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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
333 MARKET STREET
HARRISBURG, PA 17126-0333
www.pde.state.pa.us

August 1, 2007

James Bucksbee, President
Board of School Directors
Erie County Technical School
8500 Oliver Road
Eriet, PA 16509

Dear Mr. Bucksbee:

On June 18, 2007, the Department of Education received your Mandate Waiver Program Application. The application requested approval for the district to waive 24 P.S. § 7.751, to the extent this section would wave the bidding of work to assign students to complete light construction and maintenance projects at the Erie County Technical School.

During the initial review process, the Department contacted the district to request additional information. Based on that process, the waiver application does not address a specific CTE Program or Project, and is not relevant to the specific program requirements. Therefore, this request is denied.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mary Cornman, Mandate Waiver Director, in the Bureau of Assessment and Accountability at 717-346-3354 or by email at mcornman@state.pa.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Gluck".

Thomas E. Gluck
Executive Deputy Secretary

c: Dr. Aldo Jackson, Superintendent ✓

Aldo Jackson

From: Cornman, Mary [mccornman@state.pa.us]
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2007 8:46 AM
To: Aldo Jackson
Subject: Mandate Waiver

Dr. Jackson, I am providing reasons for the denial of the Erie County and Technical School application for waiver of P.S. §7-751 "work upon any school building"

Application does not address specific CTE Program or Project, and therefore is not relevant to the specific requirements of Mandate Waiver Program

Application does not address a specific program and therefore does not address specific program/student goals and objectives, student achievements, ongoing and final assessments, or positive cost effectiveness.

Light construction cannot be specifically defined, nor can a financial value be placed upon it.

Mandate Waiver form 7-751 does not address student working on school buildings regardless of reimbursement criteria.

I hope you find this information helpful. You may want to submit a new application based on this information.

Should you have any questions, please contact me. Mary

Mary Cornman
Division of District and School Improvement
Bureau of Assessment and Accountability
PDE
333 Market Street, 9th floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333
717-346-3354



August 23, 2007

Ms. Mary Cornman
Division of District and School Improvement
Bureau of Assessment and Accountability
Pennsylvania Department of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17126-0333

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Ms. Cornman:

Thank you for your responses to our questions regarding the mandate waiver. Based on your suggestions in the August 14 e-mail, our conversation on August 22, and the recommendations in the August 1 letter from Thomas Gluck, we are resubmitting our application and asking the review panel to reconsider our request. We are confident the revised application addresses the concerns of the original application.

Please contact us if additional information is needed. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Aldo R. Jackson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Aldo' being more prominent.

Aldo R. Jackson, Ph.D.
Director

MANDATE WAIVER PROGRAM APPLICATION
(revised and resubmitted)

School District/IU/AVTS: Erie County Technical School

Board Adoption Date: May 24, 2007

Superintendent/Executive Director: Aldo R. Jackson, Ph.D.

President, Board of Directors: James A. Bucksbee

Contact Person: Paul Fritz, Business Manager

Telephone Number and Fax: (814) 464-8662, (814) 464-8625 (fax)

E-mail address: pfritz@ects.org

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

24 P.S. 7-751 (a & b): The district is requesting a waiver from competitive bidding requirements to allow for the construction of a proposed training laboratory comprised of mock hotel rooms and a fast food service counter at the Erie County Technical School (ECTS). The project would be completed by students enrolled in the Construction Trades, Drafting & Design, Electrical Engineering and Facilities Maintenance Technologies programs at the ECTS.

SECTION 2 - Specify need for waiver.

The waiver will provide real-life experiences for students enrolled in the four programs. The waiver will also allow the technical school and its participating school districts to save thousands of dollars in material and labor costs if the project were conducted through a competitive bidding process.

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.

By virtue of their size and unique features, the construction of the mock hotel rooms and fast food service counter will provide excellent opportunities for students to learn from the hands-on experiences in various aspects of their career paths including project management, masonry, plumbing, carpentry and electrical construction. This project will also provide construction experience in commercial aspects of construction. The students typically experience only aspects of residential construction.

Our participating school districts will save thousands of dollars in construction costs by allowing the students to construct the training laboratory. The projected cost through competitive bidding is over \$500,000. The estimated cost of construction by the students is \$150,000.

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

The granting of a waiver will provide excellent educational experiences for over 165 students. As noted above, cost savings gained through the waiver will amount to over \$300,000.

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

The waiver will allow the faculty to design instruction that involves commercial construction standards. It will reduce costs in terms of instructional supplies.

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.

The program effectiveness will be evaluated from three perspectives. First, faculty will be interviewed to determine the effectiveness of the project in terms of class operation and teaching effectiveness. Second, students will be interviewed to determine their perception of the project in terms of learning opportunities and relevance to their career goals. We will also measure student performance on the state mandated occupational competency test (NOCTI) to see if student scores improve. Lastly, a cost-benefit analysis will be conducted to ensure a project operated under this structure does result in the intended benefits.

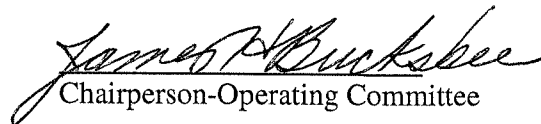
AFFIRMATION

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

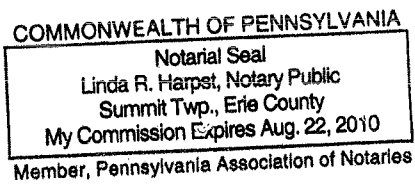

Director

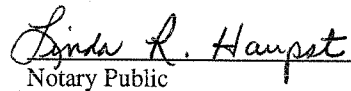

Chairperson-Operating Committee

SEAL

Taken, sworn and subscribed before me,

this 24TH day of May A.D. 2007




Notary Public

Seal:

My commission expires: 8/22/2010