



Joint Operating Committee Meeting May 2008 School District Report

1. 2008-2009 Budget Approved

Ten of the eleven participating school districts have passed resolutions approving the 2008-2009 ECTS budget. The Millcreek Township School District voted 'no' on the budget proposal.

2. Enrollment Review

The operating committee reviewed applications and enrollments for the 2008-2009 school year. As a matter of board policy, enrollments are reviewed by the superintendents and operating committee in April and May prior to any consideration of the alteration or curtailment of any programs experiencing low enrollments.

As of the May enrollment review, ECTS has received 478 applications. Over-subscribed programs include Health Assistant, Early Childhood Education, Cosmetology and Computer Information Systems. On the advice of the superintendents, the JOC is looking at expanding the number of sections for Health Assistant and Cosmetology. With the expanded sections, another 30 students could be served.

3. Superintendent of Record

The JOC approved the appointment of Mr. Larry Kessler as the Superintendent of Record for the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Kessler, from the Fairview School District, will succeed Mrs. Sandra Myers, superintendent of the Union City Area School District.

4. Monthly Issue Briefing—The Need for Space

At the May Professional Advisory Council meeting, superintendents discussed expanding the enrollment capacity of several ECTS programs. In particular, the superintendents looked at the Health Assistant and Cosmetology programs. Between the two programs, 54 students would be excluded from the career and technical education they desire. Both of these programs have a history of 'more applications than seats available.'

As a possible solution, the superintendents suggested leasing space at a facility near the technical school where instruction could take place. In the light of the mathematics and leadership classes at the technical school, as well as guidance and administrative services, and the social aspects of attending the technical school, the administration is suggesting mobile classrooms as an alternative. Classes would 'rotate' between the classrooms and

Monthly Issue Briefing—The Need for Space (con't.)

laboratories for each of the programs—allowing more students to participate in the technical education they are seeking.

The need for mobile classrooms or leased space illustrates the growing need for a facilities renovation and expansion at ECTS. The technical school has foregone several strategic initiatives due to a lack of space—office, classroom and laboratory. ECTS has 'shelved' technical training in 'high priority' occupations and programs of high student interest due to a lack of space. Our ability to offer academic classes in mathematics and writing has been placed on hold. We offer the career alternative education program on two different shifts, after regular school hours, to accommodate the high space usage at the technical school and the Skill Center building.

ECTS went through its last renovation in 1992-1993. The \$6 million investment made at that time has served us well. But, if ECTS is to serve the technical training needs of youth and adults, as well as the workforce needs of local business and industry, serious consideration needs to be given to a renovation and expansion program. As was noted at the recent operating committee meeting, 'the time for career and technical education has arrived!' So too has the need for a building renovation and expansion.