in Wayne County
- Increase event attendance (county school/private school students attend RCS events)
- More proactive RCS leadership among county schools
- Survey residents to determine what is desired
- Creating “small school” thinking – sense of community
- Create/foster welcoming environments and acknowledge the time it takes to create goodwill
- Relationship building with families – across district
- Alternative School (Hands On) 6-12
- Get to kids interests sooner, using classroom data to find interests
- Create relevance
- Project based learning
- Preschool emphasis in phonics awareness
- Mentoring parents as well as students
- Focus on transition periods
- Focus on keeping the students we have
- Connecting opportunities purposely
- Book talks
- Universal consistent pathways
- Schools as community centers
- Internal PR
- Career clusters
- Project based language (universal)
- Expand capstone program, foreign language offerings, vocational education, etc.
- Aggressive recruiting for teachers and students
- Get more community members and parents into the buildings to see what it is really like
- Expand community partnerships
- Celebrate diversity to increase diversity, students need diverse role models

## *Board Discussion*

- Identifying gaps
- Alternative school for younger students who are not successful in a traditional setting
- Project based, relevance based, and inquiry based
- What is a theme based school? Would it be too specific, could the year be divided into themes instead?
- How to identify a young students strengths
- Consistent and universal use of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills
- Create a continuum or path from preschool to graduation
- Use a common language throughout the district
- An individual feel for each child, parents want what is best for their child
- Add language as a fifth day of specials
- Career focused counselors/coaches/mentors to work with students and parents at the intermediate level, the elementary level would be exploratory
- Everyone be an ambassador for their school and the Richmond Community Schools
- Have discussion/focus groups with other segments of the community and with students at each school
- Marketing
- The diverse needs of the community, engaging community to determine what it will take to keep their students in school
- Recruitment of students and teachers
- Share with the community what they will get, not what we offer
- Strive for a well organized plan
- Truly being college and career ready
- Time to plan and prepare
- Community survey
- Next steps and action steps
- Create exposure
- Engage parents

