



**Superintendent's Report
Erie County Technical School
Joint Operating Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 23, 2006**

▮ **2006-07 Budget Overview:** Dr. Jackson reviewed the first draft of the ECTS budget proposal for the 2006-07 school year. He explained the need for budget increases, the increases in each school district's contribution, and the reasons for the proposed increases. Superintendents are reviewing the proposed budget with their business managers. At the March meeting, discussion will continue. It is Dr. Jackson's hope to get consensus from the superintendents and then bring a proposed budget to the JOC for consideration, discussion, and action.

▮ **Regional Technical Community College (TCC):** The effort to create a technical community college continues. Dr. Jackson and I reviewed the outcome of our meeting in Titusville with the superintendents. The next steps include meeting with Erie County business leaders to present our proposal and to find out what questions they have. We will need to do the same thing with regional economic development groups including WIB and MANP, and Chambers of Commerce. Working with local and state legislators is essential, as is meeting with other community colleges in Pennsylvania to convince them of the need for a TCC. Dr. Jackson, Mr. Dave Kranking, and I have already met with Jake Rouch of the Erie Chamber and Ralph Pontillo of MANP. Additional steps will be to sell the idea to the community, develop our TCC plan, and present it for submission to the JOC, home school boards, and finally to the state.

▮ **Land Purchase by Erie County:** Superintendents have taken the land sale agreement to their boards, and county representatives have made presentations to many school districts since our last JOC meeting. Several changes to the agreement of sale have occurred since the last JOC meeting, including the addition of clauses addressing first right of refusal, no development of charter schools, and changes in the warranty provision. Thank you to Tim Sennett and county representatives for their quick response to school districts' concerns.

▮ **Quality Action Plan:** Dr. Jackson reviewed with superintendents an update of how ECTS was progressing with its action plan.

▮ **Special Education Issues:** The special education subcommittee shared discussion items from their meeting with the all superintendents. We will continue to meet to resolve issues and concerns affecting IEP students attending ECTS.

▮ **Application and Admissions Process:** Superintendents heard a review of the new application process. There are four schools participating in a pilot program of the new program. These schools will identify the problems, if any, with the process, and will suggest solutions. If the process works well, all schools will use it next year.



▮ **Alternative Education for 2006-07:** Dr. Jackson reviewed the alternative school programs and schedules for each. There will be no changes for next school year.

▮ **Regional Choice Initiative:** Bill Nichols provided an update on the current status of RCI and information about next year's program that will include courses from Edinboro, Gannon, Mercyhurst, and Penn State/Behrend. School districts will continue to apply for grant funding to help offset tuition and administrative costs.

▮ **Property Tax Relief:** As referendum seems closer to becoming a reality for all school districts and legislators are grappling with the provisions of a property tax reform law, superintendents are looking for ideas that will help their districts provide educational programming with small or no tax increases. The increases in the governor's budget look promising if they become reality. Time will tell.