

Superintendent decisions regarding college credit classes at ECTS Skills Center

1. Budget
To be projected to work for both high-use and low-use school districts.
2. Presentation for 4/27/04 (7:00 p.m. at Vo-Tech)
I am to present a power point presentation and allow the superintendents to make comments and answer questions.
3. The IU will work out billing procedures for student costs and district budgets.
4. Pending superintendent recommendation on North Coast and RCI rentals for May ECTS Board Meeting
5. There will be a fee of \$100.00 per credit for each university (minimum of 10 students to operate an EUP course and 15 for a Gannon course).
6. There will be a recommendation to the IU to advertise for a part-time director for July 1, 2004.
7. I will be contacting schools for spare furniture/equipment, if needed, to save dollars.
8. The superintendents would like to step up the marketing of the RCI after the 4/27/04 meeting.
9. Starting classes on Thursday, September 2, 2004 (before Labor Day) is not a problem for most districts.
10. The current program may not be right for all districts at this time, however, with time and improvements it may be workable in the future.

Thank you,
John Seifert

The section below has been reproduced
For the benefit of new members to the
ECTS Board of School Directors

Erie County Technical School
Report of the Superintendent of Record
October 23, 2003 Republished for April 24, 2004

You have had an opportunity to see a presentation on the vision of technical education for the future. Your administration and professional staff have been very busy identifying

potential new programs and developing time lines for their introduction. Superintendents will review a first pass at these specifics November 7, 2003.

The ten classrooms in the former Skills Center continue to capture the interest of regional educational leaders. We met October 20, 2003 in order to organize our thoughts about a fair rental fee for these rooms. Some of the Erie County school district superintendents plan to appear to address you under "public comment" tonight in order to reinforce their request that RCI have access to these classrooms.

First, there is a clear agreement that possible plans for the use of the Skills Center include:

1. Leaving the building empty for the short term - one estimate of this cost is \$67,000
2. Permit programs other than those of the technical school to use the building's classrooms for the short term and to pay "fair" rental
3. A renovated Skills Center building for the long term that would house a new complement of technical programs and other offerings (RCI, North Coast, other alternative education, etc.)

Second, the superintendents have agreed that the classrooms should be made available in this priority:

1. The present and new programs of the Erie County Technical School - There are no ECTS programs that will require classroom space in the Skills Center during the 2004-2005 school year for the Technical School.
2. Programs that may be offered under the Regional Choice Initiative in a central location to some or all of the Erie County School Districts.
3. Other educational programs that would be offered by our partners, such as the North Coast School.

These priorities are provided to you for your adoption or use in considering classroom requests. There is no disagreement on these priorities among superintendents.

Third, we have attempted to develop a fair rental price. There is no single best way to develop a cost. It is expected that some school districts will use this centralized RCI program heavily, some to a lesser degree, and, perhaps, some not at all. Accordingly, there is some disagreement as to the share of costs that should be included Skills Center classroom rentals and the remaining portion of costs that should be paid by all member districts through the Technical School's operating budget. Therefore, I request that the board identify some limits for our boundless thinking about the following questions. I have provided a multiple choice format to organize thinking - please feel free to suggest further dimensions to each question.

1. There is a cost, of approximately \$36,000, that represents the amount that the Technical School now pays for the Seimens HVAC lease. Which of the following best represents your belief about how this cost could be absorbed through rentals.
 - A. The rental of the classrooms should include this entire cost, thus reducing net expenditures in the technical school budget.
 - B. The rental of the classrooms should include a portion of this cost, based on the square feet used to the area of the total building.
 - C. The rental of the classrooms should not include any portion of this cost.

2. It is expected that heat, electricity, water and sewer will cost more when ten classrooms are used than when the building was idle or when the Technical School used three classrooms (approximately \$100,000 savings the year following the move back). The North Coast utility use this year provides more information as well. Which of the following statements best represents your belief about how utility costs should be paid by the renting of the classrooms?
 - A. The total estimated cost of utilities should be captured in a rental agreement for the classrooms.
 - B. The rental of the classrooms should include a pro-rated best estimate of utility costs for the area to be rented.
 - C. Classroom rental fees should not include utilities.
3. The Technical school budget includes property insurance costs in excess of \$11,000 for the Skills Center building. Which of the following best represents your belief about how utility costs should be incorporated into rental fees?
 - A. Renter(s) pay it all
 - B. Renter(s) pay part based on area rented versus total building area
 - C. Renter(s) should pay no property insurance costs
4. How should maintenance fees for small repairs, snow removal and such be recovered in a rental agreement?
 - A. Renter(s) pay it all
 - B. Renter(s) pay part based on area rented versus total building area
 - C. Renter(s) should pay no property insurance costs
5. Custodial services are required for the classrooms. Presently, the North Coast classrooms are serviced by the tenants. Should custodial costs continue to be the sole responsibility of the renting group, regardless of whether these are supplied by the Technical School or the renting group?
 - A. Yes, tenants should pay custodial costs, directly or indirectly
 - B. No, custodial costs should be paid by the technical school
6. Capital costs and repairs have been estimated at \$23,313 per year for the entire classroom area. How should these be included in a rental agreement?
 - A. The tenants should pay this prorated share of capital costs
 - B. The tenants should not pay this prorated share
7. Depreciation has been estimated at \$1.39 per square foot per year. Although public school buildings have not traditionally been depreciated, the new accounting standards provide a basis for this computation. Should depreciation be included in a rental agreement?
 - A. Yes, depreciation should be included in the fee assessed to all potential renters
 - B. Depreciation should be included only for potential tenants who are not educational partners
 - C. Depreciation should never be included in any rental schedule for Skills Center classrooms

Thank you very much for your consideration

David A. Smith