

ERIE COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM

DATE: May 24, 2007

SUBJECT: Mandate Waiver on School Construction projects

CATEGORY: Operations: Policy: X Information: Personnel:

INITIATED BY: Steven Sceiford Facility Manger

DESCRIPTION:

Erie County Technical School is applying to PDE for a Mandate Waiver under the Education Empowerment Act. This will allow our students in construction trades programs to perform work on school buildings to enhance their instruction.

The application is seeking waiver of the rules in the Application for Non-Reimbursable Construction Project- PDE-3074 which states that construction work on any school building may not be performed by school students. School Code Section 751 (a) requires “work upon any school building” to be competitively bid.

RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to approve the Mandate Waiver Program Application under the Education Empowerment Act allowing Erie County Technical School students to perform work on school buildings to improve instruction in the construction trades programs.

AVTS: Erie County Technical School

Board Adoption Date: May 24, 2007

Superintendent/Executive Director: Dr. Aldo Jackson

Contact Person: Dr. Aldo Jackson

Chairperson- Operating Committee: James Bucksbee

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SECTION 1 - Law/Regulation/Standard to be waived. Please provide the appropriate legal citation and specify the provision(s) from which relief is sought.

PDE3074 – Vocational Education Student Building Projects – Construction on any school building may not preformed by school students. Section 751 (a) required “work upon any school building” to be competitively bid.

SECTION 2 - Specify need for waiver.

We believe that a waiver will enable Erie County Technical School to improve instruction in its Construction Trades and Facilities Maintenance programs in masonry, carpentry and electrical instruction.

SECTION 3 - Explain how the waiver will enable the school district, IU or AVTS to 1) improve its instructional program and/or 2) operate in a more effective, efficient or economical manner.

The Erie County Technical School will be able to improve instruction and education in the construction programs if we have the ability to perform light construction projects. It is true that student learning comes from practice on mock projects. A good example is the repetitious building and tearing down of masonry walls in a shop setting. But, a more advanced level of education is achieved by doing actual live work projects that are meaningful and remain as a finished project that the student builders may admire for years to come. Also, the self esteem and prestige that comes from completing a project at Erie County Technical School and/or its eleven (11) participating schools is immeasurable and the experience is invaluable. Invaluable experience, because no matter how a teacher designs a simulated work experience, certain problems will not surface except in a live setting, i.e. down in the trench pouring a footer and building the foundation below grade.

SECTION 4 - Explain benefits to be obtained by the waiver, and supply supporting data and information.

The benefits to be obtained from Erie County Technical School’s perspective are none other than to improve the instructional programs: Masonry, Carpentry and Electrical Occupations. This will be done in several ways. First, all of our other programs and other vocational-technical school programs in the state participate in live work projects. This may be in the form of luncheons and/or banquets for local clubs or advisory committees (Culinary Arts); organization, set-up and working with the Blood Bank in blood drives (Health Assistant); blue prints for community members’ homes (Drafting and Design); repair and maintenance of the school’s vehicles (Auto Body and Auto Mechanics); printed material and forms (Graphic Arts); etc. The instructors and administration are ardent advocates of the instructional benefits that live work projects provide.

Another benefit is public and community perception. This is something that cannot be measured by a percentage or dollars, but the image, awareness, and appreciation of the profession and vocational training go well beyond a measurable aspect.

SECTION 5 – If the purpose of the waiver is to improve the instructional program, please explain how the program will operate under the waiver.

Erie County Technical School is requesting a mandate waiver under the Education Empowerment Act to operate under the following conditions:

1. This will apply to the school's Construction Trades and Facilities Maintenance programs: masonry, carpentry and electrical occupations.
2. Erie County Technical School students will be able to perform light construction work at Erie County Technical School and its 11 participating districts: Fairview, Fort LeBoeuf, General McLane, Girard, Harbor Creek, Iroquois, Millcreek, North East, Northwestern, Union City and Wattsburg.
3. That we follow the same conditions as afforded maintenance personnel in the district for projects under \$10,000;
 - a. No PDE 3074 Form required;
 - b. Not necessary to solicit 3 quotes or advertise for bids.

SECTION 6 – Describe the evaluation procedure that will be used to determine: 1) the effectiveness of an innovative program; 2) the effectiveness of a revised instructional program, which shall include measures of student performance; and 3) the effectiveness of changes in the operations of the school district, IU or AVTS.

Erie County Technical School does not state that this request is an innovative proposal or idea. Live work projects have been the norm since the inception of vocational-technical education. Erie County Technical School will utilize tradition performance and written evaluation. Instructors and administration will monitor and evaluate student and program improvement to determine the effectiveness of changes in operations of the Construction Trades and Facilities Maintenance programs.

AFFIRMATION

We affirm that this application was adopted by the attached resolution of the Operating Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting. The Operating Committee solicitor has reviewed the application and has determined that in waiving PDE 3074 and Section 751 (a) of the School Code, the AVTS will not violate any court order, state law or federal law.

We acknowledge that it is the Operating Committee's responsibility to ensure that implementation of the waiver will be consistent with the terms of any court order, collective bargaining agreement or contract by which the board is bound.

Affirmed this 24th day of May , 2007

Director

Chairperson-Operating Committee

SEAL

Taken, sworn and subscribed before me,

this _____ day of _____ A.D. _____

Notary Public

Seal:

My commission expires: