



Superintendent's Report
Erie County Technical School
Joint Operating Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 27, 2006

Erie Growth Partnership: At their last meeting, members of the Erie Growth Partnership presented their most compelling challenges. Of the 15 identified challenges, there are five that are most compelling for ECTS. They include the following:

1. **Training Our Workforce:** Key to long-term competitiveness
2. **Gaming Revenue Use:** Use to enhance economic and social future of Erie
3. **Transportation Issues:** Needs to be upgraded and maintained
4. **Sustaining and Enhancing the Economic Development System:** Continued support of the customer-centric model
5. **Community Vision:** Need to develop a unified vision to align resources and enhance region's sense of hope and opportunity

Chapter 339 Audit Briefing: Below you will find the commendations, recommendations, and corrections made by the PDE audit committee at our exit conference on Wednesday, April 5th.

Commendations:

1. Very impressed with student engagement in all the classes
2. Very impressed with student discipline, manners, professionalism
3. Quality of Staff went far beyond what would normally be expected
4. Many things to be proud of at ECTS
5. ECTS programs tied closely to academic and industry standards
6. ECTS website is best that PDE has seen; A lot of information available for parents
7. High level of support for special education students; Impressed with the partnership between ECTS and the home schools regarding support for special education
8. New admissions procedures and policy is a good example of cooperation with home schools and ECTS.
9. Good job recruiting students
10. Strong math support for students in each of the subject areas
11. Strong cooperation from home school in transitioning students from one school to another; good documentation

Recommendations:

1. Would like ECTS to match up training with jobs, especially high priority occupations as identified by workforce development, etc.
2. While academic support is good, PDE would like us "to tighten up" by home schools providing PSSA scores for students attending so that ECTS can help students prepare for the tested areas. Recommend a team approach between the home schools and ECTS
3. Reinstate general advisory committee



4. Safety plan well done, but would like to see a more comprehensive approach to standardize safety in the entire building.

Corrections:

1. Need a scope and sequence instrument that should begin in 9th grade. Should determine what courses students should take in the home school to prepare for training programs at ECTS
2. Determine what academic subjects students need to take in the home school to be successful in their ECTS programs
3. Teachers must make a commitment to teaching/reinforcing math, reading, and science skills within their individual training programs.

2006-07 ECTS Budget: Superintendents have taken the ECTS 2006-07 budget to their respective Boards with the recommendation to approve it. Dr. Jackson provided summary reports for each school district.

Regional Community and Technical College: Superintendents passed a resolution supporting the creation of a technical community college. They feel that having a technical community college will create opportunities for students in Erie County and other participating counties in northwest Pennsylvania.

2006-07 Application Process Pilot Program: Dr. Jackson shared an example of a new application that was submitted by a student in a pilot program school district. Guidance counselors provided transcripts, collected recommendations, and took care of other application issues. They reported that they learned a lot more about the kids through the process. However, Dr. Jackson believes that enrollments are down for next year because of the new application process. He also pointed out that everyone learned a lot in the pilot process and will make adjustments next year so that the application process is more friendly and accessible. For example, applications will be available in more than one place for students. Superintendents continue to urge ECTS to be aware of those students who would benefit from the hands-on training approach offered in ECTS courses of study.

ECTS Land Purchase Agreement: Dr. Jackson and Attorney Sennett will report the results of the voting in member school districts. At the April meeting, superintendents passed a motion supporting the land purchase to enhance learning opportunities for ECTS students.

Your Employability Skills Program: Pilot schools received word that PDE will allow the course to be taught by a certified business teacher. Dr. Campbell received written permission from PDE and she shared a copy of PDE's decision with all superintendents. The subcommittee of superintendents involved in this project will have a follow-up meeting in May to set up training for teachers who will be offering the YES course in their schools.