

Erie County Technical School Director's Report November 2009

Career Alternative Education Program

Per the director's report last month on the state budget, the Safe and Alternative Schools line item was eliminated (\$21.5 million). This equates to a \$54,000 loss of revenue for ECTS. Currently, enrollments are low and ECTS realizes little revenue with lower enrollments. The administration is reviewing fiscal aspects of the program to see if there is a need to reduce expenses, primarily through personnel or instructional supplies.

Budget Proposal

At the November superintendents' meeting, the director requested approval to move forward with a 2010-2011 budget plan that calls for a \$218,000 increase from the districts. Of this amount, \$42,500 is designated for the PSERS set-aside, leaving \$176,000 to cover budgetary increases. In reality, there are \$220,000 in increase just in salaries and benefits. This \$44,000 shortfall coupled with the \$54,000 loss in the alternative education grant means expenses will have to be reduced by nearly \$100,000.

Initial plans call for reductions in spending in: field trips, textbooks and software, equipment, travel, marketing, maintenance equipment and technology equipment. We hope that reductions in these areas will have a minimal influence on the quality of our instruction.

Federation Complaints

The director received two formal complaints from the Federation in early November. One complaint concerned discontinued laundry service for professional staff members. The administration elected to discontinue the laundry service for fiscal reasons. Eight staff members signed the laundry service complaint. The school is meeting its contractual obligation for uniforms for professional members.

The second complaint deals with parking. In 2008-2009, the administration implemented a 'single-point' of entry for staff as one measure to improve the safety and security of the campus. One staff member feels faculty and staff should be allowed to park anywhere on campus and enter the building through any door they wish.

The director denied the relief sought in both complaints.

Weatherization Grant

We received notice that the Department of Labor and Industry did not accept our grant application. The \$150,000 grant was to provide a training program for weatherization.

Performance Check-ups

Each administrator will meet with the director during the week of November 16 to review and discuss quarterly goals and performance. These 90-day reviews are beneficial to note accomplishments, identify projects that need assistance and generally keep all parties informed of what each other are working on. Performance check-ups are part of the Act 93 plan.

Director's Travel and Meetings

The director's recent and scheduled meetings include:

- *Project Based Math*; mathematics workshop required as part of technical assistance project; with Tim Mientkiewicz; October 26-27; New Stanton, PA
- *REthink Erie Funding Sources Committee Meeting*; with Dr. Dean Maynard and Steve Bishop; ECTS; October 28
- *Analysis of NOCTI Scores*; workshop/presentation to the faculty by Jan Kennerknecht and Aldo Jackson at the Crawford County Career & Technical Center; October 30; Meadville
- *REthink Erie Academic Services Committee Meeting*; Gannon University; November 5
- *Professional Advisory Council Meeting*; November 6
- *REthink Erie Accreditation Meeting*; with Dr. Judy Miller; ECTS; November 9
- *Wattsburg Area School District Board Meeting at ECTS*; to visit Transition Center; November 9
- *County-Level Workforce Development Committee*; monthly meeting of workforce development providers and agencies, with Mary Ellen Camp; Intermodal Center, November 10
- *Tech Prep Consortium*; regional consortium meeting; Meadville, November 17