

Erie County Technical School

Director's Report

August 2008

Administrative Action Plans. The result of the administrative retreat and management review (ISO) in June are four strategic action plans. The initiatives are drawn from data analysis, performance reviews and pending issues. Consequently, the administrative team, in cooperation with our faculty and staff will be focusing on the following four areas—SchoolDESX data entry and navigation, academic achievement relative to mathematics, academic achievement relative to reading and school safety. The action plans are available for review in the supplemental information section of the agenda.

Principal's Welcome. Please extend a warm welcome to Joe Tarasovitch, the technical school's newest principal (our fourth in the past twelve years). The search committee was very impressed with Joe during the interview process. Joe comes to ECTS from Walnut Creek Middle School where he served as assistant principal. He has an extensive background in secondary education, particularly in mathematics. At the time of this report, Joe's start date had yet to be determined. I am sure the faculty and staff members anxiously await his arrival.

PSSA Results—Class of 2008. With the release of 2007 PSSA data by PDE, we were able to download results for our students. An analysis of those results shows a slight improvement for the number of ECTS students proficient in mathematics. Over the last four years, the percentage of technical students who performed at the basic or below basic level has declined from 69% for the Class of 2005 to 64% for the Class of 2008. You can see additional PSSA performance data in the Historical PSSA Results report in the supplemental section of the agenda.

Results for reading were less encouraging. Over the same four-year period, after the percentage of students performing at the basic or below basic level held steady or declined to around 50%, the percentage for basic and below basic jumped to 56%. The Class of 2008 received only minimal interventions for reading or mathematics.

We hope to see improvements in proficiency for the Class of 2009, as they will have received interventions over a two-year period. In 2007-2008, about 80 students participated in Study Island, an online remediation program. In 2008-2009, most ECTS juniors will participate in planned strategies to improve their proficiency in both mathematics and reading. Please see the administrative action plans in the supplemental section of the agenda for details on how ECTS intends to address the academic achievement of our students.

Operations & Management Survey—2007-2008. Administrative staff members have reviewed the results from last year's operations and management survey. Of the 63 operational categories we survey, 43 showed an increased performance rating. The overall satisfaction rating was 3.3 on a 4.0 scale. Thirty categories have shown consistent growth over a three-year period. As part of our quality management system, we set a benchmark that 90% of the categories receive a grade of 'B' or better. We met the benchmark with a 90.4% score.

Administrative staff members reviewed issues identified in the OMS. The developed several action plans for the coming year in response to the survey results (i.e. SchoolDESX and Safety/Security). Tables and charts for the survey results are available in the supplemental section of the agenda.

Director's Travel and Meetings. The director's recent and scheduled meetings include:

- *Pennsylvania Automotive Association, AYES Advisory Council Meeting*; State College, July 29
- *Pennsylvania Association of Career & Technical Administrators (PACTA)*; summer administrator's conference; State College, July 30 to August 1.
- *County-level Workforce Development Meeting*, Erie; August 12
- *NOCTI Data Analysis Presentation*; Central Westmoreland Career & Technology Center, August 20; with Jan Kennerknecht; to present ECTS practices relative to NOCTI data analysis to faculty at CWCTC.