



Joint Operating Committee Meeting July 2008 School District Report

1. Land Usage Requests

The Joint Operating Committee entertained two proposals for land usage at the Kenneth D. Frantz Educational Complex (ECTS site). Cpl. Mark Zaleski, Public Information Officer for Troop E and Les Brightbill, Facility Management for the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) discussed the potential use of 10 acres for the construction of a new barracks for Troop E. A rationale for the barracks at the ECTS site, as presented by Cpl. Zaleski, accompanies this report. The PSP is asking the participating school districts to indicate their interest in selling land for the barracks construction so they can move forward in their project planning. JOC members were requested to survey the interest in their districts and provide a response at the August JOC meeting.

County Executive Mark DiVecchio also talked with the JOC about locating the proposed community college at the Frantz complex. He initially sees the need for 40 acres to build the main college building (classrooms and offices). He also hopes to utilize the Public Safety Building, ECTS and the Skill Center for program delivery. Mr. DiVecchio indicated there could be the need for additional acreage as the proposed community college grows. Again, JOC members were requested to survey the interest in their districts.

2. Feasibility Study

Chris Coughlin of Hallgren, Restifo, Loop & Coughlin Architects, presented a proposal to conduct a facility feasibility study for potential renovations and additions at ECTS. In the light of enrollment increases in some programs, the interest of the superintendents and operating committee to expand programming, the lack of additional space and the need for improvements or renovations of some infrastructure, a feasibility study was made part of the strategic plan for 2008-2009. It is anticipated to take 90 to 120 days to complete the study and issue a report and recommendations.

3. Transition Center

The committee approved a contract with R.E. North Co. for the installation of an HVAC unit for the Transition Center. Steve Sceiford, ECTS Facilities Manager has procured most of the construction materials for the center. Student construction of the center should begin shortly after school starts. The planned completion of the project is expected to occur sometime after the first semester.

4. Principal Replacement

Best wishes to John Hansen as he leaves the ECTS principal's post and heads to the General McLane School District and the principal's position at James E. Parker Middle School. John did an excellent job as principal. He'll be a great addition to the G.M. staff.

A candidate search is underway for the principal/assistant director's position. The administration hopes to offer a final candidate at the August board meeting.